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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC.
March 24, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRED UPTON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

THE STATESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, JOB FAIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week it was my pleasure to attend a job fair at Mitchell Community College in Statesville, North Carolina. The job fair was cohosted by the Statesville Chamber of Commerce; and both Mitchell Community College president Dr. Tim Brewer and Chamber president David Bradley and their staffs are to be commended for making this important event happen and making these job opportunities available to jobseekers in the local community.

As a former community college president, I am aware of the important role these institutions play in providing workers with the opportunity to improve their skills in order to meet the demands of employers.

Mitchell Community College and the Statesville Chamber of Commerce both played large roles in ensuring that Statesville remains a dynamic economic center within the Fifth District of North Carolina.

More than 40 companies were represented at last week's job fair. About 500 jobs were available, spanning a broad range of skills, abilities, and compensation levels. The organizers offered a resume workshop to help applicants make a first good impression.

I would like to take a few minutes to recognize just a few of those who helped make this event a success and who spend every day making the economy and community of Statesville run.

Gina Shumaker is a graduate of the Mitchell Community College Back to Work program, and now she is giving back to her work with Workforce Carolina. Gina spends every day matching jobseekers with opportunities. She was at the job fair looking to fill 197 positions, and I commend her efforts to help individuals get back on their feet.

Goodyear; I also had the opportunity to talk with Joe Wegmiller, who is the plant manager for the Goodyear manufacturing plant in Statesville. This facility has been manufacturing tire molds in Statesville since 1995. I have had the opportunity to tour the facility, and it is a key employer in the Fifth District.

Doosan; Doosan Portable Power specializes in making generators, air compressors, and other light construction equipment. This company is headquartered in Statesville and brings more than 100 years of manufacturing experience to bear on the task of providing quality equipment for construction and other industrial uses. We are proud that they call Statesville home and grateful for the opportunities they provide to members of our community.

ASMO in North Carolina employs more than 350 people in Statesville. This company produces blower motors, power seat motors, power window motors, electric power steering motors, and other assemblies for auto manufacturers.

Mr. Speaker, at last week's job fair, a common refrain among employers is that they have had a hard time finding individuals with the skills needed to fill available positions. This reminded me of H.R. 803, the SKILLS Act. This bill would reform and reorganize our broken Federal workforce development system.

There is bipartisan agreement that the current Federal workforce development programs are not meeting the needs of America's jobseekers, many of whom were in attendance at the Statesville job fair last week.

In his 2012 State of the Union address, the President asked that these programs be reformed, and Republicans in the House went to work and passed the SKILLS Act, which would streamline 35 ineffective and duplicative programs, including 26 identified as being ineffective in a 2011 GAO report.

The SKILLS Act empowers job creators, such as Goodyear, Doosan, ASMO, and many others that were looking to hire in Statesville last week. The SKILLS Act would allow local businesses to help steer workforce development resources toward fields that are in demand right now. This bill passed the House over a year ago. I call on our colleagues over in the Senate to act on this vital piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this House will maintain its focus on creating an environment conducive to economic growth and job creation. We have passed more

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than 30 pieces of legislation designed to decrease the bureaucracy, increase opportunity, and restore vitality to our economy. Unfortunately, the majority of this legislation is languishing in the Senate. The employers, jobseekers, and community members I spoke with last week in Statesville want to move forward with their businesses and lives. There are House-passed bills that will help solve some of the problems they are facing. The Senate and the President need to act to turn these bills into law.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In this Chamber, where the people's House gathers, we pause to offer You gratitude for the gift of this good land on which we live, and for this great Nation which You have inspired in developing over so many years. Continue to inspire the American people, that through the difficulties of these days we might keep liberty and justice alive in our Nation and in the world.

Give to us and all people a vivid sense of Your presence, that we may learn to understand each other, to respect each other, to work with each other, to live with each other, and to do good to each other. So shall we make our Nation great in goodness and good in its greatness.

As the Members of this House return from a week of constituent visits, grant them wisdom and goodwill as they address the issues of days to come.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

FOUR YEARS AFTER OBAMACARE, AMERICANS ARE WORSE OFF

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this is the Affordable Care Act. Yesterday marks the 4-year anniversary of when it was signed into law. We all knew, at least on the Republican side of this House, how this thing was troubled when it was passed 4 years ago, but what no one could have predicted was the aggressive incompetence of the administration and the agencies during the implementation.

It is hurting average Americans. I get comments from people back home on my Facebook page literally every day. People tell me their stories of their health care plans being canceled, their premiums and deductibles going up, and trusted access to family doctors being lost.

Rosie told me her premiums went up 62 percent last year. Heidi's husband lost his job because his company was forced to downsize because of the law. Kim told me her family's premium has gone up, resulting in over $9,000 a year now out-of-pocket, in addition to what they paid last year.

One person put it best, saying: This Affordable Care Act is simply not affordable. Mr. Speaker, Americans deserve better.

FOUR YEARS LATER AND OBAMACARE IS STILL FAILING

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for the last 4 years, American families have watched as ObamaCare has destroyed jobs, increased insurance premiums, and denied access to trusted medical professionals. You can't keep your doctor.

From day one, the administration has not been honest with the law's effectiveness or its implementation. This unworkable, irresponsible law continues to plague families. We must work together to repeal and replace ObamaCare.

House Republicans know that commonsense solutions exist which will provide relief to those who have fallen victims to the President's countless broken promises. Unfortunately, the administration and Senate Democrats have refused to work with us to make changes and restore health care decisions back to the American people, not to Big Government.

As the open enrollment period deadline approaches leading to more hardship for families, medical professionals, and small businesses, it is our duty to work together to change ObamaCare, which destroys jobs.

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

GET THE GOVERNMENT OUT OF THE WAY OF JOB CREATORS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, tonight the Statesville Chamber of Commerce will host its annual dinner and recognize the individuals, businesses, and nonprofits that help make Statesville, North Carolina, thrive.

Unfortunately, our work here will keep me from joining them. As we recognize the great work local organizations like the Statesville Chamber do to help local businesses compete, we should remain focused on the task of keeping Washington out of their way.

We have passed numerous bills in the House to cut through bureaucracy and get the government out of the way of job creators.

In the last week of February, the House passed one such bill: the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act. UMITA would require new Federal rules and regulations to undergo more complete and accurate cost analyses.

With regulations estimated to impose over 87 million hours of paperwork on American businesses, I hope this bill passes the Senate with the same bipartisan support it received in the House.

HONORING JIM SPEARS, DANIEL LETOURNEAU, AND DWAYNE DAVIDSON

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of heroes in society. They include moms and dads, doctors, nurses, and teachers, and those who go above and beyond to help others at great risk to themselves.

I want to recognize three examples of such bravery today: Jim Spears, Daniel Letourneau, and Dwayne Davidson—all UPS employees—who risked their lives to help a stranger whose van had flipped multiple times on an icy highway outside of Indianapolis.

The victim was stuck in her vehicle, and their selfless actions kept her from further harm. The beneficiary of their selfless acts said: ''The goodness of people in this world is so great . . . and there are truly great people out there who we should appreciate.'' Well said.

Last week I had the opportunity to meet Jim, David, and Dwayne. Today, I want to commend them for their bravery and thank them for reminding us what it truly means to be a hero.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

CORPORAL JUSTIN D. ROSS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1228) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Packerland Drive in Green Bay, Wisconsin, as the ''Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building'', as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1228

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

SECTION 1. CORPORAL JUSTIN D. ROSS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 9th Street in De Pere, Wisconsin, shall be known and designated as the ''Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may be given 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

H.R. 1228, introduced by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RIBBLE), would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service, located at 123 South 9th Street, in DePere, Wisconsin, as the Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building.

Army Specialist Justin Ross was killed in action while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom. Assigned to the 863rd Engineer Battalion, Army Reserve, Wausau, Wisconsin, he died on March 26 in Afghanistan. Justin was posthumously honored and promoted to corporal.

Corporal Ross was wounded when his unit came under small arms fire from insurgents while on a route clearance mission. He was the only casualty and the first of the unit. Only 22 at the time of his death, Corporal Ross was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and meritorious service medals.

Corporal Ross was a 2007 graduate of Bay Port High School and joined the military in October of 2007. Those close to him understood that serving in the Army was a lifelong dream of Justin's. His parents knew that he loved being part of the mission in Afghanistan.

His unit had high praise for their fallen brother. They said he was an outstanding soldier that loved being in the Army and loved working with his fellow soldiers. He will be remembered by his family, friends, church, community, and fellow soldiers as a wonderful man who was proud to serve his country.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to stand before this body today and honor the memory of a true American hero. I am grateful for the service of Corporal Ross and for all those who serve and protect us each and every day. I urge all Members to join me in strong support of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 1228, a bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 300 Packerland Drive, Green Bay, Wisconsin, as the Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building.

The measure before us was introduced on March 15, 2013, by my colleague, Representative REID RIBBLE of Wisconsin.

In accordance to committee requirements, the bill before us is cosponsored by all members of the Wisconsin delegation. H.R. 1228 was reported out of House Oversight and Government Reform Committee by unanimous consent on March 12, 2014.

At this time, Madam Speaker, I would like to just thank the Ross family for their son giving the ultimate sacrifice in serving this country.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RIBBLE), my friend and colleague.

Mr. RIBBLE. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Texas. I want to thank the gentleman from Missouri for letting me come down here, for recognizing the sacrifice of a family from Green Bay, Wisconsin.

This is always a difficult time. I can hear the emotions of the voices of my colleagues as they speak about Justin and about Corporal Ross and his family and the sacrifice.

I have to tell you, Madam Speaker, there is probably nothing more difficult to do than to try to craft some speech, some words, some language here today that would honor Corporal Ross and his family in a way that is sufficient to the sacrifice that this family had.

You have already heard a little bit about Corporal Justin David Ross. He was born on September 14, 1988, and served in the Army Reserve. He was a member of the 863rd Engineer Battalion in Wausau, Wisconsin.

Tragically, he was killed on March 26, 2011. The anniversary of his death, Madam Speaker, is just 2 days from now. That will be 3 years since this family lost their son and this country lost its hero.

Corporal Ross was the first servicemember from the 8th Congressional District of Wisconsin killed in the line of duty after I began my first term in Congress in 2011. I was sworn in, in January of 2011, and 90 days later, Justin was killed.

He served his country honorably. He earned numerous awards for his service, including the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star and nine other meritorious service awards.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform passed this bill by a voice vote without any objection. It is also, as was mentioned by the gentleman from Missouri, supported by virtually every member of the Wisconsin House delegation.

So how do we go about honoring Justin Ross? How do we go about honoring his mom and dad, Ron and Debbie? How do we honor his brothers?

It is almost impossible to do so because we have a tendency to almost falsely believe that Justin was about a chevron on a sleeve, a medal on his chest, or a service ribbon that he wore on his uniform.

Those are the things that Justin did and the accomplishments that Justin had. They weren't really who Justin was. Justin did serve as a soldier in the Army, and he did die in the line of duty on behalf of his country, but he was more than that.

Imagine a family back in 1988 welcoming their son to this Earth and picking him up and cradling him in their arms, not knowing that they were cradling a hero. They couldn't possibly

have known 22 years ago what would happen to their son. I thank them for their sacrifice. This means a lot to our country. It means a lot to this family.

I am sorry I get choked up, but this matters to us. It matters to our country. The loss that was there is significant, every single one. I knew Justin. His dad was a pastor. His grandfather was a pastor.

He lived under the teachings of those two men who taught him in the book of Thessalonians to lead a quiet life. He did that. If you listen to the way his friends and his family talked about him, they often mention how quiet, almost shy that Justin was. He did that.

He followed the teachings of the apostle Paul. When the apostle Paul told us that no greater love is this than to lay down a life for a friend, not only did he lay down his life for his friends and his comrades, he was doing a clearance mission.

Madam Speaker, he was going in front of our troops, clearing out IEDs and making the way safe. He gave his life so others didn't have to. He gave his life for people that he loved. There was no greater love than this, as we are taught by the apostle Paul.

Jesus himself said to love your neighbor as yourself, and Justin did just that. All through his life, he lived by the teachings of his faith; but what his grandfather taught him, what his dad taught him, what his mom taught him, he lived those values out every single day.

Now, I know that Justin would want one thing because Justin cared a lot about his comrades. He would be embarrassed to think that we were naming this post office in his name alone. There were four other soldiers that were killed in the 8th District of Wisconsin.

I want to remember them today as well because it is about them, too. Sergeant Paul Atim from Green Bay; Staff Sergeant Matthew Hermanson from Appleton; Staff Sergeant Eppinger from Appleton; and Staff Sergeant Bear from Elton, Wisconsin, all of these soldiers gave their lives on behalf of this country. Their brave and selfless service deserves to be remembered.

So what do we do? We take the time, and we say thank you, and then we blazon Justin's name on a post office, so that when the citizens of De Pere, Wisconsin, go into that post office, they see their hero's name and remember. That is what we should do today.

I thank my colleagues for supporting this bill.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I too am prepared to close.

I want to urge the passage of H.R. 1228, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I am moved by Mr. RIBBLE's speech. I am moved by the sacrifices that men and women make every day serving this country. I do think nothing could be more appropriate than honoring the memory of Corporal Justin D. Ross by naming the post office building in De Pere, Wisconsin, after him.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting for this bill, H.R. 1228, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1228, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

SERGEANT WILLIAM MOODY POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3060) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the ''Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3060

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

SECTION 1. SERGEANT WILLIAM MOODY POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, shall be known and designated as the ''Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 3060, introduced by the gentleman from Texas, Mr. ROGER WILLIAMS, would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building.

As a fellow Texan, I am proud to join my colleague, Mr. WILLIAMS, in urging this body to name this postal facility in honor of Sergeant William Moody.

□ 1615

Sergeant Moody went above and beyond the call of duty, serving in both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps. He served two tours of duty in Iraq while he was a marine, and he was finishing his second and last tour of duty in Afghanistan with the Army when a Taliban rocket attack on Bagram Air Force Base took his life on June 18 of 2013. William Moody was a 30-year-old husband and father of three.

Madam Speaker, I was particularly touched to read about the special homecoming surprise that Sergeant Moody had in store for his family. While deployed in Afghanistan, he contacted the fire department in Burleson and asked if he could surprise his children by picking them up from school in a fire truck on the day of his return. Of course, the chief and the firefighters responded with a resounding ''yes'' to this request, and they exchanged emails with Sergeant Moody, making plans for his return up until the afternoon of the day before his death. Even in the midst of a war zone, Sergeant Moody's thoughts and hopes were back home in Texas, with his wife and children, demonstrating his deep dedication to family. His example and his love of his family should move, touch, and inspire all of us, and it should be an example that we should all follow.

Sergeant Moody was a highly decorated soldier and marine. Among his honors were an Army Commendation Medal, a Combat Action Ribbon, an Army Good Conduct Medal, a Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, a Bronze Star, and a Purple Heart, just to name a few.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to pay tribute before this body to a fellow Texan who gave his life in the defense of our country. I am grateful to Sergeant William Moody for his service, and I urge all Members to join me in the strong support of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

As a member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 3060, a bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue, in Burleson, Texas, as the Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building.

This measure before us was introduced on August 2, 2013, by my colleague, Representative ROGER WILLIAMS of Texas. In accordance with

committee requirements, the bill is cosponsored by all members of the Texas delegation. H.R. 3060 was reported out of the committee by unanimous consent on March 12, 2014.

Let me say that Sergeant Moody lived a remarkable life, and he served his country in two capacities: first, as a U.S. marine and, second, as a sergeant in the Army. Madam Speaker, I ask that we pass this bill without reservation in order to recognize the service, valor, and life of Sergeant William Moody.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), my good friend, colleague, and fellow Texan.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you to my colleagues for being here today.

Madam Speaker, on June 17, 2013, decorated Army Sergeant William Moody of Burleson, Texas, while he was serving his second tour of duty in Afghanistan, sent an email to the local fire chief in his hometown. He wanted to plan a special ''coming home'' surprise with the help of the fire department and pull up to his kids' school in a big fire engine. He was set to return sometime in September, but on the following day of June 18, Sergeant Moody and three other American soldiers were killed by indirect enemy fire at Bagram Air Force Base.

Sergeant Moody is truly a hometown hero.

Born and raised in Burleson, Texas, Sergeant Moody joined the Marines after graduating from Burleson High School. He served two tours of duty in Iraq and later joined the Army, where he deployed twice to Afghanistan. Throughout his years of service, Sergeant Moody's commendable service earned him numerous honors and service medals, including the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, a Bronze Star, and a Purple Heart.

Thanks to the city of Burleson and with the leadership of Mayor Ken Shetter and the Burleson City Council, today marks a huge victory in our joint efforts to pay tribute to Sergeant Moody's service and sacrifice by dedicating the Burleson Post Office facility in honor of this hometown hero.

Later today, the House will vote on a bill I was proud to introduce, H.R. 3060, to officially name the local post office facility after Sergeant Moody. Along with hundreds of my colleagues in Congress, it will be one of the greatest honors of my life to support this bill. Not only will the Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building serve as a memorial for his wife and three children to cherish, but it will honor all of our Nation's veterans and will stand as a reminder of the true price of our freedom.

The war on terror is far from over. There are countless attempts by hostile groups to do us harm and bring destruction. That is why it is important to recognize the memory of our Nation's heroes. In the words of Ronald Reagan: Freedom is never more than a generation away from extinction; it must be fought for and defended by each new generation.

I hope that future generations will be inspired to live and serve like Sergeant William Moody. He fought with courage, served with integrity, and will be remembered forever. America does not give because it is rich; America is rich because it gives—and we are all proud that it gave us Sergeant William Moody.

May God bless our troops; may God bless Texas; and may God bless the United States of America.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 3060.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I join with all of my Texas colleagues and especially with Mr. WILLIAMS in urging that we do honor Sergeant William Moody by renaming the postal facility in Burleson in his honor. I join in the remarks that Mr. WILLIAMS made about the necessity to pay honor and tribute to those who make the ultimate sacrifice to this country, and I agree that naming the post office will actually serve as a memorial that, perhaps, will ease the pain of the loss of Sergeant William Moody's family. So I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 3060.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3060.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

STAFF SERGEANT NICHOLAS J. REID POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1451) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, as the ''Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1451

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

SECTION 1. STAFF SERGEANT NICHOLAS J. REID POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, shall be known and designated as the ''Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 1451, introduced by the gentlelady from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, as the Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building. H.R. 1451 is cosponsored by the entire New York delegation.

Army Staff Sergeant Reid was born in Brockport on April 2, 1986. He graduated from Brockport High School in 2004 and enlisted in the Army thereafter in 2006. He was serving his second tour of duty in Afghanistan when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. He tragically succumbed to his wounds in Germany on December 13, 2012. He was only 26 years old. He leaves behind his loving parents, Ken and Dorothy Reid; his sister, Susie; and several aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Madam Speaker, Nicholas, who went by ''Nick,'' enlisted as an explosive ordnance disposal technician. He knew the dangers of IEDs. He knew how many of our troops had been killed by these devices, how many had been wounded. Yet he chose this hazardous duty and excelled at it, and he showed great courage. Nick Reid is a true hero. It is my privilege to urge the strong support for this bill to honor his memory.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, at this point, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from that beautiful district in upstate New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), our ranking member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. It is, indeed, beautiful. It snows all the time, though, and we have had about enough.

Madam Speaker, as the previous speakers have said, on April 2, 1986, the Reid family of Brockport, New York, gave birth to a son named Nicholas. For 26 years, Nicholas lived a life of honor and duty; and though he was

taken from this Earth far too soon, his was a life that should be remembered throughout our time.

Just 2 years out of high school, Nicholas signed up for the United States Army while we were in the midst of two wars. Surely knowing that he would see the dangers of battle but proudly volunteering to serve his country, Nicholas was assigned to the 53rd Ordnance Company of the 3rd Ordnance Battalion based at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington State.

Nicholas served two tours of duty on the battlefields of Afghanistan and faced some of the most dangerous situations ever encountered by the United States Army as an explosive ordnance disposal specialist, the most dangerous job there was. In his frontline role, Nicholas repeatedly risked his life for the safety of his fellow soldiers and civilians alike.

It was in this role that Nicholas suffered fatal injuries when an improvised explosive device detonated in Sperwan village, Afghanistan, on December 9, 2012. Seventeen days later, the town of Brockport honored Nicholas' heroic life when his body returned home. ''We are here to make sure he receives the welcome home that he deserves,'' said one community member who stood in the cold winter wind and under gray skies to welcome Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid home.

Today, I rise to make permanent the debt of gratitude our Nation owes to Staff Sergeant Reid and to his parents, Ken and Dorothy. With this legislation, the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, will be permanently designated as the Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building.

A recipient of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, among countless other medals of service, we can never fully repay Nicholas or his family for their service to our country; but with this gesture, we can ensure that future generations will know of the incredible life that Staff Sergeant Reid lived, of his honor, his sacrifice, and pride in serving his hometown of Brockport and the country that he defended. It is with immeasurable gratitude that I offer this legislation today and remember Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid.

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

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I would just ask that we pass this bill without reservation in order to recognize the sacrifice that Nicholas J. Reid, his family, and loved ones have made for the United States.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid deserves the post office in Brockport to be named after him, so I urge all Members to join me in voting for the passage of this bill to honor Nick.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1451.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1630

JUDGE SHIRLEY A. TOLENTINO POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1376) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the ''Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1376

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

SECTION 1. JUDGE SHIRLEY A. TOLENTINO POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, shall be known and designated as the ''Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1376, introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building.

Judge Tolentino was a remarkable woman, and her life was marked by several accomplishments. Judge Tolentino was born in Jersey City and graduated from Henry Snyder High School as an honor student. She attended the College of St. Elizabeth's and Seton Hall University School of Law, where she was the only African American in her class when she received her juris doctor degree in 1971. Judge Tolentino also went on to receive a specialized master of laws degree in criminal justice from New York University Graduate School of Law in 1980.

Judge Tolentino was appointed to the Superior Court of the State of New Jersey on January 11, 1984. She was the first female appointed to that position. She had previously been appointed as the first female to the Jersey City Municipal Court in 1976. In 1981, she became the first female presiding judge of the Jersey City Municipal Court.

One of her proudest accomplishments was serving on the Coleman Commission, which later became the New Jersey Supreme Court Task Force on Minorities, as well as chairing the Commission on Criminal Justice and Minority Defendants and serving on the Committee on Criminal Practice.

In addition to her fine public service, Judge Tolentino was a leader in many service-oriented organizations, including the Urban League, Girl Scouts, and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She also served on the boards of various academic institutions, including her alma mater, St. Elizabeth's.

Unfortunately, Judge Tolentino passed away at the age of 67 on October 31, 2010. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Ernesto Tolentino, two daughters, and many beloved family members and friends. She was a pillar of her community and a strong role model for women and men of all ages.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1376, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my friend from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Missouri and the gentleman from Texas for giving me this opportunity to speak on a true hero in our community.

In New Jersey, Ms. Tolentino is someone that is looked to with great esteem. She led the way on many issues moving women and minorities forward and showing that they had a rightful place at the table of power, the ability to serve, and the distinction to lead.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1376, to name the postal facility located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, after the late Honorable Shirley A. Tolentino.

Shirley Tolentino was born in Jersey City, served as a distinguished jurist in Hudson County for over 26 years, and was a trailblazer for women and African Americans as public servants in New Jersey. She was a product of the local public school system in Jersey City, where she was an honor student, graduating from Snyder High School. She then earned a scholarship to attend the College of St. Elizabeth in Morristown, New Jersey, graduating with a degree in Latin with honors.

To put herself through law school, Judge Tolentino worked as a high school Latin and English teacher while attending Seton Hall University School of Law, graduating as the only African American female in the class of 1971.

After law school, she became a deputy attorney general in the State of New Jersey, where she remained until she rose to the bench in Jersey City in 1976. She became the second African American woman to be named as a municipal court judge in New Jersey, and the first to be appointed to the Jersey City Municipal Court.

In 1980, Judge Tolentino earned her master of laws degree in criminal justice from NYU Graduate School of Law, while continuing to serve in the municipal court. In 1981, she continued to blaze a trail for others, becoming the first African American presiding judge of Jersey City Municipal Court. Her successes didn't stop there. In 1984, when she was appointed by Governor Thomas Kean, Judge Tolentino became the first African American woman to ascend to the Superior Court of the State of New Jersey.

Later, she was appointed to the original Coleman Commission, which would later be called the New Jersey Supreme Court Task Force on Minorities. During her time on the Commission, she became the chair of the Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice, and also served as a Supreme Court chair of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Minority Defendants. With all her professional achievements, she viewed her appointment and time served on the Commission as her greatest accomplishment.

Over the years, Judge Tolentino's career was highlighted by many firsts, and she accomplished much during her years on and off the bench. As a member of the Jersey City Hudson County Urban League, the Hudson County Girl Scouts board, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Hudson County CYO, the Visiting Homemakers of Hudson County board, and a host of other local organizations, she was an integral part of her community.

Throughout her success, Judge Tolentino always called Jersey City home and actively participated in community service in the city that bore and raised her.

Judge Shirley Tolentino passed away on October 31, 2010, and is survived by her husband, Dr. Ernesto Tolentino, children, and grandchildren.

It is not a coincidence that the post office to bear her name would be located on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. There is no better way to honor the achievements of Judge Tolentino and at the same time provide a permanent monument of possibilities and hope for young women, African Americans, and the citizens of Jersey City.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill in honor of her legacy.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I urge the passage of H.R. 1376, to commemorate the life of Judge Tolentino and all of her accomplishments and service to the Jersey City community.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I join with my friends and colleagues across the aisle, Mr. PAYNE and Mr. CLAY, in urging passage of H.R. 1376, designating the postal facility in New Jersey to be named after Judge Tolentino, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1376.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LANCE CORPORAL DANIEL NATHAN DEYARMIN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1813) to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the ''Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin Post Office Building'', as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1813

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

SECTION 1. LANCE CORPORAL DANIEL NATHAN DEYARMIN, JR., POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, shall be known and designated as the ''Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 1813 was introduced by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) and would redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin Post Office Building.

Marine Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., who went by ''Nathan,'' was born on July 30, 1983, in Akron, Ohio. His family moved to Tallmadge when he was just a year and a half old, and Nathan grew up there. He was a 2002 graduate of Tallmadge High School.

Nathan joined the Marines in 2003, and served with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. In March of 2005, Nathan was deployed to Iraq. Sadly, just 5 months later, he was killed on August 1 by enemy small arms fire while conducting dismounted operations outside Haditha. Five other marines died at his side.

Madam Speaker, Representative RYAN's staff shared with me that when Nathan was asked why he wanted to join the military, he said that he ''wanted a brother'' and that he ''wanted to become a respectable, responsible, productive American.'' He certainly achieved all of those goals.

In the eyes of his family, friends, fellow marines, countrymen, and those of us standing here today to honor his tremendous sacrifice, he is one of the most respected Americans this body has had the great privilege of honoring. Those brave men and women who put themselves in harm's way to defend our safety and freedom deserve our honor, respect, and heartfelt gratitude.

I ask my colleagues for their strong support of H.R. 1813, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the gentleman from Texas for his kind words as well.

Madam Speaker, from the Book of Isaiah, chapter 6, verse 8:

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send? And I said, Here I am. Send me.

Nate said, Send me, when his country asked and he was looking for a way to serve. He joined the Marine Corps.

Lance Corporal Deyarmin was born on July 30, 1983. He was named after his father, but they started calling him ''Nate.'' They moved to Tallmadge, in our congressional district, when he was 1½ years old. He lived there his whole life. His family said he was a homeboy from Tallmadge. Nate went to school there and played sports there. He lived there and he made friends there.

Nate joined the Marine Corps as his way of serving, but when you read about his life, the interesting thing—and what we are celebrating here—is

that he said, Send me, from the very early stages of his life here on Earth.

When his great grandfather was 89 years old and bedridden, it was little Nate that jumped into the bed and started playing Legos to engage his great grandfather to make him feel better. They had this little game they would play where his grandfather would move his false teeth in and out of his mouth and little Nate would try and grab the teeth. A few years later, when the great grandfather died, Nate had an opportunity to pick whatever he wanted of his great grandfather's—and he picked the false teeth.

I think that is the kind of spirit that Nate brought to his family, friends, the Marine Corps, and to our country.

While driving down the road on his way to school, if there happened to be someone walking to school who didn't have a driver's license, Nate was the kind of guy that stopped and picked that person up and took them to school.

□ 1645

Nate said: Send me.

If someone was bullying someone at school and Nate was there, Nate was the guy who got in the middle of it and made sure that no one was bullied. He said: Send me.

If a family was having trouble, Nate would stop by the house, make sure everything was going okay. Nate said: Send me.

So now, those of us who drive by this post office in Tallmadge, Ohio, we will look up, we will see Nate's name, and we will not only remember his name or his service, but how his life challenges all of us in some way, shape, or form, in every little interaction, to say and answer the call when we are asked: Send me.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, we are prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friend from Ohio for bringing this bill forward. I ask that we pass the underlying bill, without reservation, to honor Lance Corporal Deyarmin and his steadfast dedication to this country.

I urge the passage of H.R. 1813, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I urge this body to join the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) and me in supporting H.R. 1813, renaming the United States Postal Service facility at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, to honor Nate, naming it as the Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1813, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

NATIONAL PARK RANGER MARGARET ANDERSON POST OFFICE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1036) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, as the ''National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1036

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

SECTION 1. NATIONAL PARK RANGER MARGARET ANDERSON POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, shall be known and designated as the ''National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, once again, it is my honor to be up here speaking about a bill, this one, H.R. 1036, introduced by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) that would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, as the National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office.

Mount Rainier National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson was fatally shot in the line of duty on January 1 of 2012. On the morning of January 1, at approximately 10:30 in the morning, Ranger Anderson was at Paradise, the park's most popular winter destination, when she responded to a radio call while she was welcoming visitors.

The radio call asked her to set up a traffic block to intercept a vehicle that failed to stop at a chained-up checkpoint in the park. The driver of the vehicle opened fire on Ranger Anderson and then fled on foot into the woods.

Unbeknownst to Ranger Anderson, the suspect was wanted in connection with a shooting the previous day in which four people were wounded.

Ms. Anderson was an exceptional park ranger who served the National Park Service for 12 years and worked at Mount Rainier for 3 years. She is survived by her husband, Eric, who is also a Mount Rainier park ranger, and two children, Annalise and Kathryn.

Margaret was only 34 years old at the time of her death. Ranger Anderson gave her life protecting park visitors and staff from a dangerous criminal. Paradise is a magnet for sledders, skiers, and families with small children, and at least 100 people had already arrived at the park on this day when Ranger Anderson was shot.

Margaret's brave action very possibly saved many lives that day, and she is to be commended and remembered as a hero.

I urge all Members to join me in strong support of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 1036, a bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, as the National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office.

This measure before us was introduced on March 7, 2013, by my colleague, Representative David Reichert. In accordance with committee requirements, the bill is cosponsored by all members of the Washington delegation.

H.R. 1036 was reported out of committee by unanimous consent on March 12, 2014.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from the State of Washington (Mr. REICHERT).

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I think most of the Members here know that I had a 33-year career in law enforcement prior to coming to the House of Representatives a little over 9 years ago. During that time, I lost good friends and partners in the line of duty—shot, stabbed—and they left behind families, husbands and wives and children. Those are memories that stick with me—and I know the friends and partners I have in law enforcement—forever, and the families never forget and never recover.

On this day that has been mentioned by my colleague—on New Year's Day, in the year 2012, Park Ranger Margaret Anderson responded to a call. Her job

usually is to guide folks through the park and show them the scenery and talk about the trailways and the flowers and the trees that are growing on Mount Rainier, educate the young children.

But all of a sudden, she is called to duty, to switch gears, to put her life on the line. She showed up that day to block the road from this dangerous criminal who had already committed crimes in Seattle and was on the loose. There was a manhunt that was conducted trying to find this person before he hurt or injured or killed anyone else.

Margaret Anderson served Mount Rainier Park for about 4 years. She was a National Park Ranger for 12 years. Her husband was serving with her on that very same day. He heard the call go out—officer down—and then realized it was his wife.

We go about our days here in Congress, and we sometimes forget the men and women who guard this Capitol, who guard our lives each and every day; and when we go home, those men and women in uniform are there protecting our families and our communities.

Sometimes, Madam Speaker, they lose their life. Sometimes, they put their life on the line, and sometimes, they don't come home.

In this case, Margaret Anderson did not come home. She left her husband and her two children to grieve, but she saved lives that day. That is what we do.

It is an honor for me to be here today with this piece of legislation, H.R. 1036, that honors a brave resident of Eatonville, Washington. It is a little town nestled right at the foot of Mount Rainier, with only 3,000 people, so to name a post office after her, I think, would be a great honor, a great memorial.

It is one of the things that we can do, so that we can say we will never forget.

Thank you, Margaret, for your service.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to thank my colleague from Washington State for bringing this bill.

I ask that we pass this bill, without reservation, to recognize Margaret Anderson and her dedication to her family, the United States Park Service, and for paying the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, to ensure the safety and security of her fellow citizens.

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I look to my colleagues here in the House of Representatives and say please join Mr. REICHERT, Mr. CLAY, the entire Washington delegation, and me in voting to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, to honor a hero who gave her life protecting park patrons, to name that post office the National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office.

Please join me in voting ''yea'' on this important legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1036.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PHILIPPINES CHARITABLE GIVING ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3771) to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3771

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Philippines Charitable Giving Assistance Act''.

SEC. 2. ACCELERATION OF INCOME TAX BENEFITS FOR CHARITABLE CASH CONTRIBUTIONS FOR RELIEF OF VICTIMS OF TYPHOON HAIYAN IN THE PHILIPPINES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, a taxpayer may treat any contribution described in subsection (b) made after the date of the enactment of this Act, and before April 15, 2014, as if such contribution was made on December 31, 2013, and not in 2014.

(b) CONTRIBUTION DESCRIBED.—A contribution is described in this subsection if such contribution is a cash contribution made for the relief of victims in areas affected by Typhoon Haiyan, for which a charitable contribution deduction is allowable under section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) RECORDKEEPING.—In the case of a contribution described in subsection (b), a telephone bill showing the name of the donee organization, the date of the contribution, and the amount of the contribution shall be treated as meeting the recordkeeping requirements of section 170(f)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the efforts of my colleagues. This is a commonsense way of doing things, and I don't think that many Americans realize the total devastation that Haiyan caused when it hit the Philippines, when you look at the loss of life, when you look at the number of displaced people, when you look at how many people it totally affected.

Now, when it comes to loss of life, we are talking about 6,200 people killed by this storm, 4.1 million displaced; and it affected over 14.1 million people.

The purpose of this legislation is kind of common sense. It allows people up to April 15 to go ahead and make a contribution to try and stem the effects of those losses. It just makes sense. It is something we have always done as Americans.

When we look at the special relationship we have with the Philippines, I don't think we can really look too far beyond where our history has been together as a people to understand that, when times get tough, when things happen to other folks, and when we can step in and help them, that we always do. It is just who we are. It is unique to America.

So I thank the gentleman for bringing it forward. I think it makes sense to all of us. This is truly bipartisan.

At a time when most people think that this House of Representatives can't do things that are bipartisan and doesn't act in the best for all people concerned, I think this surely does show that, by allowing Americans up until April 15 of this year to be able to make a contribution to help ease the devastation in the Philippines and still be able to use taxes from 2013. That is unique, and that is something I think we should do.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 3771. This bill allows taxpayers to treat charitable contributions in support of Typhoon Haiyan recovery efforts in the Philippines made between the date of enactment of this bill and April 15, 2014, as if they were made in the 2013 tax year.

□ 1700

More than 4 months ago, on November 8, Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines, killing 6,000 people, destroying more than 1 million homes, displacing 4 million people, and affecting 16 million people.

Following this disaster, there was an outpouring of support for the people of the Philippines and from people around our country, including a number of folks in my district, particularly members of the Filipino American community, like Norma Placido, president of the Filipino Community of Solano

County, and members of the Filipino American Chamber of Solano County. Many of my constituents have family members in the Philippines that were affected by this typhoon, and they are trying to do everything possible to help them rebuild.

The United Nations-developed Strategic Response Plan, to coordinate and prioritize assistance, estimates that $788 million will be needed for humanitarian aid through November 2014. Sadly, only $369 million has been contributed to date. This bipartisan legislation, which I am proud to be part of with my colleague, Mr. SWALWELL, from California, Representative HECK from Nevada, and Representative ISSA from California will allow people to deduct qualifying charitable contributions made after the date of enactment of this bill and before the 15th of April on their 2013 tax returns. This will help incentivize charitable giving to the Philippine rebuilding efforts while the need is so great. Identical legislation has already been introduced and was passed unanimously by the Senate earlier this year.

Our country's relationship with the Philippines runs very deep. In World War II, 57,000 military Philippine servicemembers and 900,000 Philippine civilians gave their lives in support of our Allied Forces. And the Manila American Cemetery holds 17,202 brave American and Filipino troops killed during World War II.

The Philippines sent 7,500 combat troops to the Korean war and 2,000 troops to the Vietnam war. They sent 200 medical personnel to assist in the gulf war, and 60 medics, engineers, and other troops to assist in the Iraq war. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, they offered to send our country a 25-team member of aid workers, and the Philippines Red Cross donated money. And they are one of our closest allies in the war on terror.

When tragedy strikes around the world, Americans don't sit on the sidelines; we help. Our allies in the Philippines are still working on their long-term rebuilding effort, and this bipartisan legislation will make sure that our committees are able to provide the help our friends need for this important phase of rebuilding.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important piece of legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL), my friend and a great leader on this effort.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for leading the effort on your side of the aisle. Also, I would like to thank Congressman THOMPSON, my colleague from California, for helping move this through the House. I want to thank Chairman CAMP, Ranking Member LEVIN, Majority Leader CANTOR, and Democratic Leader PELOSI for helping me get this important bill to the floor. Also, I thank the lead cosponsors, Congressman HECK, as well as Congressman ISSA, who joined Congressman THOMPSON and me in this effort, as well as Senator HIRONO in the Senate for doing the important work over there.

I rise today in support of H.R. 3771, the Philippines Charitable Giving Assistance Act, which would incentivize Americans to make charitable contributions to Typhoon Haiyan relief now.

Last November, Typhoon Haiyan was a storm of truly destructive power. With sustained winds of almost 200 miles per hour, it was the strongest storm ever to make landfall, resulting in the devastating effects that necessitate our action today.

Sadly, the results were catastrophic to the Philippines. According to that nation, 16 million people were affected, 4.1 million were displaced, and over 6,200 perished. Months after the disaster, help is still desperately needed. This includes a need for health care, food, clean water, and shelter.

The United Nations developed a Strategic Response Plan to coordinate and prioritize assistance from U.N. agencies, nongovernmental organizations, other international entities, and the Philippine Government. The U.N. has said $788 million will be needed to accomplish the goals of the SRP through October 2014. Of that amount, only $369 million has been provided so far.

Now, while I know Americans can and do help anyone in need, we have a special relationship, as my colleague from California pointed out, with the Philippines. Between 1898 and 1946, the Philippines was a part of the United States before becoming independent. There are today about 3.4 million Filipino Americans, including over 450,000 living in the San Francisco Bay area alone.

My San Francisco Bay area congressional district has a rich and vibrant Filipino community, from groups like Filipino Advocates for Justice to leaders like Father Geoffrey Baraan, my friend and the pastor at St. Anne Catholic Church in Union City, as well as Linda Canlas of the New Haven Unified School District in the East Bay.

Many of the Filipinos in my district, like many across the country, have friends or family still in the Philippines. That is why it is so important we do all we can to help.

The values of our country call for us to care for people across the world. More often than not, that includes people we will never see or ever meet, but no one is invisible. And after Typhoon Haiyan, people in my district are asking what they can do to help. H.R. 3771 empowers them to help.

As amended, it is a bipartisan bill that would provide a temporary incentive for Americans to contribute immediately to typhoon relief efforts. It would allow certain monetary charitable contributions made after the date the bill is signed and before April 15, which is in just a few weeks, to be treated as if they were made in 2013.

Charitable contributions which qualify are monetary ones which are made to help persons in areas affected by Typhoon Haiyan and otherwise qualify as tax deductible donations. Qualifying contributions can thus be deducted on a person's 2013 taxes, which are covered by returns filed this year, as opposed to ones which are filed for the 2014 tax year.

By lowering a person's 2013 tax bill, which is due this year, the bill provides an incentive to act now for typhoon relief. This is important because the sooner that the aid comes and is provided, the sooner our friends in the Philippines can recover.

I should note that this is important in making a qualifying contribution. It doesn't matter if you have already filed your return this year.

I encourage all Members to support this bill. The Senate already cleared legislation with identical text in S. 1821. It also agreed that, if H.R. 3771 passed in the same form, the bill before us automatically would pass the Senate and go right to the President's desk.

When the bill is passed and signed into law, as I hope it will be, I further want to ask all Members and international aid organizations interested in Philippines relief to let people know about it as soon as possible. Time is of the essence. We will only have a few weeks for people to take advantage of this tax incentive, and we must do so so that we can continue to spread the word.

The people of the Philippines are not alone as they rebuild their lives and their beautiful country. H.R. 3771 allows Americans to play an important role in this effort, an effort that we should all care about.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3771, the Philippines Charitable Giving Assistance Act. As the Democratic co-chair of the U.S.-Philippines Friendship Caucus, I commend all of the sponsors of the bill who came together to support this legislation.

The United States and the Philippines have had a very close relationship for more than 100 years. The gentleman from California has outlined the support of the military, and the United States has been one of the Philippines' top trading partners and one of the largest foreign investors. Furthermore, there are over 3 million Americans of Filipino ancestry in the United States today.

In light of the close friendship that the United States and the Philippines enjoy, it is even more important that we rise to the occasion of supporting our friends in the Philippines as they continue to recover from Typhoon Haiyan.

Last November, the typhoon ravaged the Philippines' coast and was the strongest recorded storm ever to make landfall. Sixteen million people were affected, 4 million were displaced, and tens of thousands of lives were lost during the devastating storm.

While the response of both the United States and the international community has been strong and unified, more can obviously be done. The bill before us allows donations made to relief and recovery efforts directed at the Philippines to be deducted from one's income taxes when filing a 2013 return, rather than having to wait until 2014 to have the tax benefit from the donation. It is a simple measure that provides a small incentive to encourage Americans to continue to show their solidarity with those affected in the Philippines.

This bill is not unprecedented. Congress recently acted to provide a similar incentive after the earthquake in Haiti, which occurred in January 2010. The bill we are considering today, like the one passed after that earthquake, simply speeds up the process and encourages folks to donate now when the relief is most needed.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill so our friends in the Philippines will have all of the resources they need to continue during the path of recovery.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time. So at this time, I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) for his help and persistence on this.

As we have already discussed, Typhoon Haiyan has been absolutely devastating. It hurt a tremendous number of people and has hurt communities. We really need to do everything we can to make sure that Americans can do what we do so well, and that is help our allies and our friends. This bill does that.

This bill, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania pointed out, is common sense. It has been done before. There is precedent. And this is a nation of our allies and our friends who are waiting for our help. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I thank both Mr. THOMPSON and Mr. SWALWELL so much for bringing this bill forward.

Again, I would just like to point out the uniqueness of the exceptional country that we live in. There is never a time that Americans don't always stand up. We are the first responders anytime there is any kind of crisis or tragedy anywhere in the world.

I think it just points out uniquely how we are so exceptional in a world right now that seems to be torn apart and seems to be upside down in almost every measure, so to be able to be here today with you to take a look at our friends in the Philippines and understand the devastation that they have gone through and say we are just doing something, that makes sense. This is not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue; it is simply an American issue. Once again, American hearts have always pulled together anytime people really needed us.

I don't know if people realize that the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL) just arrived here, and it is a fete for him to be able to do this, to get this piece of legislation through.

So I strongly urge all of our colleagues to push forward on H.R. 3771. I just think it is unique for us at this time, especially, to get this done.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3771, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1715

COOPERATIVE AND SMALL EMPLOYER CHARITY PENSION FLEXIBILITY ACT

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4275) to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4275

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Congressional findings and declarations of policy.
Sec. 3. Effective date.
TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974 AND OTHER PROVISIONS
Sec. 101. Definition of cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.
Sec. 102. Funding rules applicable to cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.
Sec. 103. Elections.
Sec. 104. Transparency.
Sec. 105. Sponsor education and assistance.
TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986
Sec. 201. Definition of cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.
Sec. 202. Funding rules applicable to cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.
Sec. 203. Election not to be treated as a CSEC plan.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS OF POLICY.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) Defined benefit pension plans are a cost-effective way for cooperative associations and charities to provide their employees with economic security in retirement.

(2) Many cooperative associations and charitable organizations are only able to provide their employees with defined benefit pension plans because those organizations are able to pool their resources using the multiple employer plan structure.

(3) The pension funding rules should encourage cooperative associations and charities to continue to provide their employees with pension benefits.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Unless otherwise specified in this Act, the provisions of this Act shall apply to years beginning after December 31, 2013.

TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974 AND OTHER PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. DEFINITION OF COOPERATIVE AND SMALL EMPLOYER CHARITY PENSION PLANS.

Section 210 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1060) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) COOPERATIVE AND SMALL EMPLOYER CHARITY PENSION PLANS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this title, except as provided in this subsection, a CSEC plan is an employee pension benefit plan (other than a multiemployer plan) that is a defined benefit plan—

''(A) to which section 104 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 applies, without regard to—

''(i) section 104(a)(2) of such Act;

''(ii) the amendments to such section 104 by section 202(b) of the Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010; and

''(iii) paragraph (3)(B); or

''(B) that, as of June 25, 2010, was maintained by more than one employer and all of the employers were organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''(2) AGGREGATION.—All employers that are treated as a single employer under subsection (b) or (c) of section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be treated as a single employer for purposes of determining if a plan was maintained by more than one employer under paragraph (1)(B).''.

SEC. 102. FUNDING RULES APPLICABLE TO COOPERATIVE AND SMALL EMPLOYER CHARITY PENSION PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part 3 of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1081 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 306. MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARDS.

''(a) GENERAL RULE.—For purposes of section 302, the term 'accumulated funding deficiency' for a CSEC plan means the excess of the total charges to the funding standard account for all plan years (beginning with the first plan year to which section 302 applies) over the total credits to such account for

such years or, if less, the excess of the total charges to the alternative minimum funding standard account for such plan years over the total credits to such account for such years.

''(b) FUNDING STANDARD ACCOUNT.—

''(1) ACCOUNT REQUIRED.—Each plan to which this section applies shall establish and maintain a funding standard account. Such account shall be credited and charged solely as provided in this section.

''(2) CHARGES TO ACCOUNT.—For a plan year, the funding standard account shall be charged with the sum of—

''(A) the normal cost of the plan for the plan year,

''(B) the amounts necessary to amortize in equal annual installments (until fully amortized)—

''(i) in the case of a plan in existence on January 1, 1974, the unfunded past service liability under the plan on the first day of the first plan year to which section 302 applies, over a period of 40 plan years,

''(ii) in the case of a plan which comes into existence after January 1, 1974, but before the first day of the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, the unfunded past service liability under the plan on the first day of the first plan year to which section 302 applies, over a period of 30 plan years,

''(iii) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net increase (if any) in unfunded past service liability under the plan arising from plan amendments adopted in such year, over a period of 15 plan years,

''(iv) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net experience loss (if any) under the plan, over a period of 5 plan years, and

''(v) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net loss (if any) resulting from changes in actuarial assumptions used under the plan, over a period of 10 plan years,

''(C) the amount necessary to amortize each waived funding deficiency (within the meaning of section 302(c)(3)) for each prior plan year in equal annual installments (until fully amortized) over a period of 5 plan years,

''(D) the amount necessary to amortize in equal annual installments (until fully amortized) over a period of 5 plan years any amount credited to the funding standard account under paragraph (3)(D), and

''(E) the amount necessary to amortize in equal annual installments (until fully amortized) over a period of 20 years the contributions which would be required to be made under the plan but for the provisions of section 302(c)(7)(A)(i)(I) (as in effect on the day before the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006).

''(3) CREDITS TO ACCOUNT.—For a plan year, the funding standard account shall be credited with the sum of—

''(A) the amount considered contributed by the employer to or under the plan for the plan year,

''(B) the amount necessary to amortize in equal annual installments (until fully amortized)—

''(i) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net decrease (if any) in unfunded past service liability under the plan arising from plan amendments adopted in such year, over a period of 15 plan years,

''(ii) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net experience gain (if any) under the plan, over a period of 5 plan years, and

''(iii) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net gain (if any) resulting from changes in actuarial assumptions used under the plan, over a period of 10 plan years,

''(C) the amount of the waived funding deficiency (within the meaning of section 302(c)(3)) for the plan year, and

''(D) in the case of a plan year for which the accumulated funding deficiency is determined under the funding standard account if such plan year follows a plan year for which such deficiency was determined under the alternative minimum funding standard, the excess (if any) of any debit balance in the funding standard account (determined without regard to this subparagraph) over any debit balance in the alternative minimum funding standard account.

''(4) COMBINING AND OFFSETTING AMOUNTS TO BE AMORTIZED.—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, amounts required to be amortized under paragraph (2) or paragraph (3), as the case may be—

''(A) may be combined into one amount under such paragraph to be amortized over a period determined on the basis of the remaining amortization period for all items entering into such combined amount, and

''(B) may be offset against amounts required to be amortized under the other such paragraph, with the resulting amount to be amortized over a period determined on the basis of the remaining amortization periods for all items entering into whichever of the two amounts being offset is the greater.

''(5) INTEREST.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the funding standard account (and items therein) shall be charged or credited (as determined under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury) with interest at the appropriate rate consistent with the rate or rates of interest used under the plan to determine costs.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—The interest rate used for purposes of computing the amortization charge described in subsection (b)(2)(C) or for purposes of any arrangement under subsection (d) for any plan year shall be the greater of—

''(i) 150 percent of the Federal mid-term rate (as in effect under section 1274 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for the 1st month of such plan year), or

''(ii) the rate of interest determined under subparagraph (A).

''(6) AMORTIZATION SCHEDULES IN EFFECT.—Amortization schedules for amounts described in paragraphs (2) and (3) that are in effect as of the last day of the last plan year beginning before January 1, 2014, by reason of section 104 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 shall remain in effect pursuant to their terms and this section, except that such amounts shall not be amortized again under this section.

''(c) SPECIAL RULES.—

''(1) DETERMINATIONS TO BE MADE UNDER FUNDING METHOD.—For purposes of this section, normal costs, accrued liability, past service liabilities, and experience gains and losses shall be determined under the funding method used to determine costs under the plan.

''(2) VALUATION OF ASSETS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the value of the plan's assets shall be determined on the basis of any reasonable actuarial method of valuation which takes into account fair market value and which is permitted under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

''(B) DEDICATED BOND PORTFOLIO.—The Secretary of the Treasury may by regulations provide that the value of any dedicated bond portfolio of a plan shall be determined by using the interest rate under section 302(b)(5) (as in effect on the day before the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006).

''(3) ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS MUST BE REASONABLE.—For purposes of this section, all costs, liabilities, rates of interest, and other factors under the plan shall be determined on the basis of actuarial assumptions and methods—

''(A) each of which is reasonable (taking into account the experience of the plan and reasonable expectations), and

''(B) which, in combination, offer the actuary's best estimate of anticipated experience under the plan.

''(4) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN CHANGES AS EXPERIENCE GAIN OR LOSS.—For purposes of this section, if—

''(A) a change in benefits under the Social Security Act or in other retirement benefits created under Federal or State law, or

''(B) a change in the definition of the term 'wages' under section 3121 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or a change in the amount of such wages taken into account under regulations prescribed for purposes of section 401(a)(5) of such Code,

results in an increase or decrease in accrued liability under a plan, such increase or decrease shall be treated as an experience loss or gain.

''(5) FUNDING METHOD AND PLAN YEAR.—

''(A) FUNDING METHODS AVAILABLE.—All funding methods available to CSEC plans under section 302 (as in effect on the day before the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006) shall continue to be available under this section.

''(B) CHANGES.—If the funding method for a plan is changed, the new funding method shall become the funding method used to determine costs and liabilities under the plan only if the change is approved by the Secretary of the Treasury. If the plan year for a plan is changed, the new plan year shall become the plan year for the plan only if the change is approved by the Secretary of the Treasury.

''(C) APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN CHANGES IN ASSUMPTIONS BY CERTAIN SINGLE-EMPLOYER PLANS SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIREMENT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—No actuarial assumption (other than the assumptions described in subsection (h)(3)) used to determine the current liability for a plan to which this subparagraph applies may be changed without the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury.

''(ii) PLANS TO WHICH SUBPARAGRAPH APPLIES.—This subparagraph shall apply to a plan only if—

''(I) the plan is a CSEC plan,

''(II) the aggregate unfunded vested benefits as of the close of the preceding plan year (as determined under section 4006(a)(3)(E)(iii)) of such plan and all other plans maintained by the contributing sponsors (as defined in section 4001(a)(13)) and members of such sponsors' controlled groups (as defined in section 4001(a)(14)) which are covered by title IV (disregarding plans with no unfunded vested benefits) exceed $50,000,000, and

''(III) the change in assumptions (determined after taking into account any changes in interest rate and mortality table) results in a decrease in the funding shortfall of the plan for the current plan year that exceeds $50,000,000, or that exceeds $5,000,000 and that is 5 percent or more of the current liability of the plan before such change.

''(6) FULL FUNDING.—If, as of the close of a plan year, a plan would (without regard to this paragraph) have an accumulated funding deficiency (determined without regard to the alternative minimum funding standard account permitted under subsection (e)) in excess of the full funding limitation—

''(A) the funding standard account shall be credited with the amount of such excess, and

''(B) all amounts described in paragraphs (2)(B), (C), and (D) and (3)(B) of subsection (b) which are required to be amortized shall be considered fully amortized for purposes of such paragraphs.

''(7) FULL-FUNDING LIMITATION.—For purposes of paragraph (6), the term 'full-funding limitation' means the excess (if any) of—

''(A) the accrued liability (including normal cost) under the plan (determined under the entry age normal funding method if such accrued liability cannot be directly calculated under the funding method used for the plan), over

''(B) the lesser of—

''(i) the fair market value of the plan's assets, or

''(ii) the value of such assets determined under paragraph (2).

''(C) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In no event shall the full-funding limitation determined under subparagraph (A) be less than the excess (if any) of—

''(I) 90 percent of the current liability (determined without regard to paragraph (4) of subsection (h)) of the plan (including the expected increase in such current liability due to benefits accruing during the plan year), over

''(II) the value of the plan's assets determined under paragraph (2).

''(ii) ASSETS.—For purposes of clause (i), assets shall not be reduced by any credit balance in the funding standard account.

''(8) ANNUAL VALUATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, a determination of experience gains and losses and a valuation of the plan's liability shall be made not less frequently than once every year, except that such determination shall be made more frequently to the extent required in particular cases under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

''(B) VALUATION DATE.—

''(i) CURRENT YEAR.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the valuation referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be made as of a date within the plan year to which the valuation refers or within one month prior to the beginning of such year.

''(ii) USE OF PRIOR YEAR VALUATION.—The valuation referred to in subparagraph (A) may be made as of a date within the plan year prior to the year to which the valuation refers if, as of such date, the value of the assets of the plan are not less than 100 percent of the plan's current liability.

''(iii) ADJUSTMENTS.—Information under clause (ii) shall, in accordance with regulations, be actuarially adjusted to reflect significant differences in participants.

''(iv) LIMITATION.—A change in funding method to use a prior year valuation, as provided in clause (ii), may not be made unless as of the valuation date within the prior plan year, the value of the assets of the plan are not less than 125 percent of the plan's current liability.

''(9) TIME WHEN CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS DEEMED MADE.—For purposes of this section, any contributions for a plan year made by an employer during the period—

''(A) beginning on the day after the last day of such plan year, and

''(B) ending on the day which is 8½ months after the close of the plan year,

shall be deemed to have been made on such last day.

''(10) ANTICIPATION OF BENEFIT INCREASES EFFECTIVE IN THE FUTURE.—In determining projected benefits, the funding method of a collectively bargained CSEC plan described in section 413(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall anticipate benefit increases scheduled to take effect during the term of the collective bargaining agreement applicable to the plan.

''(d) EXTENSION OF AMORTIZATION PERIODS.—The period of years required to amortize any unfunded liability (described in any clause of subsection (b)(2)(B)) of any plan may be extended by the Secretary of the Treasury for a period of time (not in excess of 10 years) if such Secretary determines that such extension would carry out the purposes of this Act and provide adequate protection for participants under the plan and their beneficiaries, and if such Secretary determines that the failure to permit such extension would result in—

''(1) a substantial risk to the voluntary continuation of the plan, or

''(2) a substantial curtailment of pension benefit levels or employee compensation.

''(e) ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARD.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A CSEC plan which uses a funding method that requires contributions in all years not less than those required under the entry age normal funding method may maintain an alternative minimum funding standard account for any plan year. Such account shall be credited and charged solely as provided in this subsection.

''(2) CHARGES AND CREDITS TO ACCOUNT.—For a plan year the alternative minimum funding standard account shall be—

''(A) charged with the sum of—

''(i) the lesser of normal cost under the funding method used under the plan or normal cost determined under the unit credit method,

''(ii) the excess, if any, of the present value of accrued benefits under the plan over the fair market value of the assets, and

''(iii) an amount equal to the excess (if any) of credits to the alternative minimum standard account for all prior plan years over charges to such account for all such years, and

''(B) credited with the amount considered contributed by the employer to or under the plan for the plan year.

''(3) INTEREST.—The alternative minimum funding standard account (and items therein) shall be charged or credited with interest in the manner provided under subsection (b)(5) with respect to the funding standard account.

''(f) QUARTERLY CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If a CSEC plan which has a funded current liability percentage for the preceding plan year of less than 100 percent fails to pay the full amount of a required installment for the plan year, then the rate of interest charged to the funding standard account under subsection (b)(5) with respect to the amount of the underpayment for the period of the underpayment shall be equal to the greater of—

''(A) 175 percent of the Federal mid-term rate (as in effect under section 1274 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for the 1st month of such plan year), or

''(B) the rate of interest used under the plan in determining costs.

''(2) AMOUNT OF UNDERPAYMENT, PERIOD OF UNDERPAYMENT.—For purposes of paragraph (1)—

''(A) AMOUNT.—The amount of the underpayment shall be the excess of—

''(i) the required installment, over

''(ii) the amount (if any) of the installment contributed to or under the plan on or before the due date for the installment.

''(B) PERIOD OF UNDERPAYMENT.—The period for which interest is charged under this subsection with regard to any portion of the underpayment shall run from the due date for the installment to the date on which such portion is contributed to or under the plan (determined without regard to subsection (c)(9)).

''(C) ORDER OF CREDITING CONTRIBUTIONS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii), contributions shall be credited against unpaid required installments in the order in which such installments are required to be paid.

''(3) NUMBER OF REQUIRED INSTALLMENTS; DUE DATES.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) PAYABLE IN 4 INSTALLMENTS.—There shall be 4 required installments for each plan year.

''(B) TIME FOR PAYMENT OF INSTALLMENTS.—

"In the case of the following required installments:	The due date is:
1st	April 15
2nd	July 15
3rd	October 15
4th	January 15 of the following year.

''(4) AMOUNT OF REQUIRED INSTALLMENT.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The amount of any required installment shall be 25 percent of the required annual payment.

''(B) REQUIRED ANNUAL PAYMENT.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term 'required annual payment' means the lesser of—

''(i) 90 percent of the amount required to be contributed to or under the plan by the employer for the plan year under section 302 (without regard to any waiver under subsection (c) thereof), or

''(ii) 100 percent of the amount so required for the preceding plan year.

Clause (ii) shall not apply if the preceding plan year was not a year of 12 months.

''(5) LIQUIDITY REQUIREMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A plan to which this paragraph applies shall be treated as failing to pay the full amount of any required installment to the extent that the value of the liquid assets paid in such installment is less than the liquidity shortfall (whether or not such liquidity shortfall exceeds the amount of such installment required to be paid but for this paragraph).

''(B) PLANS TO WHICH PARAGRAPH APPLIES.—This paragraph shall apply to a CSEC plan other than a plan described in section 302(d)(6)(A) (as in effect on the day before the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006) which—

''(i) is required to pay installments under this subsection for a plan year, and

''(ii) has a liquidity shortfall for any quarter during such plan year.

''(C) PERIOD OF UNDERPAYMENT.—For purposes of paragraph (1), any portion of an installment that is treated as not paid under

subparagraph (A) shall continue to be treated as unpaid until the close of the quarter in which the due date for such installment occurs.

''(D) LIMITATION ON INCREASE.—If the amount of any required installment is increased by reason of subparagraph (A), in no event shall such increase exceed the amount which, when added to prior installments for the plan year, is necessary to increase the funded current liability percentage (taking into account the expected increase in current liability due to benefits accruing during the plan year) to 100 percent.

''(E) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph—

''(i) LIQUIDITY SHORTFALL.—The term 'liquidity shortfall' means, with respect to any required installment, an amount equal to the excess (as of the last day of the quarter for which such installment is made) of the base amount with respect to such quarter over the value (as of such last day) of the plan's liquid assets.

''(ii) BASE AMOUNT.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The term 'base amount' means, with respect to any quarter, an amount equal to 3 times the sum of the adjusted disbursements from the plan for the 12 months ending on the last day of such quarter.

''(II) SPECIAL RULE.—If the amount determined under subclause (I) exceeds an amount equal to 2 times the sum of the adjusted disbursements from the plan for the 36 months ending on the last day of the quarter and an enrolled actuary certifies to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury that such excess is the result of nonrecurring circumstances, the base amount with respect to such quarter shall be determined without regard to amounts related to those nonrecurring circumstances.

''(iii) DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE PLAN.—The term 'disbursements from the plan' means all disbursements from the trust, including purchases of annuities, payments of single sums and other benefits, and administrative expenses.

''(iv) ADJUSTED DISBURSEMENTS.—The term 'adjusted disbursements' means disbursements from the plan reduced by the product of—

''(I) the plan's funded current liability percentage for the plan year, and

''(II) the sum of the purchases of annuities, payments of single sums, and such other disbursements as the Secretary of the Treasury shall provide in regulations.

''(v) LIQUID ASSETS.—The term 'liquid assets' means cash, marketable securities and such other assets as specified by the Secretary of the Treasury in regulations.

''(vi) QUARTER.—The term 'quarter' means, with respect to any required installment, the 3-month period preceding the month in which the due date for such installment occurs.

''(F) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe such regulations as are necessary to carry out this paragraph.

''(6) FISCAL YEARS AND SHORT YEARS.—

''(A) FISCAL YEARS.—In applying this subsection to a plan year beginning on any date other than January 1, there shall be substituted for the months specified in this subsection, the months which correspond thereto.

''(B) SHORT PLAN YEAR.—This subsection shall be applied to plan years of less than 12 months in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

''(g) IMPOSITION OF LIEN WHERE FAILURE TO MAKE REQUIRED CONTRIBUTIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a plan to which this section applies, if—

''(A) any person fails to make a required installment under subsection (f) or any other payment required under this section before the due date for such installment or other payment, and

''(B) the unpaid balance of such installment or other payment (including interest), when added to the aggregate unpaid balance of all preceding such installments or other payments for which payment was not made before the due date (including interest), exceeds $1,000,000,

then there shall be a lien in favor of the plan in the amount determined under paragraph (3) upon all property and rights to property, whether real or personal, belonging to such person and any other person who is a member of the same controlled group of which such person is a member.

''(2) PLANS TO WHICH SUBSECTION APPLIES.—This subsection shall apply to a CSEC plan for any plan year for which the funded current liability percentage of such plan is less than 100 percent. This subsection shall not apply to any plan to which section 4021 does not apply (as such section is in effect on the date of the enactment of the Retirement Protection Act of 1994).

''(3) AMOUNT OF LIEN.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the amount of the lien shall be equal to the aggregate unpaid balance of required installments and other payments required under this section (including interest)—

''(A) for plan years beginning after 1987, and

''(B) for which payment has not been made before the due date.

''(4) NOTICE OF FAILURE; LIEN.—

''(A) NOTICE OF FAILURE.—A person committing a failure described in paragraph (1) shall notify the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation of such failure within 10 days of the due date for the required installment or other payment.

''(B) PERIOD OF LIEN.—The lien imposed by paragraph (1) shall arise on the due date for the required installment or other payment and shall continue until the last day of the first plan year in which the plan ceases to be described in paragraph (1)(B). Such lien shall continue to run without regard to whether such plan continues to be described in paragraph (2) during the period referred to in the preceding sentence.

''(C) CERTAIN RULES TO APPLY.—Any amount with respect to which a lien is imposed under paragraph (1) shall be treated as taxes due and owing the United States and rules similar to the rules of subsections (c), (d), and (e) of section 4068 shall apply with respect to a lien imposed by subsection (a) and the amount with respect to such lien.

''(5) ENFORCEMENT.—Any lien created under paragraph (1) may be perfected and enforced only by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or at the direction of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, by any contributing employer (or any member of the controlled group of the contributing employer).

''(6) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) DUE DATE; REQUIRED INSTALLMENT.—The terms 'due date' and 'required installment' have the meanings given such terms by subsection (f), except that in the case of a payment other than a required installment, the due date shall be the date such payment is required to be made under this section.

''(B) CONTROLLED GROUP.—The term 'controlled group' means any group treated as a single employer under subsections (b), (c), (m), and (o) of section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''(h) CURRENT LIABILITY.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'current liability' means all liabilities to employees and their beneficiaries under the plan.

''(2) TREATMENT OF UNPREDICTABLE CONTINGENT EVENT BENEFITS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), any unpredictable contingent event benefit shall not be taken into account until the event on which the benefit is contingent occurs.

''(B) UNPREDICTABLE CONTINGENT EVENT BENEFIT.—The term 'unpredictable contingent event benefit' means any benefit contingent on an event other than—

''(i) age, service, compensation, death, or disability, or

''(ii) an event which is reasonably and reliably predictable (as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury).

''(3) INTEREST RATE AND MORTALITY ASSUMPTIONS USED.—

''(A) INTEREST RATE.—The rate of interest used to determine current liability under this section shall be the third segment rate determined under section 303(h)(2)(C).

''(B) MORTALITY TABLES.—

''(i) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Treasury may by regulation prescribe mortality tables to be used in determining current liability under this subsection. Such tables shall be based upon the actual experience of pension plans and projected trends in such experience. In prescribing such tables, the Secretary of the Treasury shall take into account results of available independent studies of mortality of individuals covered by pension plans.

''(ii) PERIODIC REVIEW.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall periodically (at least every 5 years) review any tables in effect under this subsection and shall, to the extent the Secretary of the Treasury determines necessary, by regulation update the tables to reflect the actual experience of pension plans and projected trends in such experience.

''(C) SEPARATE MORTALITY TABLES FOR THE DISABLED.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (B)—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of plan years beginning after December 31, 1995, the Secretary of the Treasury shall establish mortality tables which may be used (in lieu of the tables under subparagraph (B)) to determine current liability under this subsection for individuals who are entitled to benefits under the plan on account of disability. The Secretary of the Treasury shall establish separate tables for individuals whose disabilities occur in plan years beginning before January 1, 1995, and for individuals whose disabilities occur in plan years beginning on or after such date.

''(ii) SPECIAL RULE FOR DISABILITIES OCCURRING AFTER 1994.—In the case of disabilities occurring in plan years beginning after December 31, 1994, the tables under clause (i) shall apply only with respect to individuals described in such subclause who are disabled within the meaning of title II of the Social Security Act and the regulations thereunder.

''(4) CERTAIN SERVICE DISREGARDED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a participant to whom this paragraph applies, only the applicable percentage of the years of service before such individual became a participant shall be taken into account in computing the current liability of the plan.

''(B) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the applicable percentage shall be determined as follows:

"If the years of participation are:	The applicable percentage is:
1	20
2	40
3	60
4	80
5 or more	100.

''(C) PARTICIPANTS TO WHOM PARAGRAPH APPLIES.—This subparagraph shall apply to any participant who, at the time of becoming a participant—

''(i) has not accrued any other benefit under any defined benefit plan (whether or not terminated) maintained by the employer or a member of the same controlled group of which the employer is a member,

''(ii) who first becomes a participant under the plan in a plan year beginning after December 31, 1987, and

''(iii) has years of service greater than the minimum years of service necessary for eligibility to participate in the plan.

''(D) ELECTION.—An employer may elect not to have this subparagraph apply. Such an election, once made, may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury.

''(i) FUNDED CURRENT LIABILITY PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of this section, the term 'funded current liability percentage' means, with respect to any plan year, the percentage which—

''(1) the value of the plan's assets determined under subsection (c)(2), is of

''(2) the current liability under the plan.

''(j) FUNDING RESTORATION STATUS.—Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section—

''(1) NORMAL COST PAYMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a CSEC plan that is in funding restoration status for a plan year, for purposes of section 302, the term 'accumulated funding deficiency' means, for such plan year, the greater of—

''(i) the amount described in subsection (a), or

''(ii) the excess of the normal cost of the plan for the plan year over the amount actually contributed to or under the plan for the plan year.

''(B) NORMAL COST.—In the case of a CSEC plan that uses a spread gain funding method, for purposes of this subsection, the term 'normal cost' means normal cost as determined under the entry age normal funding method.

''(2) PLAN AMENDMENTS.—In the case of a CSEC plan that is in funding restoration status for a plan year, no amendment to such plan may take effect during such plan year if such amendment has the effect of increasing liabilities of the plan by means of increases in benefits, establishment of new benefits, changing the rate of benefit accrual, or changing the rate at which benefits become nonforfeitable. This paragraph shall not apply to any plan amendment that is required to comply with any applicable law. This paragraph shall cease to apply with respect to any plan year, effective as of the first day of the plan year (or if later, the effective date of the amendment) upon payment by the plan sponsor of a contribution to the plan (in addition to any contribution required under this section without regard to this paragraph) in an amount equal to the increase in the funding liability of the plan attributable to the plan amendment.

''(3) FUNDING RESTORATION PLAN.—The sponsor of a CSEC plan shall establish a written funding restoration plan within 180 days of the receipt by the plan sponsor of a certification from the plan actuary that the plan is in funding restoration status for a plan year. Such funding restoration plan shall consist of actions that are calculated, based on reasonably anticipated experience and reasonable actuarial assumptions, to increase the plan's funded percentage to 100 percent over a period that is not longer than the greater of 7 years or the shortest amount of time practicable. Such funding restoration plan shall take into account contributions required under this section (without regard to this paragraph). If a plan remains in funding restoration status for 2 or more years, such funding restoration plan shall be updated each year after the 1st such year within 180 days of receipt by the plan sponsor of a certification from the plan actuary that the plan remains in funding restoration status for the plan year.

''(4) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION BY PLAN ACTUARY.—Not later than the 90th day of each plan year of a CSEC plan, the plan actuary shall certify to the plan sponsor whether or not the plan is in funding restoration status for the plan year, based on the plan's funded percentage as of the beginning of the plan year. For this purpose, the actuary may conclusively rely on an estimate of—

''(A) the plan's funding liability, based on the funding liability of the plan for the preceding plan year and on reasonable actuarial estimates, assumptions, and methods, and

''(B) the amount of any contributions reasonably anticipated to be made for the preceding plan year.

Contributions described in subparagraph (B) shall be taken into account in determining the plan's funded percentage as of the beginning of the plan year.

''(5) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) FUNDING RESTORATION STATUS.—A CSEC plan shall be treated as in funding restoration status for a plan year if the plan's funded percentage as of the beginning of such plan year is less than 80 percent.

''(B) FUNDED PERCENTAGE.—The term 'funded percentage' means the ratio (expressed as a percentage) which—

''(i) the value of plan assets (as determined under subsection (c)(2)), bears to

''(ii) the plan's funding liability.

''(C) FUNDING LIABILITY.—The term 'funding liability' for a plan year means the present value of all benefits accrued or earned under the plan as of the beginning of the plan year, based on the assumptions used by the plan pursuant to this section, including the interest rate described in subsection (b)(5)(A) (without regard to subsection (b)(5)(B)).

''(D) SPREAD GAIN FUNDING METHOD.—The term 'spread gain funding method' has the meaning given such term under rules and forms issued by the Secretary of the Treasury.''.

(b) SEPARATE RULES FOR CSEC PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 302(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1082(a)) is amended by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting '', and'', and by inserting at the end thereof the following new subparagraph:

''(D) in the case of a CSEC plan, the employers make contributions to or under the plan for any plan year which, in the aggregate, are sufficient to ensure that the plan does not have an accumulated funding deficiency under section 306 as of the end of the plan year.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 302 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1082) is amended—

(A) by striking ''multiemployer plan'' the first place it appears in clause (i) of subsection (c)(1)(A) and the last place it appears in paragraph (2) of subsection (d), and inserting ''multiemployer plan or a CSEC plan'',

(B) by striking ''303(j)'' in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) and inserting ''303(j) or under section 306(f)'',

(C)(i) by striking ''and'' at the end of clause (i) of subsection (c)(1)(B),

(ii) by striking the period at the end of clause (ii) of subsection (c)(1)(B), and inserting '', and'', and

(iii) by inserting the following new clause after clause (ii) of subsection (c)(1)(B):

''(iii) in the case of a CSEC plan, the funding standard account shall be credited under section 306(b)(3)(C) with the amount of the waived funding deficiency and such amount shall be amortized as required under section 306(b)(2)(C).'',

(D) by striking ''under paragraph (1)'' in clause (i) of subsection (c)(4)(A) and inserting ''under paragraph (1) or for granting an extension under section 306(d)'',

(E) by striking ''waiver under this subsection'' in subparagraph (B) of subsection (c)(4) and inserting ''waiver under this subsection or an extension under 306(d)'',

(F) by striking ''waiver or modification'' in subclause (I) of subsection (c)(4)(B)(i) and inserting ''waiver, modification, or extension'',

(G) by striking ''waivers'' in the heading of subsection (c)(4)(C) and of clause (ii) of subsection (c)(4)(C) and inserting ''waivers or extensions'',

(H) by striking ''section 304(d)'' in subparagraph (A) of subsection (c)(7) and in paragraph (2) of subsection (d) and inserting ''section 304(d) or section 306(d)'',

(I) by striking ''and'' at the end of subclause (I) of subsection (c)(4)(C)(i) and adding ''or the accumulated funding deficiency under section 306, whichever is applicable,'',

(J) by striking ''303(e)(2),'' in subclause (II) of subsection (c)(4)(C)(i) and inserting ''303(e)(2) or 306(b)(2)(C), whichever is applicable, and'',

(K) by adding immediately after subclause (II) of subsection (c)(4)(C)(i) the following new subclause:

''(III) the total amounts not paid by reason of an extension in effect under section 306(d),'',

(L) by striking ''for waivers of'' in clause (ii) of subsection (c)(4)(C) and inserting ''for waivers or extensions with respect to'', and

(M) by striking ''single-employer plan'' in subparagraph (A) of subsection (a)(2) and in clause (i) of subsection (c)(1)(B) and inserting ''single-employer plan (other than a CSEC plan)''.

(3) BENEFIT RESTRICTIONS.—Subsection (g) of section 206 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1056) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

''(12) CSEC PLANS.—This subsection shall not apply to a CSEC plan (as defined in section 210(f)).''.

(4) BENEFIT INCREASES.—Paragraph (3) of section 204(i) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1054(i)) is amended by striking ''multiemployer plans'' and inserting ''multiemployer plans or CSEC plans''.

(5) SECTION 103.—Subparagraph (B) of section 103(d)(8) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1023(d)(8)) is amended by striking ''303(h) and 304(c)(3)'' and inserting ''303(h), 304(c)(3), and 306(c)(3)''.

(6) SECTION 502.—Subsection (c) of section 502 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 is amended—

(A) by redesignating the last paragraph as paragraph (11), and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(12) The Secretary may assess a civil penalty against any sponsor of a CSEC plan of up to $100 a day from the date of the plan sponsor's failure to comply with the requirements of section 306(j)(3) to establish or update a funding restoration plan.''.

(7) SECTION 4003.—Subparagraph (B) of section 4003(e)(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1303(e)(1)) is amended by striking ''303(k)(1)(A) and (B) of this Act or section 430(k)(1)(A) and (B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986'' and inserting ''303(k)(1)(A) and (B) or 306(g)(1)(A) and (B) of this Act or section 430(k)(1)(A) and (B) or 433(g)(1)(A) and (B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986''.

(8) SECTION 4010.—Paragraph (2) of section 4010(b) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1310(b)) is amended by striking ''303(k)(1)(A) and (B) of this Act or section 430(k)(1)(A) and (B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986'' and inserting ''303(k)(1)(A) and (B) or 306(g)(1)(A) and (B) of this Act or section 430(k)(1)(A) and (B) or 433(g)(1)(A) and (B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986''.

(9) SECTION 4071.—Section 4071 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1371) is amended by striking ''section 303(k)(4)'' and inserting ''section 303(k)(4) or 306(g)(4)''.

SEC. 103. ELECTIONS.

(a) ELECTION NOT TO BE TREATED AS A CSEC PLAN.—Subsection (f) of section 210 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as added by section 101, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) ELECTION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If a plan falls within the definition of a CSEC plan under this subsection (without regard to this paragraph), such plan shall be a CSEC plan unless the plan sponsor elects not later than the close of the first plan year of the plan beginning after December 31, 2013, not to be treated as a CSEC plan. An election under the preceding sentence shall take effect for such plan year and, once made, may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury.

''(B) SPECIAL RULE.—If a plan described in subparagraph (A) is treated as a CSEC plan, section 104 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, as amended by the Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010, shall cease to apply to such plan as of the first date as of which such plan is treated as a CSEC plan.''.

(b) ELECTION TO CEASE TO BE TREATED AS AN ELIGIBLE CHARITY PLAN.—Subsection (d) of section 104 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, as added by section 202 of the Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010, is amended—

(1) by striking ''For purposes of'' and inserting ''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of'', and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) ELECTION NOT TO BE AN ELIGIBLE CHARITY PLAN.—A plan sponsor may elect for a plan to cease to be treated as an eligible charity plan for plan years beginning after December 31, 2013. Such election shall be made at such time and in such form and manner as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. Any such election may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury.

''(3) ELECTION TO USE FUNDING OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO OTHER PLAN SPONSORS.—

''(A) A plan sponsor that makes the election described in paragraph (2) may elect for a plan to apply the rules described in subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) for plan years beginning after December 31, 2013. Such election shall be made at such time and in such form and manner as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. Any such election may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury.

''(B) Under the rules described in this subparagraph, for the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, a plan has—

''(i) an 11-year shortfall amortization base,

''(ii) a 12-year shortfall amortization base, and

''(iii) a 7-year shortfall amortization base.

''(C) Under the rules described in this subparagraph, section 303(c)(2)(A) and (B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and section 430(c)(2)(A) and (B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied by—

''(i) in the case of an 11-year shortfall amortization base, substituting '11-plan-year period' for '7-plan-year period' wherever such phrase appears, and

''(ii) in the case of a 12-year shortfall amortization base, substituting '12-plan-year period' for '7-plan-year period' wherever such phrase appears.

''(D) Under the rules described in this subparagraph, section 303(c)(7) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 430(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall apply to a plan for which an election has been made under subparagraph (A). Such provisions shall apply in the following manner:

''(i) The first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, shall be treated as an election year, and no other plan years shall be so treated.

''(ii) All references in section 303(c)(7) of such Act and section 430(c)(7) of such Code to 'February 28, 2010' or 'March 1, 2010' shall be treated as references to 'February 28, 2013' or 'March 1, 2013', respectively.

''(E) For purposes of this paragraph, the 11-year amortization base is an amount, determined for the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, equal to the unamortized principal amount of the shortfall amortization base (as defined in section 303(c)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 430(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) that would have applied to the plan for the first plan beginning after December 31, 2009, if—

''(i) the plan had never been an eligible charity plan,

''(ii) the plan sponsor had made the election described in section 303(c)(2)(D)(i) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and in section 430(c)(2)(D)(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to have section 303(c)(2)(D)(i) of such Act and section 430(c)(2)(D)(iii) of such Code apply with respect to the shortfall amortization base for the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2009, and

''(iii) no event had occurred under paragraph (6) or (7) of section 303(c) of such Act or paragraph (6) or (7) of section 430(c) of such Code that, as of the first day of the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, would have modified the shortfall amortization base or the shortfall amortization installments with respect to the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2009.

''(F) For purposes of this paragraph, the 12-year amortization base is an amount, determined for the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, equal to the unamortized principal amount of the shortfall amortization base (as defined in section 303(c)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 430(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) that would have applied to the plan for the first plan beginning after December 31, 2010, if—

''(i) the plan had never been an eligible charity plan,

''(ii) the plan sponsor had made the election described in section 303(c)(2)(D)(i) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and in section 430(c)(2)(D)(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to have section 303(c)(2)(D)(i) of such Act and section 430(c)(2)(D)(iii) of such Code apply with respect to the shortfall amortization base for the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2010, and

''(iii) no event had occurred under paragraph (6) or (7) of section 303(c) of such Act or paragraph (6) or (7) of section 430(c) of such Code that, as of the first day of the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, would have modified the shortfall amortization base or the shortfall amortization installments with respect to the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2010.

''(G) For purposes of this paragraph, the 7-year shortfall amortization base is an amount, determined for the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, equal to—

''(i) the shortfall amortization base for the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, without regard to this paragraph, minus

''(ii) the sum of the 11-year shortfall amortization base and the 12-year shortfall amortization base.

''(4) RETROACTIVE ELECTION.—Not later than December 31, 2014, a plan sponsor may make a one-time, irrevocable, retroactive election to not be treated as an eligible charity plan. Such election shall be effective for plan years beginning after December 31, 2007, and shall be made by providing reasonable notice to the Secretary of the Treasury.''.

(c) DEEMED ELECTION.—For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, sections 4(b)(2) and 4021(b)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and all other purposes, a plan shall be deemed to have made an irrevocable election under section 410(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 if—

(1) the plan was established before January 1, 2014;

(2) the plan falls within the definition of a CSEC plan;

(3) the plan sponsor does not make an election under section 210(f)(3)(A) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 414(y)(3)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by this Act; and

(4) the plan, plan sponsor, administrator, or fiduciary remits one or more premium payments for the plan to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for a plan year beginning after December 31, 2013.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply as of the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 104. TRANSPARENCY.

(a) NOTICE TO PARTICIPANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 101(f) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1021(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(E) EFFECT OF CSEC PLAN RULES ON PLAN FUNDING.—In the case of a CSEC plan, each notice under paragraph (1) shall include—

''(i) a statement that different rules apply to CSEC plans than apply to single-employer plans,

''(ii) for the first 2 plan years beginning after December 31, 2013, a statement that, as a result of changes in the law made by the Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act, the contributions to the plan may have changed, and

''(iii) in the case of a CSEC plan that is in funding restoration status for the plan year, a statement that the plan is in funding restoration status for such plan year.

A copy of the statement required under clause (iii) shall be provided to the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.''.

(2) MODEL NOTICE.—The Secretary of Labor may modify the model notice required to be published under section 501(c) of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 to include the information described in section 101(f)(2)(E) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as added by this subsection.

(b) NOTICE OF FAILURE TO MEET MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARDS.—

(1) PENDING WAIVERS.—Paragraph (2) of section 101(d) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1021(d)) is amended by striking ''303'' and inserting ''303 or 306''.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—Paragraph (3) of section 101(d) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (21 U.S.C. 1021(d)) is amended by striking ''303(j)'' and inserting ''303(j) or 306(f), whichever is applicable''.

(c) ADDITIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 103 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1023) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(g) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO MULTIPLE EMPLOYER PLANS.—With respect to any multiple employer plan, an annual report under this section for a plan year shall include a list of participating employers and a good faith estimate of the percentage of total contributions made by such participating employers during the plan year.''.

SEC. 105. SPONSOR EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''CSEC plan'' has the meaning given that term in subsection (f)(1) of section 210 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1060(f)(1)) (as added by this Act).

(b) EDUCATION.—The Participant and Plan Sponsor Advocate established under section 4004 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1304) shall make itself available to assist CSEC plan sponsors and participants as part of the duties it performs under the general supervision of the Board of Directors under section 4004(b) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1304(b)).

TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986

SEC. 201. DEFINITION OF COOPERATIVE AND SMALL EMPLOYER CHARITY PENSION PLANS.

Section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(y) COOPERATIVE AND SMALL EMPLOYER CHARITY PENSION PLANS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this title, except as provided in this subsection, a CSEC plan is a defined benefit plan (other than a multiemployer plan)—

''(A) to which section 104 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 applies, without regard to—

''(i) section 104(a)(2) of such Act;

''(ii) the amendments to such section 104 by section 202(b) of the Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010; and

''(iii) paragraph (3)(B); or

''(B) that, as of June 25, 2010, was maintained by more than one employer and all of the employers were organizations described in section 501(c)(3).

''(2) AGGREGATION.—All employers that are treated as a single employer under subsection (b) or (c) shall be treated as a single employer for purposes of determining if a plan was maintained by more than one employer under paragraph (1)(B).''.

SEC. 202. FUNDING RULES APPLICABLE TO COOPERATIVE AND SMALL EMPLOYER CHARITY PENSION PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart A of part III of subchapter D of chapter 1 of subtitle A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 433. MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARDS.

''(a) GENERAL RULE.—For purposes of section 412, the term 'accumulated funding deficiency' for a CSEC plan means the excess of the total charges to the funding standard account for all plan years (beginning with the first plan year to which section 412 applies) over the total credits to such account for such years or, if less, the excess of the total charges to the alternative minimum funding standard account for such plan years over the total credits to such account for such years.

''(b) FUNDING STANDARD ACCOUNT.—

''(1) ACCOUNT REQUIRED.—Each plan to which this section applies shall establish and maintain a funding standard account. Such account shall be credited and charged solely as provided in this section.

''(2) CHARGES TO ACCOUNT.—For a plan year, the funding standard account shall be charged with the sum of—

''(A) the normal cost of the plan for the plan year,

''(B) the amounts necessary to amortize in equal annual installments (until fully amortized)—

''(i) in the case of a plan in existence on January 1, 1974, the unfunded past service liability under the plan on the first day of the first plan year to which section 412 applies, over a period of 40 plan years,

''(ii) in the case of a plan which comes into existence after January 1, 1974, but before the first day of the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2013, the unfunded past service liability under the plan on the first day of the first plan year to which section 412 applies, over a period of 30 plan years,

''(iii) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net increase (if any) in unfunded past service liability under the plan arising from plan amendments adopted in such year, over a period of 15 plan years,

''(iv) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net experience loss (if any) under the plan, over a period of 5 plan years, and

''(v) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net loss (if any) resulting from changes in actuarial assumptions used under the plan, over a period of 10 plan years,

''(C) the amount necessary to amortize each waived funding deficiency (within the meaning of section 412(c)(3)) for each prior plan year in equal annual installments (until fully amortized) over a period of 5 plan years,

''(D) the amount necessary to amortize in equal annual installments (until fully amortized) over a period of 5 plan years any amount credited to the funding standard account under paragraph (3)(D), and

''(E) the amount necessary to amortize in equal annual installments (until fully amortized) over a period of 20 years the contributions which would be required to be made under the plan but for the provisions of section 412(c)(7)(A)(i)(I) (as in effect on the day before the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006).

''(3) CREDITS TO ACCOUNT.—For a plan year, the funding standard account shall be credited with the sum of—

''(A) the amount considered contributed by the employer to or under the plan for the plan year,

''(B) the amount necessary to amortize in equal annual installments (until fully amortized)—

''(i) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net decrease (if any) in unfunded past service liability under the plan arising from plan amendments adopted in such year, over a period of 15 plan years,

''(ii) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net experience gain (if any) under the plan, over a period of 5 plan years, and

''(iii) separately, with respect to each plan year, the net gain (if any) resulting from changes in actuarial assumptions used under the plan, over a period of 10 plan years,

''(C) the amount of the waived funding deficiency (within the meaning of section 412(c)(3)) for the plan year, and

''(D) in the case of a plan year for which the accumulated funding deficiency is determined under the funding standard account if such plan year follows a plan year for which such deficiency was determined under the alternative minimum funding standard, the excess (if any) of any debit balance in the funding standard account (determined without regard to this subparagraph) over any debit balance in the alternative minimum funding standard account.

''(4) COMBINING AND OFFSETTING AMOUNTS TO BE AMORTIZED.—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, amounts required to be amortized under paragraph (2) or paragraph (3), as the case may be—

''(A) may be combined into one amount under such paragraph to be amortized over a period determined on the basis of the remaining amortization period for all items entering into such combined amount, and

''(B) may be offset against amounts required to be amortized under the other such paragraph, with the resulting amount to be amortized over a period determined on the basis of the remaining amortization periods for all items entering into whichever of the two amounts being offset is the greater.

''(5) INTEREST.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the funding standard account (and items therein) shall be charged or credited (as determined under regulations prescribed by the Secretary) with interest at the appropriate rate consistent with the rate or rates of interest used under the plan to determine costs.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—The interest rate used for purposes of computing the amortization charge described in subsection (b)(2)(C) or for

purposes of any arrangement under subsection (d) for any plan year shall be the greater of—

''(i) 150 percent of the Federal mid-term rate (as in effect under section 1274 for the 1st month of such plan year), or

''(ii) the rate of interest determined under subparagraph (A).

''(6) AMORTIZATION SCHEDULES IN EFFECT.—Amortization schedules for amounts described in paragraphs (2) and (3) that are in effect as of the last day of the last plan year beginning before January 1, 2014, by reason of section 104 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 shall remain in effect pursuant to their terms and this section, except that such amounts shall not be amortized again under this section.

''(c) SPECIAL RULES.—

''(1) DETERMINATIONS TO BE MADE UNDER FUNDING METHOD.—For purposes of this section, normal costs, accrued liability, past service liabilities, and experience gains and losses shall be determined under the funding method used to determine costs under the plan.

''(2) VALUATION OF ASSETS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the value of the plan's assets shall be determined on the basis of any reasonable actuarial method of valuation which takes into account fair market value and which is permitted under regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

''(B) DEDICATED BOND PORTFOLIO.—The Secretary may by regulations provide that the value of any dedicated bond portfolio of a plan shall be determined by using the interest rate under section 412(b)(5) (as in effect on the day before the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006).

''(3) ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS MUST BE REASONABLE.—For purposes of this section, all costs, liabilities, rates of interest, and other factors under the plan shall be determined on the basis of actuarial assumptions and methods—

''(A) each of which is reasonable (taking into account the experience of the plan and reasonable expectations), and

''(B) which, in combination, offer the actuary's best estimate of anticipated experience under the plan.

''(4) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN CHANGES AS EXPERIENCE GAIN OR LOSS.—For purposes of this section, if—

''(A) a change in benefits under the Social Security Act or in other retirement benefits created under Federal or State law, or

''(B) a change in the definition of the term 'wages' under section 3121 or a change in the amount of such wages taken into account under regulations prescribed for purposes of section 401(a)(5),

results in an increase or decrease in accrued liability under a plan, such increase or decrease shall be treated as an experience loss or gain.

''(5) FUNDING METHOD AND PLAN YEAR.—

''(A) FUNDING METHODS AVAILABLE.—All funding methods available to CSEC plans under section 412 (as in effect on the day before the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006) shall continue to be available under this section.

''(B) CHANGES.—If the funding method for a plan is changed, the new funding method shall become the funding method used to determine costs and liabilities under the plan only if the change is approved by the Secretary. If the plan year for a plan is changed, the new plan year shall become the plan year for the plan only if the change is approved by the Secretary.

''(C) APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN CHANGES IN ASSUMPTIONS BY CERTAIN SINGLE-EMPLOYER PLANS SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIREMENT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—No actuarial assumption (other than the assumptions described in subsection (h)(3)) used to determine the current liability for a plan to which this subparagraph applies may be changed without the approval of the Secretary.

''(ii) PLANS TO WHICH SUBPARAGRAPH APPLIES.—This subparagraph shall apply to a plan only if—

''(I) the plan is a CSEC plan,

''(II) the aggregate unfunded vested benefits as of the close of the preceding plan year (as determined under section 4006(a)(3)(E)(iii) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974) of such plan and all other plans maintained by the contributing sponsors (as defined in section 4001(a)(13) of such Act) and members of such sponsors' controlled groups (as defined in section 4001(a)(14) of such Act) which are covered by title IV (disregarding plans with no unfunded vested benefits) exceed $50,000,000, and

''(III) the change in assumptions (determined after taking into account any changes in interest rate and mortality table) results in a decrease in the funding shortfall of the plan for the current plan year that exceeds $50,000,000, or that exceeds $5,000,000 and that is 5 percent or more of the current liability of the plan before such change.

''(6) FULL FUNDING.—If, as of the close of a plan year, a plan would (without regard to this paragraph) have an accumulated funding deficiency (determined without regard to the alternative minimum funding standard account permitted under subsection (e)) in excess of the full funding limitation—

''(A) the funding standard account shall be credited with the amount of such excess, and

''(B) all amounts described in paragraphs (2)(B), (C), and (D) and (3)(B) of subsection (b) which are required to be amortized shall be considered fully amortized for purposes of such paragraphs.

''(7) FULL-FUNDING LIMITATION.—For purposes of paragraph (6), the term 'full-funding limitation' means the excess (if any) of—

''(A) the accrued liability (including normal cost) under the plan (determined under the entry age normal funding method if such accrued liability cannot be directly calculated under the funding method used for the plan), over

''(B) the lesser of—

''(i) the fair market value of the plan's assets, or

''(ii) the value of such assets determined under paragraph (2).

''(C) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In no event shall the full-funding limitation determined under subparagraph (A) be less than the excess (if any) of—

''(I) 90 percent of the current liability (determined without regard to paragraph (4) of subsection (h)) of the plan (including the expected increase in such current liability due to benefits accruing during the plan year), over

''(II) the value of the plan's assets determined under paragraph (2).

''(ii) ASSETS.—For purposes of clause (i), assets shall not be reduced by any credit balance in the funding standard account.

''(8) ANNUAL VALUATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, a determination of experience gains and losses and a valuation of the plan's liability shall be made not less frequently than once every year, except that such determination shall be made more frequently to the extent required in particular cases under regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

''(B) VALUATION DATE.—

''(i) CURRENT YEAR.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the valuation referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be made as of a date within the plan year to which the valuation refers or within one month prior to the beginning of such year.

''(ii) USE OF PRIOR YEAR VALUATION.—The valuation referred to in subparagraph (A) may be made as of a date within the plan year prior to the year to which the valuation refers if, as of such date, the value of the assets of the plan are not less than 100 percent of the plan's current liability.

''(iii) ADJUSTMENTS.—Information under clause (ii) shall, in accordance with regulations, be actuarially adjusted to reflect significant differences in participants.

''(iv) LIMITATION.—A change in funding method to use a prior year valuation, as provided in clause (ii), may not be made unless as of the valuation date within the prior plan year, the value of the assets of the plan are not less than 125 percent of the plan's current liability.

''(9) TIME WHEN CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS DEEMED MADE.—For purposes of this section, any contributions for a plan year made by an employer during the period—

''(A) beginning on the day after the last day of such plan year, and

''(B) ending on the day which is 8½ months after the close of the plan year,

shall be deemed to have been made on such last day.

''(10) ANTICIPATION OF BENEFIT INCREASES EFFECTIVE IN THE FUTURE.—In determining projected benefits, the funding method of a collectively bargained CSEC plan described in section 413(a) shall anticipate benefit increases scheduled to take effect during the term of the collective bargaining agreement applicable to the plan.

''(d) EXTENSION OF AMORTIZATION PERIODS.—The period of years required to amortize any unfunded liability (described in any clause of subsection (b)(2)(B)) of any plan may be extended by the Secretary for a period of time (not in excess of 10 years) if the Secretary determines that such extension would carry out the purposes of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and provide adequate protection for participants under the plan and their beneficiaries, and if the Secretary determines that the failure to permit such extension would result in—

''(1) a substantial risk to the voluntary continuation of the plan, or

''(2) a substantial curtailment of pension benefit levels or employee compensation.

''(e) ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARD.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A CSEC plan which uses a funding method that requires contributions in all years not less than those required under the entry age normal funding method may maintain an alternative minimum funding standard account for any plan year. Such account shall be credited and charged solely as provided in this subsection.

''(2) CHARGES AND CREDITS TO ACCOUNT.—For a plan year the alternative minimum funding standard account shall be—

''(A) charged with the sum of—

''(i) the lesser of normal cost under the funding method used under the plan or normal cost determined under the unit credit method,

''(ii) the excess, if any, of the present value of accrued benefits under the plan over the fair market value of the assets, and

''(iii) an amount equal to the excess (if any) of credits to the alternative minimum standard account for all prior plan years over charges to such account for all such years, and

''(B) credited with the amount considered contributed by the employer to or under the plan for the plan year.

''(3) INTEREST.—The alternative minimum funding standard account (and items therein) shall be charged or credited with interest in

the manner provided under subsection (b)(5) with respect to the funding standard account.

''(f) QUARTERLY CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If a CSEC plan which has a funded current liability percentage for the preceding plan year of less than 100 percent fails to pay the full amount of a required installment for the plan year, then the rate of interest charged to the funding standard account under subsection (b)(5) with respect to the amount of the underpayment for the period of the underpayment shall be equal to the greater of—

''(A) 175 percent of the Federal mid-term rate (as in effect under section 1274 for the 1st month of such plan year), or

''(B) the rate of interest used under the plan in determining costs.

''(2) AMOUNT OF UNDERPAYMENT, PERIOD OF UNDERPAYMENT.—For purposes of paragraph (1)—

''(A) AMOUNT.—The amount of the underpayment shall be the excess of—

''(i) the required installment, over

''(ii) the amount (if any) of the installment contributed to or under the plan on or before the due date for the installment.

''(B) PERIOD OF UNDERPAYMENT.—The period for which interest is charged under this subsection with regard to any portion of the underpayment shall run from the due date for the installment to the date on which such portion is contributed to or under the plan (determined without regard to subsection (c)(9)).

''(C) ORDER OF CREDITING CONTRIBUTIONS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii), contributions shall be credited against unpaid required installments in the order in which such installments are required to be paid.

''(3) NUMBER OF REQUIRED INSTALLMENTS; DUE DATES.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) PAYABLE IN 4 INSTALLMENTS.—There shall be 4 required installments for each plan year.

''(B) TIME FOR PAYMENT OF INSTALLMENTS.—

"In the case of the following required installments:	The due date is:
1st	April 15
2nd	July 15
3rd	October 15
4th	January 15 of the following year.

''(4) AMOUNT OF REQUIRED INSTALLMENT.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The amount of any required installment shall be 25 percent of the required annual payment.

''(B) REQUIRED ANNUAL PAYMENT.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term 'required annual payment' means the lesser of—

''(i) 90 percent of the amount required to be contributed to or under the plan by the employer for the plan year under section 412 (without regard to any waiver under subsection (c) thereof), or

''(ii) 100 percent of the amount so required for the preceding plan year.

Clause (ii) shall not apply if the preceding plan year was not a year of 12 months.

''(5) LIQUIDITY REQUIREMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A plan to which this paragraph applies shall be treated as failing to pay the full amount of any required installment to the extent that the value of the liquid assets paid in such installment is less than the liquidity shortfall (whether or not such liquidity shortfall exceeds the amount of such installment required to be paid but for this paragraph).

''(B) PLANS TO WHICH PARAGRAPH APPLIES.—This paragraph shall apply to a CSEC plan other than a plan described in section 412(l)(6)(A) (as in effect on the day before the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006) which—

''(i) is required to pay installments under this subsection for a plan year, and

''(ii) has a liquidity shortfall for any quarter during such plan year.

''(C) PERIOD OF UNDERPAYMENT.—For purposes of paragraph (1), any portion of an installment that is treated as not paid under subparagraph (A) shall continue to be treated as unpaid until the close of the quarter in which the due date for such installment occurs.

''(D) LIMITATION ON INCREASE.—If the amount of any required installment is increased by reason of subparagraph (A), in no event shall such increase exceed the amount which, when added to prior installments for the plan year, is necessary to increase the funded current liability percentage (taking into account the expected increase in current liability due to benefits accruing during the plan year) to 100 percent.

''(E) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph—

''(i) LIQUIDITY SHORTFALL.—The term 'liquidity shortfall' means, with respect to any required installment, an amount equal to the excess (as of the last day of the quarter for which such installment is made) of the base amount with respect to such quarter over the value (as of such last day) of the plan's liquid assets.

''(ii) BASE AMOUNT.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The term 'base amount' means, with respect to any quarter, an amount equal to 3 times the sum of the adjusted disbursements from the plan for the 12 months ending on the last day of such quarter.

''(II) SPECIAL RULE.—If the amount determined under subclause (I) exceeds an amount equal to 2 times the sum of the adjusted disbursements from the plan for the 36 months ending on the last day of the quarter and an enrolled actuary certifies to the satisfaction of the Secretary that such excess is the result of nonrecurring circumstances, the base amount with respect to such quarter shall be determined without regard to amounts related to those nonrecurring circumstances.

''(iii) DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE PLAN.—The term 'disbursements from the plan' means all disbursements from the trust, including purchases of annuities, payments of single sums and other benefits, and administrative expenses.

''(iv) ADJUSTED DISBURSEMENTS.—The term 'adjusted disbursements' means disbursements from the plan reduced by the product of—

''(I) the plan's funded current liability percentage for the plan year, and

''(II) the sum of the purchases of annuities, payments of single sums, and such other disbursements as the Secretary shall provide in regulations.

''(v) LIQUID ASSETS.—The term 'liquid assets' means cash, marketable securities and such other assets as specified by the Secretary in regulations.

''(vi) QUARTER.—The term 'quarter' means, with respect to any required installment, the 3-month period preceding the month in which the due date for such installment occurs.

''(F) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may prescribe such regulations as are necessary to carry out this paragraph.

''(6) FISCAL YEARS AND SHORT YEARS.—

''(A) FISCAL YEARS.—In applying this subsection to a plan year beginning on any date other than January 1, there shall be substituted for the months specified in this subsection, the months which correspond thereto.

''(B) SHORT PLAN YEAR.—This subsection shall be applied to plan years of less than 12 months in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

''(g) IMPOSITION OF LIEN WHERE FAILURE TO MAKE REQUIRED CONTRIBUTIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a plan to which this section applies, if—

''(A) any person fails to make a required installment under subsection (f) or any other payment required under this section before the due date for such installment or other payment, and

''(B) the unpaid balance of such installment or other payment (including interest), when added to the aggregate unpaid balance of all preceding such installments or other payments for which payment was not made before the due date (including interest), exceeds $1,000,000,

then there shall be a lien in favor of the plan in the amount determined under paragraph (3) upon all property and rights to property, whether real or personal, belonging to such person and any other person who is a member of the same controlled group of which such person is a member.

''(2) PLANS TO WHICH SUBSECTION APPLIES.—This subsection shall apply to a CSEC plan for any plan year for which the funded current liability percentage of such plan is less than 100 percent. This subsection shall not apply to any plan to which section 4021 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 does not apply (as such section is in effect on the date of the enactment of the Retirement Protection Act of 1994).

''(3) AMOUNT OF LIEN.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the amount of the lien shall be equal to the aggregate unpaid balance of required installments and other payments required under this section (including interest)—

''(A) for plan years beginning after 1987, and

''(B) for which payment has not been made before the due date.

''(4) NOTICE OF FAILURE; LIEN.—

''(A) NOTICE OF FAILURE.—A person committing a failure described in paragraph (1) shall notify the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation of such failure within 10 days of the due date for the required installment or other payment.

''(B) PERIOD OF LIEN.—The lien imposed by paragraph (1) shall arise on the due date for

the required installment or other payment and shall continue until the last day of the first plan year in which the plan ceases to be described in paragraph (1)(B). Such lien shall continue to run without regard to whether such plan continues to be described in paragraph (2) during the period referred to in the preceding sentence.

''(C) CERTAIN RULES TO APPLY.—Any amount with respect to which a lien is imposed under paragraph (1) shall be treated as taxes due and owing the United States and rules similar to the rules of subsections (c), (d), and (e) of section 4068 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 shall apply with respect to a lien imposed by subsection (a) and the amount with respect to such lien.

''(5) ENFORCEMENT.—Any lien created under paragraph (1) may be perfected and enforced only by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or at the direction of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, by any contributing employer (or any member of the controlled group of the contributing employer).

''(6) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) DUE DATE; REQUIRED INSTALLMENT.—The terms 'due date' and 'required installment' have the meanings given such terms by subsection (f), except that in the case of a payment other than a required installment, the due date shall be the date such payment is required to be made under this section.

''(B) CONTROLLED GROUP.—The term 'controlled group' means any group treated as a single employer under subsections (b), (c), (m), and (o) of section 414.

''(h) CURRENT LIABILITY.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'current liability' means all liabilities to employees and their beneficiaries under the plan.

''(2) TREATMENT OF UNPREDICTABLE CONTINGENT EVENT BENEFITS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), any unpredictable contingent event benefit shall not be taken into account until the event on which the benefit is contingent occurs.

''(B) UNPREDICTABLE CONTINGENT EVENT BENEFIT.—The term 'unpredictable contingent event benefit' means any benefit contingent on an event other than—

''(i) age, service, compensation, death, or disability, or

''(ii) an event which is reasonably and reliably predictable (as determined by the Secretary).

''(3) INTEREST RATE AND MORTALITY ASSUMPTIONS USED.—

''(A) INTEREST RATE.—The rate of interest used to determine current liability under this section shall be the third segment rate determined under section 430(h)(2)(C).

''(B) MORTALITY TABLES.—

''(i) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may by regulation prescribe mortality tables to be used in determining current liability under this subsection. Such tables shall be based upon the actual experience of pension plans and projected trends in such experience. In prescribing such tables, the Secretary shall take into account results of available independent studies of mortality of individuals covered by pension plans.

''(ii) PERIODIC REVIEW.—The Secretary shall periodically (at least every 5 years) review any tables in effect under this subsection and shall, to the extent the Secretary determines necessary, by regulation update the tables to reflect the actual experience of pension plans and projected trends in such experience.

''(C) SEPARATE MORTALITY TABLES FOR THE DISABLED.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (B)—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of plan years beginning after December 31, 1995, the Secretary shall establish mortality tables which may be used (in lieu of the tables under subparagraph (B)) to determine current liability under this subsection for individuals who are entitled to benefits under the plan on account of disability. The Secretary shall establish separate tables for individuals whose disabilities occur in plan years beginning before January 1, 1995, and for individuals whose disabilities occur in plan years beginning on or after such date.

''(ii) SPECIAL RULE FOR DISABILITIES OCCURRING AFTER 1994.—In the case of disabilities occurring in plan years beginning after December 31, 1994, the tables under clause (i) shall apply only with respect to individuals described in such subclause who are disabled within the meaning of title II of the Social Security Act and the regulations thereunder.

''(4) CERTAIN SERVICE DISREGARDED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a participant to whom this paragraph applies, only the applicable percentage of the years of service before such individual became a participant shall be taken into account in computing the current liability of the plan.

''(B) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the applicable percentage shall be determined as follows:

"If the years of participation are:	The applicable percentage is:
1	20
2	40
3	60
4	80
5 or more	100.

''(C) PARTICIPANTS TO WHOM PARAGRAPH APPLIES.—This subparagraph shall apply to any participant who, at the time of becoming a participant—

''(i) has not accrued any other benefit under any defined benefit plan (whether or not terminated) maintained by the employer or a member of the same controlled group of which the employer is a member,

''(ii) who first becomes a participant under the plan in a plan year beginning after December 31, 1987, and

''(iii) has years of service greater than the minimum years of service necessary for eligibility to participate in the plan.

''(D) ELECTION.—An employer may elect not to have this subparagraph apply. Such an election, once made, may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary.

''(i) FUNDED CURRENT LIABILITY PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of this section, the term 'funded current liability percentage' means, with respect to any plan year, the percentage which—

''(1) the value of the plan's assets determined under subsection (c)(2), is of

''(2) the current liability under the plan.

''(j) FUNDING RESTORATION STATUS.—Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section—

''(1) NORMAL COST PAYMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a CSEC plan that is in funding restoration status for a plan year, for purposes of section 412, the term 'accumulated funding deficiency' means, for such plan year, the greater of—

''(i) the amount described in subsection (a), or

''(ii) the excess of the normal cost of the plan for the plan year over the amount actually contributed to or under the plan for the plan year.

''(B) NORMAL COST.—In the case of a CSEC plan that uses a spread gain funding method, for purposes of this subsection, the term 'normal cost' means normal cost as determined under the entry age normal funding method.

''(2) PLAN AMENDMENTS.—In the case of a CSEC plan that is in funding restoration status for a plan year, no amendment to such plan may take effect during such plan year if such amendment has the effect of increasing liabilities of the plan by means of increases in benefits, establishment of new benefits, changing the rate of benefit accrual, or changing the rate at which benefits become nonforfeitable. This paragraph shall not apply to any plan amendment that is required to comply with any applicable law. This paragraph shall cease to apply with respect to any plan year, effective as of the first day of the plan year (or if later, the effective date of the amendment) upon payment by the plan sponsor of a contribution to the plan (in addition to any contribution required under this section without regard to this paragraph) in an amount equal to the increase in the funding liability of the plan attributable to the plan amendment.

''(3) FUNDING RESTORATION PLAN.—The sponsor of a CSEC plan shall establish a written funding restoration plan within 180 days of the receipt by the plan sponsor of a certification from the plan actuary that the plan is in funding restoration status for a plan year. Such funding restoration plan shall consist of actions that are calculated, based on reasonably anticipated experience and reasonable actuarial assumptions, to increase the plan's funded percentage to 100 percent over a period that is not longer than the greater of 7 years or the shortest amount of time practicable. Such funding restoration plan shall take into account contributions required under this section (without regard to this paragraph). If a plan remains in funding restoration status for 2 or more years, such funding restoration plan shall be updated each year after the 1st such year within 180 days of receipt by the plan sponsor of a certification from the plan actuary that the plan remains in funding restoration status for the plan year.

''(4) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION BY PLAN ACTUARY.—Not later than the 90th day of each plan year of a CSEC plan, the plan actuary shall certify to the plan sponsor whether or not the plan is in funding restoration status

for the plan year, based on the plan's funded percentage as of the beginning of the plan year. For this purpose, the actuary may conclusively rely on an estimate of—

''(A) the plan's funding liability, based on the funding liability of the plan for the preceding plan year and on reasonable actuarial estimates, assumptions, and methods, and

''(B) the amount of any contributions reasonably anticipated to be made for the preceding plan year.

Contributions described in subparagraph (B) shall be taken into account in determining the plan's funded percentage as of the beginning of the plan year.

''(5) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) FUNDING RESTORATION STATUS.—A CSEC plan shall be treated as in funding restoration status for a plan year if the plan's funded percentage as of the beginning of such plan year is less than 80 percent.

''(B) FUNDED PERCENTAGE.—The term 'funded percentage' means the ratio (expressed as a percentage) which—

''(i) the value of plan assets (as determined under subsection (c)(2)), bears to

''(ii) the plan's funding liability.

''(C) FUNDING LIABILITY.—The term 'funding liability' for a plan year means the present value of all benefits accrued or earned under the plan as of the beginning of the plan year, based on the assumptions used by the plan pursuant to this section, including the interest rate described in subsection (b)(5)(A) (without regard to subsection (b)(5)(B)).

''(D) SPREAD GAIN FUNDING METHOD.—The term 'spread gain funding method' has the meaning given such term under rules and forms issued by the Secretary.

''(E) PLAN SPONSOR.—The term 'plan sponsor' means, with respect to a CSEC plan, the association, committee, joint board of trustees, or other similar group of representatives of the parties who establish or maintain the plan.''.

(b) CSEC PLANS.—Section 413 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) CSEC PLANS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, in the case of a CSEC plan—

''(1) FUNDING.—The requirements of section 412 shall be determined as if all participants in the plan were employed by a single employer.

''(2) APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS.—Paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (5) of subsection (c) shall apply.

''(3) DEDUCTION LIMITATIONS.—Each applicable limitation provided by section 404(a) shall be determined as if all participants in the plan were employed by a single employer. The amounts contributed to or under the plan by each employer who maintains the plan (for the portion of the taxable year included within a plan year) shall be considered not to exceed such applicable limitation if the anticipated employer contributions for such plan year of all employers (determined in a reasonable manner not inconsistent with regulations prescribed by the Secretary) do not exceed such limitation. If such anticipated contributions exceed such limitation, the portion of each such employer's contributions which is not deductible under section 404 shall be determined in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

''(4) ALLOCATIONS.—Allocations of amounts under paragraph (3) and subsection (c)(5) among the employers maintaining the plan shall not be inconsistent with the regulations prescribed for this purpose by the Secretary.''.

(c) SEPARATE RULES FOR CSEC PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 412(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting '', and'', and by inserting at the end thereof the following new subparagraph:

''(D) in the case of a CSEC plan, the employers make contributions to or under the plan for any plan year which, in the aggregate, are sufficient to ensure that the plan does not have an accumulated funding deficiency under section 433 as of the end of the plan year.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 412 of such Code is amended—

(A) by striking ''multiemployer plan'' in paragraph (A) of subsection (a)(2), in clause (i) of subsection (c)(1)(B), the first place it appears in clause (i) of subsection (c)(1)(A), and the last place it appears in paragraph (2) of subsection (d), and inserting ''multiemployer plan or a CSEC plan'',

(B) by striking ''430(j)'' in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) and inserting ''430(j) or under section 433(f)'',

(C)(i) by striking ''and'' at the end of clause (i) of subsection (c)(1)(B),

(ii) by striking the period at the end of clause (ii) of subsection (c)(1)(B) and inserting '', and'', and

(iii) by inserting the following new clause after clause (ii) of subsection (c)(1)(B):

''(iii) in the case of a CSEC plan, the funding standard account shall be credited under section 433(b)(3)(C) with the amount of the waived funding deficiency and such amount shall be amortized as required under section 433(b)(2)(C).'',

(D) by striking ''under paragraph (1)'' in clause (i) of subsection (c)(4)(A) and inserting ''under paragraph (1) or for granting an extension under section 433(d)'',

(E) by striking ''waiver under this subsection'' in subparagraph (B) of subsection (c)(4) and inserting ''waiver under this subsection or an extension under 433(d)'',

(F) by striking ''waiver or modification'' in subclause (I) of subsection (c)(4)(B)(i) and inserting ''waiver, modification, or extension'',

(G) by striking ''waivers'' in the heading of subsection (c)(4)(C) and of clause (ii) of subsection (c)(4)(C) and inserting ''waivers or extensions'',

(H) by striking ''section 431(d)'' in subparagraph (A) of subsection (c)(7) and in paragraph (2) of subsection (d) and inserting ''section 431(d) or section 433(d)'',

(I) by striking ''and'' at the end of subclause (I) of subsection (c)(4)(C)(i) and inserting ''or the accumulated funding deficiency under section 433, whichever is applicable,'',

(J) by striking ''430(e)(2),'' in subclause (II) of subsection (c)(4)(C)(i) and inserting ''430(e)(2) or 433(b)(2)(C), whichever is applicable, and'',

(K) by adding immediately after subclause (II) of subsection (c)(4)(C)(i) the following new subclause:

''(III) the total amounts not paid by reason of an extension in effect under section 433(d),'', and

(L) by striking ''for waivers of'' in clause (ii) of subsection (c)(4)(C) and inserting ''for waivers or extensions with respect to''.

(3) BENEFIT RESTRICTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (29) of section 401(a) of such Code is amended by striking ''multiemployer plan'' and inserting ''multiemployer plan or a CSEC plan''.

(B) CONFORMING CHANGE.—Subsection (a) of section 436 of such Code is amended by striking ''single-employer plan'' and inserting ''single-employer plan (other than a CSEC plan)''.

(4) BENEFIT INCREASES.—Subparagraph (C) of section 401(a)(33) of such Code is amended by striking ''multiemployer plans'' and inserting ''multiemployer plans or CSEC plans''.

(5) LIQUIDITY SHORTFALLS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 401(a)(32) of such Code is amended by striking ''430(j)(4)'' each place it appears and inserting ''430(j)(4) or 433(f)(5)''.

(B) PERIOD OF SHORTFALL.—Subparagraph (C) of section 401(a)(32) of such Code is amended by striking ''430(j)(3) by reason of section 430(j)(4)(A) thereof'' and inserting ''430(j)(3) or 433(f) by reason of section 430(j)(4)(A) or 433(f)(5), respectively''.

(6) DEDUCTION LIMITS.—Subsection (o) of section 404 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(8) CSEC PLANS.—Solely for purposes of this subsection, a CSEC plan shall be treated as though section 430 applied to such plan and the minimum required contribution for any plan year shall be the amount described in section 412(a)(2)(D).''.

(7) SECTION 420.—Paragraph (5) of section 420(e) of such Code is amended by striking ''section 430'' each place it appears and inserting ''sections 430 and 433''.

(8) COORDINATION WITH SECTION 4971.—

(A) Subsection (a) of section 4971 of such Code is amended by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (1), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting '', and'', and by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

''(3) in the case of a CSEC plan, 10 percent of the CSEC accumulated funding deficiency as of the end of the plan year ending with or within the taxable year.''.

(B) Subsection (b) of section 4971 of such Code is amended—

(i) by striking ''or'' at the end of paragraph (1), by adding ''or'' at the end of paragraph (2), and by inserting immediately after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

''(3) a tax is imposed under subsection (a)(3) on any CSEC accumulated funding deficiency and the CSEC accumulated funding deficiency is not corrected within the taxable period,'', and

(ii) by striking ''minimum required contributions or accumulated funding deficiency'' and inserting ''minimum required contribution, accumulated funding deficiency, or CSEC accumulated funding deficiency''.

(C) Subsection (c) of section 4971 of such Code is amended—

(i) by striking ''accumulated funding deficiency'' each place it appears in paragraph (2) and inserting ''accumulated funding deficiency or CSEC accumulated funding deficiency'',

(ii) by striking ''accumulated funding deficiency or unpaid minimum required contribution'' each place it appears in paragraph (3) and inserting ''accumulated funding deficiency, CSEC accumulated funding deficiency, or unpaid minimum required contribution'', and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) CSEC ACCUMULATED FUNDING DEFICIENCY.—The term 'CSEC accumulated funding deficiency' means the accumulated funding deficiency determined under section 433.''.

(D) Paragraph (1) of section 4971(d) of such Code is amended by striking ''accumulated funding deficiency or unpaid minimum required contribution'' and inserting ''accumulated funding deficiency, CSEC accumulated funding deficiency, or unpaid minimum required contribution''.

(E) Subsection (f) of section 4971 of such Code is amended—

(i) by striking ''430(j)(4)'' in paragraph (1) and inserting ''430(j)(4) or 433(f)'',

(ii) by striking ''430(j)'' in paragraph (1)(B) and inserting ''430(j) or 433(f), whichever is applicable'', and

(iii) by striking ''412(m)(5)'' in paragraph (3)(A) and inserting ''430(j) or 433(f), whichever is applicable''.

(9) EXCISE TAX ON FAILURE TO ADOPT FUNDING RESTORATION PLAN.—Section 4971 of such Code is amended by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i), and by inserting after subsection (g) the following new subsection:

''(h) FAILURE OF A CSEC PLAN SPONSOR TO ADOPT FUNDING RESTORATION PLAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a CSEC plan that is in funding restoration status (within the meaning of section 433(j)(5)(A)), there is hereby imposed a tax on the failure of such plan to adopt a funding restoration plan within the time prescribed under section 433(j)(3).

''(2) AMOUNT OF TAX.—The amount of the tax imposed under paragraph (1) with respect to any plan sponsor for any taxable year shall be the amount equal to $100 multiplied by the number of days during the taxable year which are included in the period beginning on the day following the close of the 180-day period described in section 433(j)(3) and ending on the day on which the funding restoration plan is adopted.

''(3) WAIVER BY SECRETARY.—In the case of a failure described in paragraph (1) which the Secretary determines is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, the Secretary may waive a portion or all of the tax imposed by such paragraph.

''(4) LIABILITY FOR TAX.—The tax imposed by paragraph (1) shall be paid by the plan sponsor (within the meaning of section 433(j)(5)(E)).''.

(10) REPORTING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 6059(b) of such Code is amended by striking ''430,'' and inserting ''430, the accumulated funding deficiency under section 433,''.

(B) ASSUMPTIONS.—Subparagraph (B) of section 6059(b)(3) of such Code is amended by striking ''430(h)(1) or 431(c)(3)'' and inserting ''430(h)(1), 431(c)(3), or 433(c)(3)''.

SEC. 203. ELECTION NOT TO BE TREATED AS A CSEC PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 414(y) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by section 201, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) ELECTION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If a plan falls within the definition of a CSEC plan under this subsection (without regard to this paragraph), such plan shall be a CSEC plan unless the plan sponsor elects not later than the close of the first plan year of the plan beginning after December 31, 2013, not to be treated as a CSEC plan. An election under the preceding sentence shall take effect for such plan year and, once made, may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary.

''(B) SPECIAL RULE.—If a plan described in subparagraph (A) is treated as a CSEC plan, section 104 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, as amended by the Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010, shall cease to apply to such plan as of the first date as of which such plan is treated as a CSEC plan.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply as of the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4275.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4275, the Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act.

Madam Speaker, like most Members of this body, I meet with charities, schools, and cooperatives throughout my district on a routine basis when I am back home in Indiana. I often ask them what Washington can do to facilitate their mission or ask about the obstacles that they face when trying to serve their communities. To my surprise, frequently over this past year, their answers revolve around the uncertainty and the burden of their pension funding requirements.

This was somewhat of a shock to me, but I soon found out that some charities, schools, and cooperatives are actually shutting down summer camps, cutting back on services to the community, or raising prices just to meet their pension obligations. And for what? To protect the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation because their plans are unsustainable or underfunded? No. It is because they will soon be lumped into more onerous funding requirements found in the Pension Protection Act, known as the PPA, and are making decisions today that reflect that assumption.

In fact, Congress has already exempted these organizations and found that multiple employer cooperative and charity plans have unique missions, limited participation, and sufficient precautionary safeguards, and that, by design, pose little risk that they will be unable to pay benefits in the future.

Unfortunately, this exemption is set to expire soon and will require pension providers to unnecessarily overfund their plans, rather than using those funds to support services to our communities.

If this were allowed to happen, the results could be catastrophic. For instance, in my home State of Indiana, rural electric cooperatives alone could be forced to needlessly increase their pension contributions by up to 50 percent, costing them $12.7 million a year and adversely affecting over 1,800 employees in Indiana alone.

Now, it is no secret that the PBGC is facing significant problems that require a comprehensive solution, and I applaud Dr. ROE, Chairman KLINE, and Ranking Member MILLER for their leadership on this issue. The bill, however, only affects 30 plans and just over 127,000 active employees, and the very design of the plan shelters the PBGC from almost all risk. However, without this bill, some Christian schools or some United Way chapters across the Nation will be forced to meet costly regulations directed toward at-risk, single-employer plans.

Madam Speaker, forcing charities to overfund their already solvent plans is not only wrong from an actuarial standpoint, but from a moral one, as well. For instance, Jewish Federations across the United States don't needlessly overfund their pensions when that money could be going to their mission of providing urgent support for Jews in Ukraine or possibly helping Holocaust survivors age with dignity. These are the types of consequences that are going to take place if we don't pass this bill.

And subjecting rural telecom companies to PPA rules would force them to shift funds from critical services and hurt their ability to provide pension benefits to their current workers.

Our bill injects certainty and sensibility into the multiple-employer pension world by simply allowing plans that are already exempted from the PPA the flexibility to stay excluded permanently or elect into the PPA structure if they wish to do so. That is why it is called ''flexibility.''

This bill helps cooperatives, schools, and charities do what they do best: provide quality services that enrich our communities and our lives. This is something that government cannot do, and it is something we need to help facilitate.

I urge all of our colleagues to support the Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the committee for bringing this bill to the floor and for Congresswoman BROOKS' explanation of this legislation, the Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act.

As she has detailed, this is a small piece of legislation, but a very important piece of legislation to the existence of these plans and also to the priorities of the nonprofits that support those plans and the work that they do in our communities. And what has become clear is that we need this congressional action because the temporary exemption is going to expire, and that would cause a hardship that Congresswoman BROOKS has laid out.

Without these changes, these plans, known as CSEC plans, will be forced to comply with Pension Protection Act funding rules, and many small, nonprofit employers will be unable to continue to provide those pension benefits.

This legislation ensures that charities and cooperative associations will continue to be able to provide quality

pension benefits to their employees by implementing pension funding rules that reflect the unique design of their plans.

H.R. 4275 is supported by a wide variety of charitable organizations from across the country, including the United Way Worldwide and Girl Scouts of America and many others, and I would urge our colleagues to support this legislation so that we can make sure that these plans can continue to provide the benefits for their employees but also provide the services to their communities.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. I yield as much time as he might consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE).

Mr. KLINE. I thank the gentlelady.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4275. I want to thank my colleague, Representative SUSAN BROOKS, for sponsoring the legislation and for her work on this important issue, and my friend and colleague, Mr. MILLER, for his strong support.

In recent years, Congress provided a limited number of charities and eligible cooperatives temporary exemption from Federal pension requirements. Our intent was to offer relief to those who faced unsustainable pension obligations. It is now time to provide the certainty and flexibility necessary to plan for the future.

Without that certainty, important organizations, such as the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys, would have to cut back services and support fewer young women. Without that certainty, farmers would face the prospect of raising food and dairy prices to help make ends meet. Without that certainty, religious charities would be hampered in their ability to serve local communities. And without that certainty, Madam Speaker, utility companies providing electricity to homes and businesses would have to consider raising rates just to meet their pension obligations.

That is precisely the reality we now confront. We have a duty to enact responsible rules that provide certainty and protect the pension benefits of workers and retirees. The bill before us today is an attempt to do just that.

This bill would provide certain multiple-employer pension plans greater flexibility to manage their obligations in a way that supports the goods and services their participants need to deliver.

Again, I want to thank my friend and colleague, Mrs. BROOKS, for her leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

I would like to thank my distinguished colleague from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) for co-leading this important effort with me. He has worked tirelessly in championing and raising awareness about this issue. Without his work, we would not be here today, and I thank him for his passion and his expertise on this difficult subject.

Congress faces many difficult challenges, but the fact that we can come together in a bipartisan way to craft solutions for our country should be the norm and not the exception for this body. I hope this will set an example for what we can accomplish when we put partisan bickering aside. I know there are other pressing issues we can work on together to move our Nation forward.

In closing, I would just encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense bill that will save taxpayers money, enhance communities across America, and encourages co-ops and so many charities to continue to provide their employees with economic security in retirement.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4275.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia) at 6:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3060, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1813, by the yeas and nays.

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

SERGEANT WILLIAM MOODY POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3060) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the ''Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building'', on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 398, nays 0, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 136]

YEAS—398

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holding
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister

McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—33

Benishek
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Camp
Campbell
Carter
Costa
Duckworth
Gingrey (GA)
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hinojosa
Holt
Kingston
Marchant
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, Gary
Moran
Olson
Pastor (AZ)
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Rohrabacher
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Schwartz
Simpson
Speier
Thornberry
Tsongas
Visclosky
Yarmuth

□ 1857

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE MARCH 22, 2014, LANDSLIDE IN WASHINGTON STATE

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

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday morning, a devastating natural disaster struck near the towns of Oso and Darrington in Washington State, where a hillside collapsed in a massive landslide, wiping out an entire neighborhood. At least eight lives have been lost already, with dozens and dozens more reported missing. The scale of damage and loss caused by this disaster is truly heartbreaking.

After spending time in the affected communities and in local emergency command centers over the weekend, I am inspired by the spirit, courage, and cooperation of everyone in these communities. I have seen the bravery of all of our first responders who have risked their own lives to save others and continue to do so selflessly.

As search and rescue efforts continue, tonight I ask my colleagues and those around the country to keep the victims, their families, and all those affected by this tragedy in your thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues from the Washington delegation and I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in honor of all those that we have lost.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House will now observe a moment of silence.

□ 1900

LANCE CORPORAL DANIEL NATHAN DEYARMIN POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1813) to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the ''Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin Post Office Building'', as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 393, nays 0, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 137]

YEAS—393

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holding
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry

Thompson (CA)	Vela	Wenstrup
Thompson (MS)	Velázquez	Westmoreland
Thompson (PA)	Wagner	Whitfield
Tiberi	Walberg	Williams
Tierney	Walden	Wilson (FL)
Tipton	Walorski	Wilson (SC)
Titus	Walz	Wittman
Tonko	Wasserman Schultz	Wolf
Turner	Waters	Womack
Upton	Waxman	Woodall
Valadao	Weber (TX)	Yoder
Van Hollen	Webster (FL)	Yoho
Vargas	Welch	Young (AK)
Veasey		Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—38

Benishek	Gohmert	Pingree (ME)
Brady (TX)	Green, Gene	Polis
Broun (GA)	Grijalva	Rohrabacher
Brownley (CA)	Gutiérrez	Roybal-Allard
Camp	Hinojosa	Rush
Campbell	Holt	Schwartz
Cárdenas	Kingston	Simpson
Carter	Marchant	Speier
Costa	McCarthy (NY)	Thornberry
Duckworth	Miller, Gary	Tsongas
Ellison	Moran	Visclosky
Flores	Olson	Yarmuth
Gingrey (GA)	Pastor (AZ)	

□ 1908

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the 'Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building'.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LANCE CORPORAL PHILLIP VINNEDGE POST OFFICE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2391) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5323 Highway N in Cottleville, Missouri as the ''Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2391

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

SECTION 1. LANCE CORPORAL PHILLIP D. VINNEDGE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5323 Highway N in Cottleville, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the ''Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any references in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), the author of the bill.

Mrs. WAGNER. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of a great American hero.

On October 13, 2010, Missouri's Second District lost a fearless young man when Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while serving valiantly during Operation Enduring Freedom in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Phillip first decided to join the military at the age of 10 after witnessing the tragic events of September 11, and after graduating from Francis Howell Central High School in 2009, Phillip enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

To those who knew Phillip, his devotion to his country through service and sacrifice came as no surprise. He was always determined to protect family and friends and was a respected leader of humble, quiet, and kind nature who never sought accolades or recognition for his accomplishments. At the end of the day, he was happy just reaching his own personal goals while serving and protecting the country that he loved.

□ 1915

In addition to his military service, Phillip was an outstanding person. He always sought exciting adventures and new opportunities, from being a Boy Scout, an Order of the Arrow member, a member of the trap shooting club, a wrestler, a welder, and a skydiver among many other great things. There was no challenge that Phillip would back down from. It is for these fearless and courageous servants like Phillip that we are able to know we are protected and allowed to enjoy freedom and liberty here at home.

Phillip will be greatly missed by all who knew him, but most of all by his family: his parents, David and Julie Vinnedge; and his brothers, Corey and Jason.

However, despite their grief, the Vinnedges continue to work hard to honor the memory of Phillip. Phillip had always wanted to buy and restore an old 1950s pickup truck. Since he never had the chance, his parents bought a 1951 Chevy and dedicated it to their son and other fallen marines. The images of the truck resemble events from Phillip's life and ideas that were important to him. Julie and David Vinnedge now use the truck to promote charities such as Toys for Tots, the Missouri Military Memorial Foundation, and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.

The United States of America owes Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge a priceless debt that we will never be able to fully repay. Therefore, the least I can do as a Representative of the United States Congress, it is my honor to sponsor H.R. 2391, a bill that names the Cottleville Post Office after such a genuine, honest, and great young man and by immortalizing a hero who gave up his life serving a Nation he absolutely loved. I am proud that this legislation will allow the inspiring story of Phillip to continue to be told in Missouri's Second District for a long, long time to come.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 2391, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5323 Highway N in Cottleville, Missouri, as the Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office.

The measure before us was introduced on June 14, 2013, by my colleague, Representative ANN WAGNER. In accordance with the committee's requirements, the bill before us is cosponsored by all members of the Missouri delegation. H.R. 2391 was reported out of committee by unanimous consent on March 12, 2014.

After graduating from Francis Howell Central High School in 2009, Phillip attended Lewis & Clark Technical School for 2 years. Described as loving life and the challenges it presented, it is no surprise that Phillip enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

Phillip Vinnedge was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force based at Camp Pendleton in California. In September 2010, Lance Corporal Vinnedge's unit was deployed to Afghanistan. Only a month later, he was tragically killed on October 13, 2010, as his unit was conducting combat operations in the Helmand province region.

While Lance Corporal Vinnedge will always be remembered as a marine who proudly served his country, those who know him best will forever remember him for his courageous and competitive spirit. Lance Corporal Vinnedge leaves behind his loving parents, Dave and Julie Vinnedge, and two brothers, Corey and Jason.

Lance Corporal Vinnedge is the recipient of the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we pass this bill to show honor and appreciation to one of our fallen heroes.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I want to comment just briefly, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge is among the very first postal

namings of the year. No other postal namings have occurred this entire Congress except these we are considering today for our fallen heroes. It has become clear that the public understands the importance of honoring those who have served in Afghanistan and Iraq, and so we do so today on behalf of the several fallen heroes.

This particular lance corporal, in addition to being from Missouri, deployed from Camp Pendleton in my district with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, a unit that has seen as a percentage the greatest amount of losses of any unit in the theater of Afghanistan or Iraq. The sacrifice of our marines in this conflict in Afghanistan with not a single body of water anywhere around it says a great deal about the new marines.

When Lance Corporal Vinnedge enlisted, he knew he was joining a force that wasn't waiting for a war in amphibious landing craft, but that in fact had already been and had fought with great distinction in Afghanistan, in addition to Iraq. He went there to serve his country, and he paid the highest cost. That is far too often what is happening around the world.

On behalf of the marines of Camp Pendleton, we have great pride in his service, his commitment, and I am pleased to urge all Members to vote for the passage of the naming of this post office after one of our heroes of this decade. With that, I urge support of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2391.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HHS MANDATES

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, jobs, health care, health insurance, and the First Amendment are all on the line this week when the Supreme Court hears about the threats posed by the Obama administration's HHS mandate. The question is simply this: Can the government use the threat of crippling fines to force the owners of a business to violate their own deeply held beliefs?

Two family-owned businesses that already provide good health coverage for their employees believe they should not be forced to pay for drugs and devices that are potentially life ending. But the Obama administration, which has waived or delayed other ObamaCare mandates, has fought for its HHS mandate all of the way to the Supreme Court. If the administration gets its way, the good jobs and the health insurance these businesses have provided may be lost and religious freedom will be assaulted.

The First Amendment protects the freedom of Americans to live and work according to their beliefs, and the Supreme Court must uphold that freedom.

HOBBY LOBBY V. SEBELIUS

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is a big day for the women of this country. The United States Supreme Court will hear argument in a case called Hobby Lobby v. Sebelius.

The Affordable Care Act mandates that employer-provided health care cover all forms of contraception at no cost. However, Hobby Lobby, a for-profit corporation, contends that its ''religious beliefs prohibit it from providing full coverage.''

I respectfully suggest, Mr. Speaker, that what is at stake is not the religious freedom of a corporation but the life and liberty and ability to pursue happiness by our daughters, our sisters, and our mothers.

There is no more crucial right for women and their families than the ability for women to be in control of their own bodies. The decision to use birth control is a conversation for a woman and her physician, not a woman and her boss.

Tomorrow is a big day for the women of this country.

COLD WAR II

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Russian bear has roared. Bully Putin has gobbled up the strategic Crimea. The world did little except protest. So the bear eyes more sovereign land as prey.

We should not forget that while the West watched, KGB Colonel Putin invaded Georgia and stole one-third of that nation. The Russians have never left.

Now the persistent, pesky Putin is still hungry, and he wants more. Will it be Ukraine, Moldavia, Belarus, or our NATO ally, Estonia? This is Cold War II. It has begun.

Villain Vladimir holds former Soviet Republics hostage because the Ruskies control their energy. I was in Ukraine when Putin turned off the gas in winter to punish the Ukrainians. It was cold; it was dark.

Let us loosen the noose around the neck of Ukraine. Sell them our oversupply of natural gas. Expedite the permits, development, and delivery of U.S. natural gas. Send the word over there that the gas is coming, the gas is coming. Let the Napoleon of Siberia know he has bitten off more than he can chew by starting Cold War II.

And that's just the way it is.

CRISIS IN VENEZUELA

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

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, last week marked 1 month since Leopoldo Lopez was unjustly arrested in Venezuela for his role in demonstrations against the ineptitude of the Venezuelan Government.

Mr. Lopez is one of the best-known prisoners in Venezuela, but he is not the only one: 121 people remain behind bars; over 2,000 have been detained while the democratic protests continue.

Despite these arrests, despite the hundreds of injured, dozens killed, the demonstrations continue. The voices of reform will not be silenced. Every day, the Venezuelan people are fighting for freedom, pleading for a better future, demanding their basic rights.

While much of our attention has been focused on the events in Ukraine and Russia, few nations are more closely tied to our national interests than Venezuela. The time for America to act is coming.

CONGRATULATING JANA FALIC

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to congratulate a dear friend and an incredibly kind and compassionate woman, Jana Falic, the president of Women's International Zionist Organization, WIZO, U.S.A.

This Wednesday, March 26, Jana will be honored at this year's annual WIZO Gala with the prestigious Joseph Handleman Light of Philanthropy Award for her outstanding contributions to securing Israel's future.

Through her time, effort, and generosity, Jana has helped WIZO secure the needs of vulnerable Israelis through assistance, education, and empowerment so that they too can realize the hope of a better tomorrow.

Her philanthropic endeavors are motivated by her deep affection for the democratic Jewish State of Israel and have helped improve the lives of so many children, women, and elderly Israelis.

I can't think of anyone more deserving of this award than Jana Falic, and I only regret that I cannot be there in person to congratulate this good friend of Israel, this good friend of the United States.

Congratulations, Jana.

□ 1930

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND CLEVE MINTER

(Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Reverend Cleve Minter, a member of my community, who passed away a few days ago.

Reverend Minter was pastor of the New Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, but also was a great gospel singer, who along with three of his friends—Reverend John Parker, Reverend Mac McCullum, and Reverend William Jenkins—were known fondly as the four heavyweights, and it didn't mean anything to do with size.

I express condolences to his family and church.

THE HOME HEATING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE THROUGH TRANSPORTATION ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, President Obama on Friday signed into law H.R. 4076, the Home Heating Emergency Assistance Through Transportation, or HHEATT, Act.

Having heard from so many constituents facing hardship relating to home heating fuel shortages and supply disruptions, I am a proud cosponsor of this bill, which will extend emergency relief to families and businesses during this ongoing crisis.

On February 5, 2014, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued temporary emergency declarations to allow tank truck operators delivering propane and other home heating fuels to drive for longer hours to speed up deliveries to affected States.

Even though spring is officially upon us, demand for home heating fuels remains high as communities across the country continue to endure below average temperatures. The HHEATT Act provides a guaranteed extension of the Department of Transportation's short-term emergency declarations until May 31, 2014.

I am pleased the Senate followed the House and took immediate action on this emergency legislation that will alleviate propane supply disruptions and get fuel to those who need it most.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW RUMENAPP

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize a very special 7-year-old. He is none other than Matthew Rumenapp of Wynantskill, New York. Matty is one of two Winning Kids who have been designated and selected by the Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York to represent all children with epilepsy during the coming year.

Matty is the son of Amy and Derrick Rumenapp. Their 7-year-old attends first grade at St. Jude the Apostle School in Wynantskill and was diagnosed with epilepsy when he was only 2½ years old.

After 3 months of bravely battling the disease, Matty became seizure free and, to this day, remains so. His courage, positive attitude, and lively spirit gives strength to his schoolmates, his teachers, his sister, his parents, and me.

This evening, I salute Matty's bravery and courage, as well as the strength of his entire family. As a Winning Kid, Matty will help others fight seizures and work to find a cure.

2014 NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, did you know that, today, each American farmer feeds more than 144 people? In 1960, that same farmer fed only 25 people. Clearly, American agriculture is doing more and doing it better. As the world population continues to grow, there will be an even greater demand for food produced in the United States.

Tomorrow, March 25, marks the 41st anniversary of National Agriculture Day, sponsored by the Agriculture Council of America. The day represents a nationwide effort to educate Americans in classrooms and communities across the country on the importance of our family farmers, their contribution to our Nation's agriculture heritage and legacy, and how the industry impacts each and every one of us for the better.

Farming and agriculture are a crucial part of our economy, especially in Maryland, in the 1st Congressional District. It is the number one economic industry in our State, totaling $2.3 billion in gross sales. Not surprisingly, poultry makes up the largest component in Maryland, supporting 24,000 jobs.

So as we recognize the efforts of these hardworking American families tomorrow, please be sure to take the time on National Agriculture Day to thank a farmer.

RENAMING THE NEWTOWN BYPASS TO THE BRIAN S. GREGG MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, in my district in Pennsylvania, the Newtown bypass will be renamed, on April 22, the Brian S. Gregg Memorial Highway, in honor of a Newtown Borough police officer who lost his life in the line of duty on September 29, 2005.

Officer Gregg was 45, a husband and a father. Throughout a police career that began in 2003, Officer Gregg demonstrated his dedication to the Newtown community and its residents with his earnest and daily commitment to their protection.

Always professional in the performance of his duties, Officer Gregg was a familiar and friendly face in the borough. His presence and his service is missed.

Now, as we recognize the great sacrifice made by Officer Gregg and his family, we are also grateful as a wider community for the commitment we see reflected in the daily work of police officers and first responders everywhere.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the subject of our Special Order hour.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, this month is Women's History Month, and the Congressional Black Caucus is pleased to come during this Special Order hour to bring attention to the important issues that particularly face women this month, but we shouldn't be fighting for equality just 1 month out of the year.

It is a constant effort. We are here tonight to encourage everyone to get engaged in making equality a reality.

As President Obama made clear during his State of the Union Address, when women succeed, America succeeds. So tonight, we, the Congressional Black Caucus, gather to discuss the ways in which we can help women succeed, rather than continuing to turn back the clock on women's rights.

I am pleased to start this hour with our chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the person who brings these issues forward each and every day on behalf of her constituents in Ohio and on behalf of constituents all across America, the gentlelady from Ohio, Representative FUDGE.

Ms. FUDGE. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to thank Congressman JEFFRIES and HORSFORD for organizing this Special Order hour to celebrate Women's History Month.

Throughout the month of March, we highlight the important role women

have played—and continue to play—in our Nation's history, a role too often overlooked.

My home State of Ohio has had a dynamic group of women who have changed the face of the State and of this country. There are countless areas influenced by women, including access to education and participation in our country's democracy.

Ohio women have made great strides in breaking down barriers. In fact, the first woman to run for President of the United States was from Ohio. Ms. Victoria C. Woodhull was a writer and women's rights activist. She ran for President in 1872, with the abolitionist Frederick Douglass as her running mate.

While there has yet to be a woman elected President, the number of women in elected offices has grown over the years. However, the rate of growth has been at a less than desirable pace.

Despite the fact that women make up more than 50 percent of the Nation's populous, we are less than 20 percent of the U.S. House of Representatives, where, until 1917, women were not represented at all.

African American women often face compounded discrimination because of our race and gender. As a result, many of our firsts are more recent.

In 1971, Ellen Walker Craig-Jones was the first African American woman elected mayor, by popular vote, for an American municipality, leading Urbancrest, Ohio.

The first African American congresswoman to represent Ohio was my friend and predecessor, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, who was elected in 1998.

While I could go on to detail the important firsts of more women from Ohio and what they have accomplished, there is a better way, and it is legislation.

I am a cosponsor of H.R. 863, the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum Act of 2013. The National Women's History Museum would be the first museum to place a national spotlight on the many contributions women have made over the course of our country's history.

More accurately, it is an opportunity to have a permanent place to acknowledge and to celebrate women who have shaped our history and will shape our future.

Women continue to lead national dialogues on critical issues and advance policies and politics in ways that move this Nation forward, including groundbreaking legislation like the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

When we are at the decisionmaking table, we make the discussions more representative of our population, while bringing a unique perspective which expands the conversation.

That is why I will continue to support legislation that will amplify our voices and improve the quality of life for women across our Nation by increasing the minimum wage, investing in quality early childhood education, protecting reproductive rights, and increasing access to high-quality STEM Education.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, let's be mindful of the progress we have made and the work that still needs to be done because when women succeed, America succeeds.

Mr. HORSFORD. I thank the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus for your dynamic leadership as the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. It has been my honor to serve with you this legislative Congressional session and look forward to the many achievements ahead on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, so much of the focus tonight is on the history that women contribute to our great Nation. We have many dynamic women who serve in our delegation in the House of Representatives. It is part of that representation that ensures that these issues that are important to women, as they are important to all Americans, are brought forward.

We have none other than a champion for women in her district in the northern part of California, but also around the world. She is someone who needs no introduction because she brings so much experience and education and knowledge to these issues. I would like to yield now to the gentlelady from California, Representative BARBARA LEE.

Ms. LEE of California. Let me first thank you, Representative HORSFORD and Congressman JEFFRIES, for organizing the Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order. You have really shown tremendous leadership and consistency and have been working so hard on behalf, not only of your constituents, but for the entire country and especially for the CBC.

Let me just thank, while she is here, our phenomenal chair, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, for her leadership of the Congressional Black Caucus.

As we celebrate women's history and trailblazing women, we celebrate them for their courage, character, and commitment. That is our 2014 Women's History Month theme.

So I am so proud that we have a chairwoman who exhibits all three of these characteristics. Thank you for standing strong and for leading the Congressional Black Caucus on so, so many fronts. Thank you and congratulations.

Let me just say that I agree with Congressman HORSFORD when you say, each month—each day, really—we should always celebrate women's history; though in March, we, again, take a moment to recognize really the triumphs of women throughout the course of history and to mark how far we have come, but also to recognize that there is much work to be done.

Now, let me just start by mentioning the phenomenal and beautiful 89-year-old woman, Mildred Massey, who of course is my role model. She raised three girls in segregated El Paso, Texas, until desegregation and, at one point, worked three jobs to help take care of her family.

We lived in a multigenerational household and, until his death, was her father's—W.C. Parrish, my grandfather—primary caregiver while working and taking care of her girls.

She taught me at an early age that girls and women are born equal to boys and men and to never forget that and to always fight for equality and justice. That was a given in our household.

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I would not be where I am had it not been for my mother and also for many incredible fighters like my mother who came before me in the public arena. I would like to take a moment to honor three women in particular, in addition to my mother, whose shoulders we stand on: Bessie Coleman, Dr. Dorothy Height, and, of course, Shirley Chisholm.

Bessie Coleman, as she was quoted, refused to take ''no'' for an answer. Although she dreamed of becoming a pilot, no flight school in the United States would accept her simply because she was a woman and because she was Black, but she refused to take ''no'' for an answer. She enrolled in flight school in France and became the only woman and the only person of color in her class in Paris. She soon became the first African American woman pilot and the first American of any race to hold an international pilot's license.

Several weeks ago, a portion of Airport Drive at the Oakland International Airport, in my district, was renamed ''Bessie Coleman Drive.'' It was such an inspiration to be part of this dedication ceremony because she, of course, was from or worked in Oakland, and really went to many of her classes and learned a lot about piloting in Oakland, California.

Another great woman who refused to take ''no'' for an answer was our beloved and great doctor, Dorothy Height. Let me just say how fortuitous it is that today is Dr. Height's birthday. She was a bold and brilliant African American woman who blazed many trails and opened many doors to the American Dream for women and people of color.

From her stewardship as the national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority—of whom I know our chair, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, and Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY are proud members—to her leading the National Council of Negro Women for 41 years and to her more than 60 years at the YWCA, which she was responsible for desegregating, Dorothy Height dedicated her life to achieving racial equality and securing women's rights. Dr. Height was especially committed to empowering women and girls, and worked to ensure that Black women's issues were equally addressed. She was

also dedicated to helping women work towards full employment, pay, and education.

I remember when Dr. Height turned, I believe it was, 90 years old. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus honored her at a luncheon here on Capitol Hill. She really gave us more background and knowledge and information during that luncheon as to how those following behind her needed to really focus on the fact that, yes, when women succeed, America succeeds. Dorothy Height was a true leader for all women not only in our own country but throughout the world.

In the seventies, Women's History Month was little more than an idea. As this idea was taking formation, Shirley Chisholm, a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, had only recently made history by becoming the first African American woman elected to Congress. I was a student at Mills College in the early seventies when Mrs. Chisholm again made history by becoming the first African American woman and the first African American to run for the Democratic Presidential nomination. Although she did not win the nomination, her campaign inspired thousands, myself included, to use their voices and to speak up through the ballot box. She blazed the trail for, of course, our Nation's first great President, President Barack Obama.

Throughout her congressional career, the unbought and unbossed Mrs. Chisholm continued her fight against discrimination in all forms and championed issues for women and their families. She was a strong voice for domestic workers and led the fight to give them the right to a minimum wage. This was way back in the day, but we are still struggling and fighting for many of those issues. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm was instrumental, along with the first Asian Pacific American, our beloved Congresswoman Patsy Mink, in passing title IX, which prohibits discrimination in the funding of education programs. She was also a fierce advocate for the Affordable Child Care Act. There is no doubt that the 16 African American women in Congress today are truly standing on the strong, strong shoulders of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm.

After years of trying, I am pleased that we were finally able to secure a postage stamp in her honor. Just last month, I was joined by Leader PELOSI in my district for the west coast unveiling of the United States Postal Service's Black Heritage stamp as a small token of our thanks while Congressmen JEFFRIES and RANGEL and Congresswoman CLARKE had the privilege to unveil the beautiful stamp in Shirley Chisholm's former district in Brooklyn, New York.

So 101 years after women marched in Washington, D.C., for the right to vote, women are still fighting to break down barriers. It is really a disgrace that in 2014, despite making up 50 percent of our workforce, women still make, on average, 77 cents for every dollar a man makes. Even worse, African American women are making only 64 cents and Latinas only 55 cents for every dollar a White man makes. The point is that working women are paid less for the same work as men. This is wrong and it is discriminatory. What is more, child care remains unaffordable; quality, affordable education remains out of the reach of far too many women; and pregnancy discrimination continues. Again, this is simply unacceptable.

That is why the Democratic women of the House, including the women of the CBC, under the leadership of NANCY PELOSI and DONNA EDWARDS and DORIS MATSUI and ROSA DELAURO, have launched When Women Succeed, America Succeeds, and are championing an economic agenda for women and families, one which our President supports.

Finally, let me just quote from my dear friend, our beloved Shirley Chisholm. She once said: I want to be remembered as a woman who dared to be a catalyst for change.

There is no doubt that she was.

As we honor heroines like my mother, Shirley Chisholm, Dorothy Height, Bessie Coleman, and so many others in our districts who fight each and every day with little resources to make our communities better, let us remember that, yes, when women succeed, America succeeds. Also, as I said at the United Nations very recently at the Commission on the Status of Women, when women succeed, the world becomes a more just and a more equitable place.

Thank you for your leadership.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you to the gentlelady from California. Thank you for that great historical overview and perspective and for bringing those profound remarks to the floor this evening.

I would also like to yield to a dynamic colleague. We have had the great honor and privilege to get to know each other as freshmen in this congressional session. She is the gentlelady from Ohio. She brings so much talent and perspective, energy and focus to the issues that she works on here in the House of Representatives on behalf of her constituents and those around the country. I would like to yield now to the gentlelady from Ohio, Representative JOYCE BEATTY.

Mrs. BEATTY. Thank you to my colleagues.

I would like to thank Mr. HORSFORD and Mr. JEFFRIES for hosting the Congressional Black Caucus' important discussion on celebrating Women's History Month. As we honor so many women who have shaped our history, let us also celebrate those who make progress in today's time.

Certainly, you will hear throughout this hour, ''When Women Succeed, America Succeeds.'' What an honor it was, Mr. Speaker, to hear our President of these United States say it before an audience of millions of people in his State of the Union address. More importantly than his saying it is how it was received. People received it in the spirit that he said it. Do you know why, Mr. Speaker? It is because, when women succeed, America succeeds.

As you have heard, in 1987, Congress declared March to be National Women's History Month, giving the Nation the chance to salute the trailblazers who paved the way for so many of us to have the rights that we have today. National Women's History Month gives us an opportunity to acknowledge the groundbreakers of the past, thank the heroines of today, and inspire the leaders of the future. It is a reminder that, if we believe in ourselves, we can really make a difference.

It reminds us of women like Rosa Parks—the mother of the modern civil rights movement—or the woman known for: I shall be unbought and unbossed. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Shirley Chisholm, who ran for President and who was the first African American woman elected to Congress, and, yes, Dorothy Height, who, if still living, would have just this week celebrated her 102nd birthday. There are so many more women we could talk about—women of the past or today—like our very own Congressional Black Caucus chairwoman, MARCIA FUDGE, from the great State of Ohio. Others are unknown outside of their own families and communities, people like my grandmother and my great-aunt and like my 90-year-old mother, who lives today and sets a great example, not only for her three daughters, but for women across this Nation. All of them are a part of our history, and their courage and dedication have helped to sustain the American spirit.

These pioneers and heroines have brought down barriers and have created new opportunities. We have now witnessed the first African American woman Secretary of State, the first female Speaker of the United States House of Representatives—a woman I get to sit with on a weekly basis, a woman who sets an example. Yes, she is Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI. There is now a record number of women serving in Congress, with 20 women serving in the Senate and 82 women serving in the House of Representatives. However, although women have made great strides, there is much more to do.

We continue to face discrimination in the workplace. We have a higher risk of sexual assault and an earnings gap that will cost the average woman hundreds of thousands of dollars over the course of her working lifetime. An average woman still makes 77 cents for every dollar made by men, and the gap is even wider for Black women. On average, Black women earn only 64 cents for every dollar earned by White men. In addition, women-owned businesses continue to lag behind male-owned businesses. The average revenue of women-owned businesses is only 27 percent of the average revenue by male-owned businesses.

In response to these and other challenges women are currently facing, in July 2013, House Democrats unveiled ''When Women Succeed, America Succeeds: An Economic Agenda for Women and Families.'' This platform addresses the need to ensure that women get equal pay for equal work. It helps to ensure work and family balance by allowing working parents to support their families and to care for their children. So many of us in this Chamber understand that. It also recognizes that expanding educational opportunities, increasing job training, and investing in women entrepreneurs is essential for women's success in our economy.

Federal investments have and continue to help ensure economic opportunities for women and girls. For example, earning a college degree remains one of the surest pathways to the middle class. Women with a bachelor's degree earn more than 80 percent more than those with a high school degree. Today, more than 11 million women are pursuing a postsecondary education, and average graduation rates for women exceed those of their male counterparts, but we certainly know everyone will not go to college, and that is okay. We have to continue to fight to make sure that there is a place for women in workforce development, in higher education, in the home, or in whatever work they choose to do. Women in STEM fields make, on average, 33 percent more than women in non-STEM fields, and certainly we know that technology and innovation in STEM—science, technology, engineering, and math—is the way of the future.

So let me just say to my colleagues: Thank you for hosting this evening on Women's History Month. Thank you for honoring women.

To all of the women—the mothers, the sisters, the aunts, the girlfriends—who are watching us: remember, when women succeed, America succeeds.

Thank you.

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Mr. HORSFORD. I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio, Representative JOYCE BEATTY, for those illuminating topics that were covered, and for highlighting all the various ways, both historically and currently, that women make a huge impact in our society, in the home, in the workplace, in education, and throughout all aspects of life. So thank you, Representative BEATTY, for your ongoing contributions to these important issues.

I am so proud to be joined here by the Representative from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), my coanchor of this hour. I look forward to his remarks.

I want to also highlight in addition to all of the national leaders and women who have run for office, whether it be here in the House of Representatives, in the Senate, or as President, we also have many unsung women who toil everyday but who make a huge impact.

It is only fitting, Mr. Speaker, that during Women's History Month that I recognize a Nevada leader, an icon, Ms. Ruby Duncan, who is an inspiration in my home State to many.

Ruby to me is the personification of the word fight. She is someone we can all learn from each and every day. Her history is a lesson in never giving up and staring down the specter of inequality. Nothing was ever handed to her, but much was taken.

Ruby's life began in the middle of the Great Depression. Where she grew up in rural Louisiana, people were already poor for a long time. Ruby had three brothers and a sister, all but one passing from accidents or illnesses. She lost her parents before she was 4. She spent most of her youth moving around Tallulah, living with relatives.

The school that she attended, a school for Black children, was located in a church miles from home. There was no transportation. She walked every day until she left school after the ninth grade for full-time work. Actually, it was more than full-time work. For years she was a waitress making about $9.50 a week. Yes, that's right, $9.50 a week. Her work weeks were long, over 80 hours a week.

When she heard her aunt in Las Vegas was making $40 for similar work, she moved there. When she arrived, she discovered her aunt living in a cardboard shack in the desert, sharing a community wash house with others. She discovered a de facto segregated community there, separate schools, housing, and zoning in the community resulted in a system of clear disenfranchisement.

Blacks were not welcome at the Las Vegas Strip hotels. There were colored sections designated in movie theaters. Still, Ms. Ruby Duncan persevered. She survived. She did day work as a maid in homes around the area. In 1959 she worked as a hotel maid but was fired later for attempting to organize other maids to protest the inhumane treatment and workload.

For a while her only income for herself and her children was the aid to dependent children grant that she received from the State welfare system. Like those struggling today, she did not rest. She was not lazy; she worked. She searched for work and was hired in the pantry of one of the Strip hotels in Las Vegas.

After an accident, she learned she could no longer do the heavy work that she was performing. When a State program that was supporting her was cut, she was contacted to join a group of mothers going up to Carson City, our State's capital, to protest substandard grants from the Nevada Legislature.

Ruby marched and spoke at a hearing with no prior experience in public speaking. She did it because someone had to say something for those who were struggling. Someone had to stand up for what was right.

After Mrs. Duncan's trip to Carson City, she was elected president of the Clark County Welfare Rights Organization. As president, she led the nationally publicized 1971 marches on the Las Vegas Strip, protesting the purge of thousands of needy Nevada families from programs designed to help the poor and allow them to keep their heads above water.

From that she has fought to provide basic necessities to families in need—food, shelter, health services, and education. Her organization that she created, Operation Life, has had an impact on health screening centers, libraries, food programs for women, infants and children, child care, and the list goes on.

Ruby Duncan represents hope. In a country plagued by inequality and discrimination of the worst forms, Ruby fought and won many decisive battles that affect the lives of so many in Nevada and across this Nation today.

Not everyone wins their battle with poverty. For so many, circumstances beyond their control take over their lives. For many born poor, they stay poor. For many born just above the poverty line, they dip below and enter a cycle of living paycheck to paycheck, if they can even find one.

The poor are not poor because of a weak character. They are not lazy. Many are poor because no one ever gave them a chance. It is people like Ruby Duncan that I am here to represent. The people who had less than a hand up, but they still persevered. She is strong, and she is an inspiration to me, and someone who I wanted to recognize during this recognition of Women's History Month. Congratulations to Ms. Ruby Duncan.

I would now like to yield to the coanchor for this hour, my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES). It is always great to be here with you, to bring this hour of power of information to the constituents throughout the United States who are listening. I thank you for your friendship, for always working hard, for including me, and it is great to serve with you in this 113th Congress.

I yield to my good friend.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman, my good friend from the Silver State, Representative STEVEN HORSFORD, for his tremendous leadership in anchoring the CBC's Special Order and for the tremendous advocacy that you have consistently provided to the people of the congressional district you so ably serve back at home in Nevada and indeed to people all across this country.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as a coanchor during this CBC Special Order, this hour of power where for 60 minutes members of the Congressional Black Caucus have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people about an issue of great relevance.

Today as you have heard, we today stand here on the floor of the House of Representatives to celebrate the role that women have played throughout

the tapestry of the American people from the beginning of the Republic to where we stand right now in 2014.

Representative BARBARA LEE spoke moments earlier about the Women's History Month theme, involving courage, character, and commitment. As I reflected upon that theme, several individuals came to mind. Certainly when it comes to courage, I think no one meets that threshold in American history perhaps more than the great Harriet Tubman, a conductor on the underground railroad.

Harriet Tubman is someone who displayed tremendous courage throughout her time here in this country. She was known for having a Bible in one hand and a gun in the other. Harriet Tubman freed herself from slavery.

At that point, after settling in New York State she could have simply gone on to try and live out her life with relative tranquility, having escaped the harshness of human subjugation down in the Southern part of this country.

Instead, Harriet Tubman, we know as history records, went back down South an additional 19 times and freed more than 200 Black slaves, risking her life, her well-being, her freedom each and every time she crossed the Mason-Dixon line to try and liberate those who were subjected to slavery in this country.

What is interesting about that life story and the courage that Harriet Tubman displayed, the selflessness and the sacrifice as this prominent conductor on the underground railroad, stations exist in the district that I currently represent in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, at the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church.

What was tremendous about Harriet Tubman is that later on in life she was apparently asked about her heroics, the sacrifice, the selflessness, the courage, the willingness to risk life and limb to free others after she had already liberated herself. She made an observation that has always stuck with me. Harriet Tubman said: I could have freed more, if they only knew that they were slaves. I could have freed more if they only knew that they were slaves.

That suggests to me that sometimes people who find themselves in life in a certain station and notwithstanding their talents or their ability, the fact that someone has put before them a pathway towards success, an opportunity to move forward in pursuit of the American Dream, that there is something that constrains them and keeps them standing in place.

I have always looked to those words of Harriet Tubman and the great heroism that she displayed as a source of tremendous inspiration and something that should inspire all Americans—Black, White, Latino, Asian, men and women, older Americans, younger Americans—like courage, character and commitment. I certainly think in terms of courageousness you can find no one who had that quality in greater abundance than of course Harriet Tubman.

Now, Representative LEE also referenced Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm. I stand here today proud of the fact that I represent many of the neighborhoods that Congresswoman Chisholm once represented in this Congress.

She was elected in 1968 and became the first African American woman ever elected to the House of Representatives in the history of this great Republic, served seven terms, 14 distinguished years. She retired in 1982. At which point, there were parts of her district that were subsequently represented by Congressman Ed Towns, who served for 30 years in the Congress and whom I had the opportunity to replace.

Then there were other parts of her district subsequently represented by Congressman Major Owens, who served for 26 years and who Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE subsequently represented.

For a great while there was a tremendous debate as to who actually held the legacy of Shirley Chisholm's seat. Well, I think Congresswoman CLARKE and I worked it out. She was such a tremendous Member of the House that it actually takes two Members of Congress to replace her. I proudly acknowledge that I serve in one of the two Shirley Chisholm legacy seats here in the House of Representatives.

Of course when she got elected in 1968 there were some folks in this Chamber not used to seeing an African American woman, with very prominent hair, who was ''Unbought and Unbossed,'' and comes into this Chamber. Tradition says that she was assigned by the Speaker then to the agricultural committee as a punitive measure, because obviously in this urban district that she represented it seems to a lot of folks that appointment to the agricultural committee would not necessarily be the committee of relevant jurisdiction for the issues that she was elected to Congress to fight for.

Shirley Chisholm took that assignment and quickly recognized that while in this country you had surplus, abundance of food that was being created, you also had a lot of hungry folks, many of whom lived in the district that she represented.

□ 2015

So she began to work on expanding the food stamp program and championed, in fact, increasing supplemental nutritional assistance to at-risk, expectant mothers and helped lead the charge in the House of Representatives for the Women, Infants, and Children supplemental nutritional assistance program.

She partnered with then-Senator Bob Dole, who was over on the other side of this Capitol. She took what was meant as a punitive assignment and turned it into something transformative for the people that she represented, as well as those across the country.

So, from a character and a commitment standpoint, she demonstrated, again, that there is opportunity in the face of adversity. That is what she did here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Earlier today, the League of Women Voters acknowledged Shirley Chisholm for her accomplishments in the district that I represent, in fact, in the Shirley Chisholm State Office Building that I was proud to have authored the legislation, when I was in the New York State Assembly, that transformed that Kings County State Office Building into one named on behalf of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm.

We stand on the shoulders of a lot of giants, but I certainly acknowledge that I am standing on the shoulders of Representative Shirley Chisholm, as so many folks are all across the city, the State of New York, and certainly this country. She inspired generations of people to believe what was possible.

I was talking to one of the women who, in the seventies, began to work closely with Congresswoman Chisholm, and she explained to me that Shirley Chisholm was such a forceful personality that her group of young women who, in the seventies, she would work closely with, that they were called Shirley Chisholm and the Chisettes.

Sounds to me like a Motown group, but these were transformative individuals, Shirley Chisholm and the Chisettes, who believed, perhaps back then, that when women succeed, America succeeds, and understood that there was still work that needed to be done to shatter the glass ceilings that had been erected all across this country.

Shirley Chisholm did just that in 1972, when she ran for the Democratic nomination for the United States Presidency. What I find fascinating is that her theme at that point was ''catalyst for change.''

In many ways, this was a prophetic theme, ''catalyst for change,'' because she was that catalyst for a whole lot of things that were to have occurred decade after decade, when she made that first run for office.

As has been mentioned on the floor of the House of Representatives, many could argue that there would not be a President Barack Obama had Shirley Chisholm not taken that bold step forward in 1972.

We have a whole lot of things, of course, that still need to be addressed, and I look forward to dealing with some of those issues.

As has been pointed out, women simply make 77 cents for every dollar that a man makes in America, and that hurts our overall economic productivity because 40 percent of the households in this country, women are the predominant primary breadwinner.

So we have got some economic issues to work out to continue the work that had been done by so many in this country, Shirley Chisholm included, and I look forward to continuing that discussion with Congressman STEVEN HORSFORD.

Mr. HORSFORD. I thank the gentleman from New York. Thank you for

that very insightful background on your district and the leadership of the district. It speaks to why there is so much impact that comes from Representatives from your district and the area and the neighborhoods that you represent.

I know that you cannot fully fill those shoes, but you are doing your part in bringing forward the message that so many others carried and that we follow now on their shoulders, so thank you for that historical perspective.

In addition to the historical perspective that women offer in this country, the House Democrats also have a legislative agenda that focuses on when women succeed, America succeeds. It is an economic agenda for women, and it is one that was created by the women in the House Democratic Caucus that is sponsored and supported by men.

As a man, I support this economic agenda for women because, as a husband and a father, I want for every woman what I want for my own wife and my daughter. As a brother and a son, I want for other women what I want for my two sisters and my mother. So this economic agenda for women focuses on a number of areas.

The first, of course, is equal pay for equal work. It is appalling, Mr. Speaker, that in the year 2014, we are still struggling to pay women the wages that they deserve. They are still not receiving equal pay for equal work. That, on its face, is wrong.

Women in my home State of Nevada are paid about 85 cents for every dollar paid to men; and while that is better than the 77-cent national average, we still have a long, long way to go.

As my colleagues have already explained, for African American women and Latinas, this pay gap is even larger. African American women, on average, earn only 64 cents; and Latinas, on average, earn only 55 cents for every dollar earned by White, non-Hispanic men.

In my home State of Nevada, the pay gap between men and women is, on average, $6,316 per year. Now, that is real money, and it makes a real impact in the lives of families. Nevada women lose approximately $2 billion per year because of this wage gap.

Now, what can $6,316 pay for, for families in my home State of Nevada?

$6,316 is about 46 more weeks of food. $6,316 per year is 4 more months of mortgage and utility payments. $6,316 per year is 7 months of rent. $6,316 per year is an additional 1,681 gallons of gas.

So if we thought that the wage gap was just some rhetoric that was being talked about out there, all you have to look at is the real impact of lost economic benefit to women. If we closed the wage gap between men and women, we could cut the poverty rate in half for working women and their families.

It is the right thing to do, to treat people equally, to pay them equal pay for equal work. That is why 125,000 households in Nevada, who are headed by women, expect this Congress to support the Paycheck Fairness Act, invest in job training and educational opportunities, and make sure that we protect pregnant workers from discrimination in the workplace.

Now, another area that we have to address is raising the minimum wage and giving America a raise.

Mr. Speaker, low-income workers continue to struggle to provide for their families, while the rich continue to make record profits in the millions.

It is important to remember who earns the minimum wage in this country. They are women. Women make up the majority of low-income workers. In fact, nearly two-thirds of minimum wage workers are women. These are our mothers. They are our sisters and our daughters.

Can we really expect for women to provide for their families when they are making the minimum wage?

Let's talk about what $7.25 really means as a national wage for women. That is $14,500 a year. Can people really survive on $14,500 a year?

Particularly, more than a majority now of women who are the head of their household, the primary breadwinners, can they provide for themselves and their families on $14,500 a year?

That is why House Democrats, in this economic agenda for women—when women succeed, America succeeds—we understand that by lifting the Federal minimum wage to $10.10, that if it were adjusted for inflation, compared to what it was in the 1960s, it would be well past time, Mr. Speaker, to address this pay gap for women.

In addition to increasing the minimum wage to help 1 in 3 adult women who are currently living in poverty or on the brink of it, this would help lift those women out of poverty, helping 30 million Americans see an increase in their wage, a million Americans being lifted out of poverty.

These are the real impacts and the benefits on the economic agenda for women.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague, Mr. JEFFRIES, to elaborate further on these points, and then I can close us out.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I want to thank my distinguished colleague for his comprehensive presentation as it relates to the economic trauma that many women find themselves in, given the pay disparities that continue to exist in America.

Mr. Speaker, the President came to the House of Representatives earlier this year to deliver a State of the Union Address and pointed out the fact that women, of course, make 77 cents for every dollar that a man makes and indicated the outrageousness of that in modern-day America.

It is a moral outrage, and for that reason alone, we should seek corrective action by moving forward with the Paycheck Fairness Act here in the Congress.

But aside from it being a moral outrage, as Congressman HORSFORD has pointed out, it has economic consequences. Because 40 percent of households in America are headed by women as the primary breadwinners, if you have such a significant portion of households led economically by individuals who are receiving disparate pay, you are hurting American families.

Now, one of the ways in which we can remedy this situation, of course, is to move forward with H.R. 1010, the minimum wage increase legislation authored in the House of Representatives by Congressman GEORGE MILLER, cosponsored, of course, by Congressman HORSFORD, myself and many other Democratic Members of the House of Representatives.

We are of the view that both America needs a raise and women in America need a raise. 66 percent of minimum wage earners in this country are women.

Now, the minimum wage in America right now, the floor that is set by Congress, $7.25 an hour, means that someone can work 40 hours a week, each and every week throughout the year, go to work, and still fall below the Federal poverty line in attempting to raise a family. That is disgraceful, the classic definition of working poor, and it should not exist.

I thought the American ideal was that if you get up for work, you work hard, you punch the clock, that at the end of the day, there should be a pathway toward meaningful success in the context of the American Dream.

Right now, we have got a minimum wage that keeps individuals trapped in poverty, and the overwhelming majority of those individuals are women in America. So when we talk about an agenda that we have put forth—when women succeed, America succeeds—that is not just hyperbole or something designed to make folks feel good. It is an economic reality. That is why we are so committed to that agenda.

We are committed to making sure that child care in America is affordable because of the fact that so many women, thankfully, are part of the workforce; but as a result of their participation in the workforce, they need to find affordable, quality child care for their children.

That is one of the things that we, as House Democrats, continue to try and put forth, and we are just hopeful that our friends on the other side of the aisle will realize that moving forward with an agenda that uplifts women in America honors the great contributions of women in this country, decade after decade, century after century, from the founding of the Republic; but more significantly, will empower women and, in doing so, empower America to continue to forge forward into the future as the greatest Nation in the world.

□ 2030

So I am thankful to my colleague for his leadership tonight in connection

with this Special Order, and I look forward to continuing to work on a progressive Congressional Black Caucus agenda for women, for men, for America, and for our future.

Mr. HORSFORD. I thank the gentleman, my coanchor, for joining me this hour.

Mr. Speaker, as we come to a close, to just highlight some of the major reasons why the Congressional Black Caucus along with the House Democrats believe that, if we are really going to honor the role of women in this country, then we need to start by honoring them through equal pay. We need to honor them through an economic agenda that supports their needs and the needs of their families.

And as my colleagues have already ably laid out, women now make up half—47 percent—of the general workforce and some 62 percent of the minimum wage workforce, which is up from about 30 percent in the 1950s. Twelve percent of workers in the United States have access to paid family leave through their employers, and fewer than 40 percent have access to personal medical leave through employer-provided short-term disability insurance.

So one of the other cornerstones, in addition to giving women equal pay for equal work, for increasing the minimum wage, is providing a work-family balance by allowing women to be able to take off work when necessary to care for a loved one without losing their earnings and a paycheck.

Laws providing paid family leave and medical leave allow workers to continue to earn a portion of their pay while they take time away from work to address serious health conditions, including pregnancy, to care for a family member with a serious health condition, and to care for a newborn, newly adopted child or a newly placed foster child.

You know, we should be encouraging the growth of strong, healthy families. And so often my colleagues on the other side talk about family values. Well, if you won't pass legislation that allows workers to spend time with their families, then what kind of a family value is that?

Over the average lifetime of a woman, by the age of 65, they will have lost $431,000 because of the earnings gap. That is something that the House Democrats, along with the Congressional Black Caucus, are working to address. We have legislation, When Women Succeed, America Succeeds, the economic agenda for women that we have laid out here tonight that would close this earnings gap, provide women the support they need to make more, helping their families and helping our economy as a whole.

So in closing, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about Women's History Month, we hope that it will resonate in this Chamber and in the Halls here in Washington that the decisions that we make impact the lives of all of our constituents. And it is time that women have a fair shot to the full opportunity that this country has to offer, and it starts by providing them with the earnings that they deserve. This is good not only for that woman and her future, but it is good for the family as a whole.

As I said earlier, I want for every woman what I want for my wife and my daughter: to be able to have the same opportunities and to be treated the same way as a man is treated in this country. I want for every woman what I want for my two sisters and my mother: to have the same equal opportunities to pursue their dreams and to be paid the same for pursuing that dream.

So these are the issues that we have laid out tonight, Mr. Speaker. We look forward to continuing to work with our colleagues on the other side. We would like to thank the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Representative FUDGE, and all of the members of the CBC and those who were able to speak tonight. When women succeed, Mr. Speaker, America succeeds.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues with the Congressional Black Caucus in this Special Order in recognition of Women's History Month.

I want to offer a special mention for the U.S. House of Representatives women firsts:

Congresswoman Jeanette Rankin of Montana who was the first elected woman member of the House of Representatives;

Congresswoman Patsy Mink of Hawaii was the first woman of color and the first Asian American woman elected to Congress;

Congresswoman Shirley Anita Chisholm of New York who was the first African-American Congresswoman member of the House of Representatives; and

Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN whom we have the honor of working with is the first Hispanic woman elected to serve in Congress.

National Women's History Month's roots go back to March 8, 1857, when women from New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions.

International Women's Day was first observed in 1909.

In 1981, Congress passed a law authorizing the President to proclaim March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Week." It was a modest beginning, but very significant to women because it started a societal and cultural change in how women—and especially young girls saw themselves within the American story.

In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Every year since, Congress has passed a resolution for Women's History Month, and the President has issued a proclamation.

This month we recognize Women's History Month by noting the fundamental role women have played in shaping America's history. But I say to you that a month is not enough to make known the significant contributions of women to the success of the United States of America.

We taught our girls about Rosie the Riveter who represented the millions of American women who went to work on assembly lines to manufacture tanks, planes, and weapons for the defense of this nation during World War II.

I am a cosponsor of H.R. 863, the National Women's History Commission Act.

The bill would establish a Commission to study the potential for creating a National Women's History Museum and submit to the President and Congress a report containing recommendations on a plan of action for the establishment and maintenance of a National Women's History Museum in Washington, DC.

Congressional action is needed to be sure that when the story of our nation is told that the role of women is represented in the narrative of our nation.

I along with my colleagues participating in this special order are urging passage of H.R. 863, to study the potential creation of a National Women's History Museum in Washington, DC, on or near the National Mall.

The Shriver Report, "A Woman's Nation Pushes Back from the Brink: Some Recommended Steps for Government, Businesses, and Women" reported on the economic health of the average American woman.

Today, women make up half the U.S. workforce, but the average full time working woman earns only 77 percent of what the average full time working man makes.

There are many women in the State of Texas and in the city of Houston who have made significant contributions to the American story:

Congresswoman Barbara Jordan of Texas was the first African-American woman elected to the House of Representatives;

Kathryn "Kathy" Whitmire was the first woman elected to serve in Houston City government; and

Mae Carol Jemison was the first African-American woman astronaut.

These many accomplishments do not mean there is not more that needs to be done. There is still a long way for women to go according to the Shriver Report.

Women are more than 50 percent of the population and more than 50 percent of the votes.

A woman working full time, all year at a minimum-wage job, or a job close to the minimum wage, will not be able to bring her family above the poverty line. Families need an income closer to 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold to escape the brink.

In the Shriver Report's survey:

73 percent of Americans said that in order to raise the incomes of working women and their families, they strongly favor the government ensuring that women get equal pay for equal work;

79 percent of Americans said the government should expand access to high-quality, affordable childcare for working families;

Almost 60 percent of Americans said women raising children on their own face tremendous challenges and should be helped financially by government, employers, and communities; and

If we are going to win the war on poverty we must wage and win the war of discrimination of women in the workforce.

Pay inequality is not just a women's issue—it is a family income equality issue.

TEXAS LOW WAGE WORKER BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

In 2012, Texas ranked second among the 50 states with workers earning at or below the federal minimum wage.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics of the 6.1 million workers are paid hourly rates in Texas in 2012,

In Texas 282,000 earned exactly the prevailing federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, while 170,000 earned less.

From 2011 to 2012, the number of Texas workers who earned at or below the federal minimum wage was 7.5 percent. The percentage of workers earning less than the federal minimum in 2012 was 2.8 percent, while the share earning exactly the minimum wage was 4.7 percent.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to help celebrate Women's History Month by becoming cosponsors of H.R. 863.

BY THE NUMBERS

161 million: The number of females in the U.S. as of December 2013. The number of males was 156.1 million.

2 to 1: At 85 and older, the approximate ratio by which women outnumbered men in 2012 (3.9 million to 2.0 million).

JOBS

74.8 million: The number of females 16 and older who participated in the civilian labor force in 2012. Women comprised 47.4 percent of the civilian labor force in 2012.

41.6%: Percent of employed females 16 and over in 2012 (annual average) who worked in management, professional and related occupations, compared with 34.7 percent of employed males in the same year (annual average).

MILITARY

1.6 million: Number of female veterans in the United States in 2012.

EARNINGS

$37,791: The median annual earnings of women 15 or older who worked year-round, full time in 2012. In comparison, the median annual earnings of men were $49,398.

77¢: The amount that female year-round, full time workers earned in 2012 for every dollar their male counterparts earned. This ratio was statistically unchanged from 2011.

EDUCATION

11.3 million: Number of women college students in fall 2012. Women comprised 56.8 percent of all college students.

31.4: Percent of women 25 and older who had obtained a bachelor's degree or more as of 2012.

25%: Percentage of women 18 and older with an alternative educational credential—such as professional certifications, licenses and educational—not statistically different from men. However, women had higher rates of alternative credentials than men at the bachelor's degree and advanced degree levels.

15%: Among people with advanced degrees, the percentage of women who held educational certificates compared with 12 percent of men; 51 percent of women held professional certifications or licenses compared with 43 percent of men.

VOTING

63.7%: Percentage of female citizens 18 and older who reported voting in the 2012 presidential election, in comparison to 59.7 percent of their male counterparts.

MOTHERHOOD

85.4 million: Estimated number of mothers in the U.S. in 2009.

1.9: Average number of children that women 40 to 44 had given birth to as of 2010, down from 3.1 children in 1976, the year the Census Bureau began collecting such data. The percentage of women in this age group who had given birth was 81 percent in 2010, down from 90 percent in 1976.

MARRIAGE

66 million: Number of married women 18 and older (including those who were separated or had an absent spouse) in 2013.

5.2 million: Number of stay-at-home mothers nationwide in 2013; compared with 214,000 stay-at-home fathers.

THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF ABORTION-INDUCING DRUGS IN OBAMACARE

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, tonight I would like to share the tale of two garages: the American Dream and the threat to that American Dream.

The first garage is down in Oklahoma, and it is owned by David and his wife Barbara. In 1972, David and Barbara borrowed $600, and they began making picture frames in their garage. They had a dream. They said, you know: People might want to buy premade frames. There are pictures all the time that people take, and we could do that.

So they enlisted their two sons, Steve and Mart, and they began building those picture frames. And then they opened up a retail location—actually, it was 300 square feet in size—and they started selling those picture frames, and it was very, very successful. And now, their dream has just blossomed into 556 stores in 41 States, and 70 more are scheduled to open this year.

They have now what started out in the garage with just David and Barbara and their two sons, they have 16,000 full-time employees. And we all know that store. I am sure many of us have been there. It is called Hobby Lobby. We love it. It has expanded now not just to picture frames, but all kinds of art and decorating supplies. And their headquarters is actually located just down the street from that garage in Oklahoma City.

The other garage is over in Pennsylvania, and it is owned by Norman and Elizabeth Hahn. They have three sons: Norman, Anthony, and Kevin. And in 1964, about 40 years ago, they, too, had a dream, and they started in their garage making high-quality doors and wood components for kitchen cabinets. You know, they said: We can do this, so let's do it. So they started working hard and expanding.

And from their modest beginnings in just a small garage in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, they have now grown to be one of the industry leaders in wholesale wood products for kitchen cabinets. They have five facilities located in the United States in three States—Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Washington—and what started out with five family members, they now have 950 full-time employees. It is truly an encouraging sign that the American Dream is alive and well.

And something else these two garages and these two families—David and Barbara Green as well as Norman and Elizabeth Hahn—have in common is that they care for not only their customers and having a high-quality product, but they also care about their employees. They both have provided a lot of high-quality benefits to their employees, paying them well, and also providing health care for years, as well as other benefits.

But I am sad to say both of these businesses and both of these families are in trouble, and these businesses are in jeopardy of having to close—not because of the economy. Like I said, Hobby Lobby is actually planning to open 70 more stores. There is a need. People want their products. It is not because of any other reason other than, sadly, the government.

The government is threatening these American businesses, what we need more of. They are providing good jobs and are providing health care. They are in jeopardy of closing because our government and our Representatives, a few years ago, passed the President's health care takeover law. And part of that was a mandate that said, if you provide health insurance for your employees, you have to include abortion-inducing drugs. It doesn't matter that you already had a good policy that your employees like; you have to do that. And if you don't, you are going to be fined not just a little bit, but a lot.

I have a poster here I want to show you that shows the injustice of this mandate. You have two numbers here: $36,500; $2,000. Here is the situation for these two families:

The ObamaCare law says that if you don't provide health care for your employees, we are going to fine you $2,000 an employee; but if you do provide health insurance for your employees but just don't include the abortion-inducing drugs, then we are going to fine you $36,500. Where is the justice in that? Where is the common sense?

I am from Missouri, and we are the Show Me State. Show me how this makes any sense at all. This is the situation that faces the Hahn family and the Green family. They are providing their health insurance coverage. They are conscientious. Due to their beliefs, they believe that all life is valuable,

and they don't want to be complicit in paying for potentially life-ending drugs. And because of that, our government is going to fine them this amount of money, $36,500 per employee, which, sadly, could put both businesses out of work. We would have tens of thousands of people across this country out of work just because of this government takeover of health care. It is wrong.

We have a long-standing tradition in this country of following something in here. It is in the Constitution. It is an amazing little document that our Founders started. But you know the very first amendment to the Constitution establishing our rights is that it lays out the importance of religious liberty. It says: ''Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.''

Our country has always upheld religious freedom and the right to exercise and live according to your beliefs. There are examples everywhere where we have done this before up until this point. Employees have been able to take off on Sundays or religious holidays. That has been respected. Crosses and other religious symbols have been respected. Certain special activity restrictions, like kosher foods, have been honored. Not working certain days, Sabbaths, have been honored. There is even a religious conscientious objector provision, where we have honored people's religious beliefs regarding military service. Always our country has upheld the Constitution first and held that sacred that it is our religious right to live free.

You had the Pilgrims come to this country. Why? So they could have religious freedom. It is the foundation our country has been built on. And yet it is being jeopardized, trampled on, and attacked by the Affordable Care Act.

Now, tomorrow, the U.S. Supreme Court is going to hear the case of these two American families and see if they can be forced by their government to go against their religious moral objections. This is a historic moment. It is one that will have ramifications forever in our country. What do we stand for? What will we allow our government to do and inflict on our lives?

My colleagues and I are here tonight to share the concerns we have as we stand up for the people that we represent and for what our Founders started this country on and why we want to stand for future generations, to protect those freedoms that those who have gone before us stood up and fought for us, for our generation. And we hope and pray that the Supreme Court will uphold the Constitution and will not jeopardize it or trample on it.

So I thank my colleagues for coming tonight, and I would like to ask my friend from Ohio, BOB LATTA, to share his thoughts on this very important historic moment.

□ 2045

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for first hosting this Special Order tonight, and I appreciate you recognizing me to speak here tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of our First Amendment rights and in support of the millions of American jobs, livelihoods, and health care plans that are now in jeopardy as a result of the ObamaCare HHS mandate.

Tomorrow, the Supreme Court will be hearing oral arguments in both the Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood Specialties v. Sebelius cases challenging the constitutionality of the ObamaCare HHS mandate. I am hopeful that the court will recognize and acknowledge that the mandate unquestionably infringes upon Americans' rights of conscience and the freedom to live and work according to one's faith or religious beliefs.

This ObamaCare mandate wrongfully forces American citizens to choose between their conscience or face oppressive fines, as the gentlelady has already pointed out, that will undoubtedly destroy family-owned businesses across this great country. Equally alarming is that this mandate will drive employers to stop offering health insurance coverage to their employees altogether to escape the encroaching hand of government that is coercing individuals to violate their fundamental freedoms.

We have to remember this is occurring at a time when ObamaCare is cutting millions of jobs and forcing taxpayers from full-time jobs to part-time jobs. This is unacceptable and completely contrary to the tradition of our country and the principles of our democratic government.

My hope and the hope of millions of other Americans is that the Supreme Court will act to protect Americans from this government infringement and reassert the full scope and intent of the liberties conferred upon all citizens through the First Amendment.

I again thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mrs. HARTZLER. I thank Representative LATTA, and you brought up a great point, of how employees can lose coverage. They have health insurance now, these two families are offering it, but an option they have is to drop coverage completely. How is that helpful to these hardworking Americans who work there?

Now I would like to turn to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENTIVOLIO).

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for giving me this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I, along with 71 of my colleagues, have signed on to the brief in support of Hobby Lobby. We must fight for religious freedom. In responding to the Hobby Lobby case, the President has acknowledged how critical religious liberty is to our freedom. I couldn't agree more.

There is a reason why the Bill of Rights prioritizes our right to religious freedom: our Founders knew people could never be free if they could not worship in a manner they found appropriate. Sadly, ObamaCare takes away that right by forcing Americans to participate in a practice they are morally opposed to. ObamaCare is more about forcing Americans to follow a certain dogma rather than promoting a healthy society.

Tomorrow, the Supreme Court will hear the advocates for religious liberty pitted against the voice in support of government moralism. From Plessy v. Ferguson to Roe v. Wade to the ObamaCare ruling, we have seen how a handful of judges can take away our natural rights. I pray the Supreme Court will rule on the side of American liberty.

The Supreme Court must protect the First Amendment. The foundation of our Nation rests upon it.

Mrs. HARTZLER. I thank Representative BENTIVOLIO. Well said. Foundational principle: religious liberty. I thank you very much for that.

Now I turn to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) to share her thoughts on this historic moment.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I thank the gentlelady from Missouri for hosting this important discussion because nothing could be more important and more basic to every American than standing on the principle of our First Amendment rights of speech and religious expression.

You know, it was very interesting, just the week before last we had an expert on James Madison speaking to us, and he wrote a book about Madison. Madison is the author of our First Amendment, and we had the document in Madison's own handwriting where he had his First Amendment. James Madison crossed out the word ''full toleration'' when it came to religious liberties, and instead he inserted not just belief but also the free exercise, the acting of our beliefs. This is what America is about. We are standing here in the well of the House of Representatives, the most important forum for freedom of speech in the world, and just beyond the double doors of this Chamber lies the rotunda, and in the rotunda is a painting of the Pilgrims, and the Pilgrims are on their knees before they come to the United States. It is the ''Embarkation of the Pilgrims.'' They have open before them a copy of the Bible, the Geneva Bible, turned to the New Testament. And why was it that the Pilgrims came to the United States? They searched for religious freedom and toleration.

One thing that the bill that will be before the Supreme Court tomorrow addresses is this issue: will toleration be a two-way street? I think it is. Toleration should not be just the government-enforced coercion of government's beliefs on every American, because that is what is happening in a family business, for the Green family with Hobby Lobby or the Hahn family with Conestoga. This is the government enforcing its beliefs down the

throats of two family-owned businesses, and what is at stake is not just the rights of the people who own the business. What about the rights of those who work in the business, the employees? They also have moral rights and protections. These businesses pay very good wages and they offer very good benefits to their employees. So here is what we are being looking at: either the business pays over $36,000 a year per employee for the price of standing up for their moral beliefs, or they have to give up health insurance altogether for their employees and pay the government a $2,000 fine per employee. Who, I ask you, benefits? That is dealing with a case that is coming before the court tomorrow.

An even more fundamental issue is at stake, and it is this: here we are, Representatives of the United States Congress, and we are having to fight President Obama on whether or not we can retain our constitutional rights and liberties. That is what is at stake.

We are standing here for the Constitution. We are standing here for every man and every woman in the United States that agrees with those rights. This is a discussion worth having. I thank the Speaker. I thank the gentlelady from Missouri. Tomorrow is an extremely important day, and I thank God for all of the wonderful Members of Congress who are standing up for these important issues. They are not negotiable. They are not for sale at any price.

Mrs. HARTZLER. I thank Representative BACHMANN. Very well said. I thank God for Members here as well who are standing up for religious freedoms. I thought she said it so well: Is toleration going to be a two-way street, or are we going to allow this government to impose its will, its morals on the rest of us? Thank you for sharing.

Now I turn to my fellow friend from Missouri, Representative ANN WAGNER, and look forward to hearing what she has to say.

Mrs. WAGNER. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for hosting this Special Order. There is no greater defender or champion for faith or family or freedom than Congresswoman VICKY HARTZLER.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to protect the conscience of the American people. Since taking office in January of last year, I have heard from countless constituents on how the government is abusing their individual freedoms under ObamaCare over and over again.

I recently heard from my constituent, George, a seminarian from St. Louis County, about the administration's mandate. He notes that what the administration is asking Catholic hospitals and nonprofits to do is in direct opposition to our Catholic beliefs. He writes to me:

> Mrs. WAGNER, I ask you to please stand up for us. We are being persecuted and unjustly forced to comply with procedures that are in conflict with our own beliefs.

As George articulated, the United States Federal Government is currently discriminating against its citizens of faith in this country.

One of this country's founding principles is the freedom to worship without interference by the Federal Government. Our forefathers did not flee from oppressive nations, build a country on liberties, and emblaze them in the Bill of Rights just for this administration to trample on them over and over again.

Yet the rule issued by the administration under ObamaCare does just that. This administration now mandates that religious nonprofits and businesses must provide health care benefits that go against their fundamental beliefs. If businesses and nonprofits do not comply with this mandate, they are penalized with crippling fines that the gentlewoman from Missouri has talked about. These fines can go up to $100 per day per employee. This means that if a business decides to provide health care but does not comply with the mandate, they can owe up to $36,500 for one employee for the year. This is in comparison to the $2,000 they could owe for not providing any health insurance—any health insurance—for that same employee at all.

Mr. Speaker, not only does this not make any sense, it is discrimination by the Federal Government and it is wrong. This mandate puts the jobs, the livelihoods, and the health care of millions of Americans at risk. It forces those who stand up for their conscience to choose between paying detrimental fines that could shut down their business or dropping health care coverage, as has been discussed before, completely for their employees altogether.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you: Should the Federal Government be allowed to tell the St. Louis Post-Dispatch what they can and cannot print? Should the Federal Government tell my neighbors in Ballwin, Missouri, what they can and cannot say about their government leaders? Should the Federal Government tell George, the seminarian from St. Louis County, what he can and cannot preach?

Mr. Speaker, while in many parts of the world authoritarian governments control the press, prohibit freedom of speech, and only allow for certain beliefs, that cannot be the case in the United States of America. We will not, I believe, stand by and watch this administration strip away our freedoms. I will continue to fight on behalf of the constituents of Missouri and all the American people to keep this the land of the free.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, ANN. That was great. It really goes back to people like George. The individuals are having their liberties violated, and it is wrong. It is just chilling what he said: Are we going to allow this government to discriminate against citizens of faith? We don't want that to happen. Thank you for your comments.

Now we turn to someone who knows personally one of these families who started their business in a garage, followed the American Dream, succeeded, provided jobs, and now that is in jeopardy. I turn to Representative JAMES LANKFORD from Oklahoma to give us your insights in this moment of history.

Mr. LANKFORD. I thank the gentlelady for hosting this conversation and for standing up for liberty. I have seen you on this floor over and over again, speaking up for what is right in our Nation. I very much appreciate that.

When a family runs their business by the principles of their faith, which those principles used to be protected in America, can a President step in and say: I disagree with your faith, and so I will pass a regulation.

This is very important because some people believe this is written into the law. It is not. This is a regulation that was selected by this President. Can a President step in and say, I am going to create a new regulation that you can no longer practice your faith at work? You can practice your faith at home, but you can't practice your faith at work.

Hobby Lobby is a family-owned business. It doesn't want Washington to be its boss. They believe that abortion takes the life of a child and that every child deserves the chance at life. What is wrong with that?

If a Federal employee disagrees with the faith practice of someone in a company, does that business have to change their faith, change it to the faith of the Federal employee, or can they keep their own faith?

□ 2100

It is now the rule that to open a company or to work in a job or to get health care, you have to have the same religious convictions as the President of the United States.

If you don't, you will be fined until you change your faith practice. That is not what we are founded on; that is not who we are—every faith, every opportunity for every person to live out what they believe at home, at work, and in the community.

Just days ago, the President spoke at the National Prayer Breakfast about the cornerstone right of the free expression of religion. That includes Americans who believe that children are a gift of God and they should be nurtured and cared for, not discarded as tissue.

Washington is not the boss of every American. Our Constitution matters, freedom of religion matters, and, quite frankly, children matter.

This family is not some corporate ogre trying to rule over their employees. They are my neighbor. They live a mile from my house. They are a quiet family. They are a great family that has lived out their faith. They are a tremendous community partner in so many ways in our community and around the country and, quite frankly,

around the globe with what they have done to take care of the poor and the needy and the people of faith all over the world.

They are an incredible gift to our Nation, yet they are being told: you cannot practice your faith anymore.

This is not something new that they are doing. The government changed the rules on them. They didn't change their practice. Suddenly, a new administration walked in and changed the rules and said: you can no longer live your faith at work.

Well, I am honored that they have stepped up and they have said not so, not so for their business, not so for businesses around the country. All of us have seen the lists and lists and lists of waivers that this administration has given for the Affordable Care Act, waivers for the employer mandate, waivers for the income and verification requirements, waivers for the Small Business Health Options Program, a waiver just given a month ago.

The administration delayed the requirement for businesses with fewer than 100 employees to offer health insurance until 2016; and then this one, just March the 5th, a few days ago, the administration announced it will allow people to keep noncompliant insurance plans through 2016—that is, noncompliant except in this area.

In this one area, they have said: no, we are not going to give a waiver for that one; instead, we will fine you $36,500. Everyone else that is noncompliant, we will give you a waiver, except for Hobby Lobby and other businesses like them. They get no waiver. They get the hammer.

Is that fair? Is that right? Is this what we have really become as a Nation? I think better of us.

I look forward to the Supreme Court taking up this case and setting things straight because, in this country, we have a constitutional right to speak out and to live out our faith.

With that, I yield back to the gentlelady.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, Representative LANKFORD. I am so glad you shared about this family. You know them. What a treasure they really are to our Nation and the world, as you said, and truly courageous, standing up, putting their business on the line, saying this is worth fighting for. Those who have gone before us have fought for us. Now, it is time for us to stand up and fight. Thank you for sharing that.

You are right. They are trying to change the regulations. You can't practice your faith at work, being coerced to change your faith practice, gave waivers to others, but they give the Green family the hammer. Well said. Thank you.

Now, I turn to someone who knows the other family involved in the Supreme Court decision, who has the honor of representing the Hahn family. That is my friend and courageous leader for faith, family, freedom, for years, Representative JOE PITTS.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to thank the gentlelady for hosting this Special Order. This is so important because, tomorrow, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in the case of Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood Specialties against Sebelius. I have the privilege, tomorrow, to sit in the Chamber and listen to the oral arguments.

At the heart of the argument is the question about whether you stop following your conscience when you go into business. For family businesses like Conestoga Wood Specialties, located in my Congressional district, faith and business are not separate.

Their business would not be the same if they did not apply the values that guide their life. I visited this business. I have talked to their employees. I know the Hahn family. They are sincere Mennonites and wonderful people of faith and good business people.

It is those values that prompted Conestoga Wood to provide quality health insurance to their employees in the first place. They provided health insurance long before this regulation or mandate came along under ObamaCare.

No government mandate had to tell them that it was the right thing to do. Now, the government wants to use force and fines to stipulate the details of what that plan covers. Conestoga Wood and many other businessowners of faith now find themselves in a catch-22 of conscience.

The First Amendment and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act were meant to guard against using the heavy hand of government to infringe on our religious rights. We should not have to leave our faith at the church door.

Under the First Amendment, we are guaranteed freedom of religion, and I might remind you, it is the First Amendment. It is not the Second Amendment. It is not the Sixth or the 16th or the 26th. It is the First Amendment. It is the first thing mentioned in the First Amendment—freedom of religion, not freedom from religion.

Pennsylvania has a long history of people of differing faiths engaging in commerce. 100 years before there was a First Amendment, William Penn established his colony as a place where religious dissenters could find freedom and safety.

The Forefathers of the Hahn family—Mennonites and others—came to Pennsylvania because it was advertised as a place where you could live and work freely according to your religious beliefs.

These people of faith supported themselves with businesses, and the colonial authorities in Pennsylvania let them apply their principles freely. These principles of religious freedom would later inform the founding of our Republic, and something that had at first been uniquely Pennsylvanian would become part of our national culture.

Family-owned and -operated businesses provide millions of good jobs in America. The Hahn family is facing a difficult choice that no American should have to face.

We hope and pray that the Supreme Court will uphold a basic Pennsylvania value and a basic American value and the First Amendment right to religious freedom.

Every American, including family businessowners, should be free to live and work according to their beliefs without the fear of punishment or coercion by the government.

Americans don't give up their freedom when they open a family business. Let's hope and pray that the Supreme Court will uphold all of our rights to religious freedom here in this great country we call America.

I yield back.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, gentlemen. So true. Family-owned businesses have a right to not be coerced into giving up their faith just for providing jobs.

Now, I would like to turn to my friend and truly a leader here for families and life and common sense, Representative CHRIS SMITH.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague from Missouri for her outstanding leadership on behalf of the life issues, for her courage, and for her consistent approach to these vital issues that really are also passing. She has been a leader for so long. Thank you for organizing this, this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I, like my colleagues, am grateful that the U.S. Supreme Court took up this critical case for religious liberty; and I—we, Mr. Speaker, are hopeful that the court will provide much-needed relief from this discriminatory ObamaCare policy.

Under the Obama administration's coercive mandate, family-owned businesses like Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood have found themselves in the impossible situation of being forced to violate their moral or religious beliefs or face crippling fines. This not only puts businesses in serious and unnecessary risk, but also employees who may lose their jobs, as well as their health care.

It is the height of hypocrisy, Mr. Speaker, for the Obama administration to coerce family businesses that provide generous health care for their employees into a situation that may force them to close and to shutter their businesses.

The ObamaCare financial penalties are draconian, egregious, and without precedent in U.S. law. Under ObamaCare, family businesses that do provide health care for employees, like the Hobby Lobby, but object to covering certain drugs and devices—in their case, that provide for abortions—will be fined up to $36,500 per year, per employee. That is outrageous.

For the Green family of Hobby Lobby, this could mean an amount to nearly half a billion dollars in fines every year. There is no way they can absorb that kind of body blow without closing their doors.

I would note, parenthetically, that a company that does not provide any health care insurance—the gentlelady from Missouri spoke about this in her opening comments—will be fined some $2,000 per year, clearly, an unfair burden, but far less than the $36,500 per year, per employee, if they refuse, again, to include certain drugs or devices that violate their moral or religious tenets.

When you calculate that out for the Green family of Hobby Lobby, dumping their existing health care coverage for employees could result in fines up to $26 million per year; again, a huge penalty, but that is still $448 million less than if they actually provided health insurance and remained true to their core convictions, which they will do.

Mr. Speaker, this burdensome penalty is completely unfair, unreasonable. It is unworkable, and it is unconscionable. The Obama administration is saying: we will punish you, we will hurt you, we will even put you out of business for providing health care to your employees, unless you provide health care according to the government's conscience.

Also, employees currently on their business health plan could lose their coverage that they desperately need for their families, as well as for themselves. Secretary Sebelius and President Obama have no business whatsoever imposing their morality on people of faith, but that is exactly what their oppressive mandate does.

The Supreme Court, Mr. Speaker, has a duty to protect the religious and conscience rights of the Greens and the Hahns and everyone else suffering government-imposed harm. The U.S. high court must act to protect the First Amendment rights of these families. Protecting these rights also protects their employees.

Let's make no mistake about it, Mr. Speaker. This mandate and its deleterious effects and consequences are very much Obama's willful intention. The imposition of this attack on religious freedom is no accident. It comes straight from the pages of ObamaCare.

In December of 2009, in the runup to the passage of that legislation, Senator MIKULSKI offered an amendment which provided the authorizing language for this oppressive mandate.

In 2009, the same year, when President Obama spoke at Notre Dame University, which parenthetically is also suing over the mandate, he spoke about drafting a sensible conscience clause—his words—and yet, today, protection of conscience is another highly visible broken promise of ObamaCare.

Mr. Speaker, to tell people that their conscience is irrelevant and that they must follow the Federal Government's conscience, rather than their own, is completely antithetical to the American principle of religious freedom and the First Amendment.

Unless reversed, Obama's attack on conscience rights will result in government-imposed discrimination against those who seek according to their faith and their moral code.

Under the weight of the mandate's ruinous fines and penalties, many businesses could be forced to shut down, eliminating jobs. I would never have believed that this kind of religious violation could occur in the United States of America, but it has. The Supreme Court must end this abuse.

I yield back to my good friend.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Absolutely. This is a moment in history, a moment of opportunity, for this Supreme Court to stand up and to do the right thing. Half a billion dollars in fines, half a billion dollars in fines this company is facing. Thank you for bringing home what that means.

□ 2115

You know they are going to coerce. You said that it is draconian, that it is unprecedented, that they are going to force you. That is the definition of a bully. ''We are going to bully you into doing what we think is right.'' We stand up against that in every other arena, and we are standing up against it here as well.

Now I would like to turn to my friend from Nebraska, Representative JEFF FORTENBERRY, to share his thoughts at this moment in history.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. First, let me thank the gentlelady from Missouri for her leadership, not only tonight, but on this absolutely most critical issue.

Mr. Speaker, there is an important court case tomorrow, one that has come upon our country fairly quietly. I am not sure most Americans actually know what is at issue here. What is at issue is whether or not the relationship between the government and her people will fundamentally shift, whether the government will be able to coerce people who disagree as to the content of what their health care should be based upon their religious faiths or their deeply held ethical sensibilities. If they don't obey, they will be fined, as was mentioned here earlier.

In a very ironic way, the case before the Supreme Court tomorrow is about whether or not Hobby Lobby, a store at which millions of Americans, I assume, enjoy shopping—at which I enjoy shopping—that very outwardly celebrates, projects, its Christian perspective in the way it conducts its business. I assume, because of that perspective—the desire to do the right thing by their employees—they have established a good health care plan. If they drop their health care plan, they will be fined $2,000 by the government. That is all they will have to pay. Yet, if they refuse to go along with that which violates their religious perspective and fundamental ethical sensibilities, the government will fine them $36,000.

Again, the irony here is striking in that a business that is doing the right thing, which is based upon the values of their owners, which promotes good products that millions of Americans enjoy, which closes on Sunday because that is their stated Christian belief and because that is the way they choose to exercise it—I don't see any lawsuits over that—nonetheless is saying, in their health care plan, they simply cannot provide certain drugs that would violate the dictate of their faith, certain drugs that this administration has deemed ''preventative.''

Another irony here is, when most of us were looking at the health care bill when it was first passed, there was a portion that was put in there called ''prevention services.'' Now, I did not vote for the health care bill. I believe we need the right type of health care in our country, one that actually reduces costs and improves health care outcomes and protects vulnerable people; but what we have instead is a huge shift of cost to unsustainable government spending and a serious erosion of health care liberties. We can do better than this. We must do better than this.

Buried in that health care bill was prevention authority. To me, that means that we are going to try to prevent the onset of diabetes or the onset of heart disease—chronic disease—which is part of what is driving up our health care costs and which is that we could maybe get underneath if we were all thinking about and adhering to the principles and dynamics of wellness. That is what I thought it was about. Instead, it is an ideology of the administration's that is imposing upon people of faith or other Americans who simply do not have a faith perspective on this but who know that religious freedom is a first freedom and the government should not coerce people from their deeply held, reasonably held belief systems or those who have ethical sensibilities to certain types of drugs and procedures. That is what is at issue here, and if it goes the wrong way, the relationship between the government and her people will ultimately change.

You see, the government will then be conferring this right of religious liberty, not protecting it. It will be deciding who gets to exercise what type of religious liberty rather than protecting the individual conscience of the person—that sacred space that is inherent to the dignity of all persons—which is where our rights actually come from. In the First Amendment of the Constitution, this is clearly stated, and it is reflected in the ideals of religious liberty and in the separation of church and State. I have a copy of the original Bill of Rights—not the ''original'' original but a copy of the original—in my office, and actually penciled in there, as they were working through the draft, is ''the rights of conscience.'' That concept actually precedes the principle of religious freedom because it says, again, rights are not conferred by the government. They come from the inherent dignity of each person by virtue of who he is and the way in which he has been created; and that person's ability to exercise who he is in the most poignant way, particularly in his religious faith, is a sacred space

that the government must protect. That is why they listed it as the number one spot in the Bill of Rights, but that is what tomorrow is about.

In the aftermath of the French Revolution, there was a young child born named Jeanne Jugan. She was one of eight children, and they lived in the west coast of France, and her father was a fisherman. One day, he was lost at sea, and the family was reduced to poverty. As a teenager, Jeanne Jugan went out and worked as a maid servant, doing servile labor, to help the family and to help sustain herself. She received a proposal of marriage, but in her own discernment decided that was not appropriate for her, and she, apparently, lived a quiet and humble life.

One day, outside in the cold, she saw a woman who was blind and paralyzed and freezing, and she picked her up and brought her to her own bed. This was a key turning point in Jeanne Jugan's life. Perhaps she always knew her life would turn out this way. There was a religious order called the Little Sisters of the Poor, which traced its origins back to that simple act of kindness, to Jeanne Jugan. She was canonized a saint by Pope John Paul after a medical doctor from the Omaha area of Nebraska received a miraculous cure after having asked for her intercession. She was recently canonized a saint. The Little Sisters of the Poor are not nuns on a bus, and they are not political activists. They just take care of the vulnerable elderly through health care facilities. Yet they find themselves having to sue the Federal Government to be able to exercise their religious freedom as they see fit.

That is what this health care bill has brought about through this prevention mandate. It is a direct frontal assault on America's first freedom, so much so that a group of humble nuns—and as I spoke to one, she told me: In the elderly, we just see Christ—that has dedicated its life to the poor and vulnerable in health care is now having to fight in the court system for its right to exercise its religious faith as it sees fit.

So tomorrow's decision, while it is about two very strong businesses—Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood—has very vast ramifications. Even the people who are in religious orders who have set up charitable institutions are being forced by the government to, again, buy products through their health care plans for their employees, products that are inconsistent with their faith traditions. As one of the nuns told me: It violates our conscience. We didn't want to sue the government, but yet here we are.

I am glad to have had a little bit of opportunity with you tonight, my good friend VICKY HARTZLER, to discuss this most essential of issues because, if we don't speak, who is going to speak? I am not quite sure that all of America has really realized what is at stake at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning—whether the government will be allowed to coerce Americans into violating that fundamental first freedom of religious faith and the rights of conscience. If so, it will be tremendously unfair. It is un-American. It will change the nature of the relationship between government and her people. Let's hope that the Supreme Court gets this right. There have been a few precedents before this in which they have gotten it right. In fact, the Little Sisters of the Poor has gotten an injunction so that this is not being forced upon it at the moment.

The deeper principle here that is at stake is whether or not the First Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees the right to religious freedom—an appropriate separation between church and State—is going to hold and remain that most cherished freedom in our country to come.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, gentleman.

A fundamental shift this would represent, you said. The relationship between the government and her citizens will forever change. That is chilling.

I appreciate your sharing the story of the Little Sisters of the Poor to show that this isn't just about the two entities that are before the Supreme Court tomorrow. In fact, there are 94 different lawsuits around the country from other small businesses and entities and colleges and others that, too, are being forced into this. So this has huge implications, not just for the 94 that have bravely, courageously stood up and said ''no'' and challenged it, but for each and every citizen.

With that, I would like to thank my friend, Representative DAN LIPINSKI from Illinois, for coming here today. I appreciate his leadership of the Pro-Life Caucus and of other pro-family liberty issues.

So thank you for coming. What would you like to share tonight?

Mr. LIPINSKI. I thank Mrs. HARTZLER for yielding and for her leadership on this critical issue, which is not just as partisan issue. I am a Democrat. I know this is not a partisan issue—religious liberty.

This is not even just a foundational American principle. It is a fundamental human right. Many of the men and women who came to America were fleeing religious persecution and were searching for a place where they could freely exercise their faiths. They had the courage to pledge their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to the cause. As a number of my colleagues have stated, the First Amendment to our Constitution starts with these words: ''Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.'' I used to teach my American Government students that, clearly, this was not freedom to worship—just the freedom to go on Sunday or Saturday or whatever day of the week that you worshiped—but a freedom to exercise religion in the way they see proper.

As First Lady Michelle Obama stated at a conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, our faith journey isn't just about showing up on Sunday; it is about what we do Monday through Saturday as well.

That is what Americans believe, and we must protect the freedom to exercise our religious beliefs every day of the week. Many millions have had the courage to fight, and many have died to protect our Nation in this constitutional right. We all have a duty to our fellow Americans and to the world to reclaim a true religious liberty in our Nation because this goes beyond our borders. America has been a beacon of liberty for people around the world for more than two centuries. As people blessed with liberty, we have a special obligation to protect it and to proclaim it for all the world to see. Especially today, as we see around the world attacks on religious freedom, we must stand up here in America.

I want to thank all of my colleagues for standing up here today and for continuing to work in Congress to protect our religious freedom, and I want to pray for wisdom for our Supreme Court Justices tomorrow as they consider this very critical, fundamental case. We all must rededicate ourselves and continue to fight for religious freedom in our Nation, without which freedom we would be giving up on a fundamental principle that underlies this greatest of nations.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, Representative LIPINSKI.

It is so true that we are and have been the beacon of liberty for this world, and this Court decision tomorrow has implications for not only our country and its citizens but for those around the world. I, too, was a teacher, and I appreciate that, how we taught our students what the basic rights were, but this decision will impact their futures, too. If government can force its citizens to go against their basic, most fundamental, moral values and consciences, what else can it do?

With that, Representative ANDY HARRIS of Maryland, thank you for being here tonight. The floor is yours.

Mr. HARRIS. I want to thank the gentlelady from Missouri for hosting this Special Order hour this evening.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois talked about people who come to this country in fleeing religious persecution. As the gentlelady may be aware, my mother emigrated from Ukraine. She was, in fact, a Ukrainian Greek Catholic. As the gentlelady probably knows of the history, when the Soviet Union took over Ukraine, they persecuted the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, burning them to the ground. It is ironic that we are discussing this here—and that the Supreme Court will be taking up this issue—as we are seeing what is going on with religious persecution in Ukraine this week and last week, where the church in Dora, for instance—the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church—burned to the ground because, you see, the Russian Government didn't agree with the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church's beliefs.

□ 2130

So what do they do? They burn churches to the ground.

It is interesting. We have to learn the lesson, though, because they tried that. After World War II, the Soviet Union tried to destroy churches that way, but they learned the lesson that the church is not the building. The church is the group of believers who share common, deeply held religious beliefs. That is why when the Soviet Union fell, the churches that they thought they had burned to the ground rose up.

I would suggest that what is going on in Oklahoma City with Hobby Lobby and in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, with Conestoga Wood Products is a church burning without a match. In fact, it is even more insidious because you can't see something. You can't see the ashes. But in fact, if the government has its way with these two employers, they will attempt to persecute them for their religious beliefs and attempt to destroy them. That is not the way it is in America.

As the gentleman from Illinois said, there are plenty of places in the world where that may be true, but we do have a First Amendment. We have a First Amendment that doesn't protect church buildings, it protects religious believers in whatever walk of life they are in, whatever they are doing, from the government imposing their belief system, whether it is the case of a belief of a religious body or a belief that you shouldn't provide life-destroying drugs. Because that is what is at issue in these cases.

And I would hope that the Supreme Court realizes that this country does have a First Amendment and that its job, its duty, our duty is to protect the religious beliefs of every individual, including those owners of Conestoga Wood Products and Hobby Lobby, who deserve the right and freedom in America to believe their religious beliefs and not have the government impose theirs.

So I thank the gentlelady from Missouri.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Well said. Thank you for sharing your story.

I now have a friend from Kansas, Representative TIM HUELSKAMP.

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Thank you, Congresswoman. It is a pleasure and honor to join you tonight. I will keep my comments short.

You have heard the words here tonight. You have heard the words ''religion tax.'' You have heard the words ''religious litmus test.'' You certainly heard the words ''religious liberty.'' Of course, we also heard that the principles of the First Amendment have to do with religious liberty and religious freedom.

I was on the floor the day after the Supreme Court decision on the President's health care law, and I would like to issue a challenge to what is generally considered the swing vote of this current court, the Chief Justice himself.

When I spoke about this issue, court challenges were already coming forward on this HHS mandate, but knowing that the Chief Justice is a Roman Catholic, I issue a strong challenge to the Chief Justice.

Given the history of the Catholic Church in this country, it has been one of severe discrimination at times. I would ask the Chief Justice—the deciding vote—to consider his core convictions. I believe he bears a particular burden to protect the religious liberties of employers and their employees from the excesses of his very own constitutional creation.

The court asked to be in the middle of this position. They asked for the government to have the right to tell businesses what to do, whether for profit or nonprofit or businesses or non-businesses as well.

What is at stake here is not the choice of businesses alone. What is at stake here is not necessarily what the government can tell selected entities. At stake is our Constitution and our rights and freedoms as Americans.

We were founded on the issue of religious freedom and liberty from our very beginning. Tomorrow, I stand with the businesses, the non-businesses, and the private entities as well.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, gentleman. Well said.

We have been here, and we are not done yet. My time is about done, but we are going to continue on here because we believe in standing up for the Constitution. We believe in the First Amendment: religious liberty. We believe in our country and our future and our children's future. We want to preserve those freedoms that others have sacrificed for.

So I want to thank all my colleagues who have come here tonight and have shared their wisdom and their insights into this. Let us pray tomorrow that the Supreme Court hears the words that we have spoken and rules on the side of freedom.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE CONSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for the remainder of the time until 10 p.m.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield to my friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

Mr. ROTHFUS. I thank the gentleman from Texas. I also want to thank the gentlelady from Missouri for organizing the previous hour's discussion on this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the people of faith at companies like Hobby Lobby and Pennsylvania's Conestoga Wood. These companies want to provide health insurance for their workers, and they should be able to do that without violating their deeply held religious and moral convictions.

It is simply unacceptable that President Obama's health care law requires people of faith to violate their conscience rights. This happens when regulations issued pursuant to the law forces them to pay for services such as abortifacient drugs when they provide health insurance for their employees.

The hostility in the President's health care law towards people of faith is made clear when you consider the penalty scheme in the law. If these family-owned businesses do not comply with the mandate, they could be fined $100 per day per employee. That amounts to $36,500 per year per employee, even if the health insurance provided is of excellent quality.

Compare that with the $2,000 fine per year per employee if they stopped offering insurance altogether.

How is that fair, just, or respectful of their beliefs?

This poster, Mr. Speaker, is striking. This discrepancy is simply indefensible. Looking at these numbers, you would think that this administration thinks that it is more important for an employer to provide abortifacient drug coverage than it is to provide comprehensive health insurance coverage that would cover items such as cancer treatment.

As the Supreme Court considers this case tomorrow and hears oral arguments, I join men and women of faith from western Pennsylvania and across the country in defending conscience rights and religious liberty, and standing with Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood.

I thank the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank my friend from Pennsylvania very much. They are very, very good points.

Also along the lines my friend was talking about, some of us were here when our fine President stood at that podium and spoke to all of us here and he said in his speech that in his bill there would be no funding of abortion. We all heard that. In fact, there was such an involuntary response of JOE WILSON to categorize that statement. From the bill, we had seen from the Democrats it was clear there was going to be money forced out of taxpayers' hands and forced to fund abortion, and we now know that is true.

Most of the time, the decent thing to do, if you find out that something you said was simply not true, the decent thing to do is to step up and say, You know what? JOE WILSON, you were right, but it was unintentional. I didn't mean to misrepresent anything. So I want to set this straight.

Instead, it is like this administration has doubled down and said not only is the government funding it, but you are going to have to fund abortion for your employees, and it doesn't matter that you have firmly held religious convictions against it.

I just wanted to mention to my colleagues that before I came to the floor

to hear the wonderful work that our friend Mrs. HARTZLER has been doing—is she from the ''Show Me'' State or what—I walked by where Roger Williams' statue has always been since I have been here. Apparently, they have moved statues, because he is not there. It has been in the last week I know they have moved Roger Williams.

Roger Williams was born in England between 1603 and 1606. He grew up a member of a privileged class. He received a liberal arts education from Sir Edward Coke.

This is from the Capitol Web site.

He abandoned the study of law to become a priest in the Church of England. He was interested in the Puritan movement and the newly established Massachusetts Bay Colony. He was warmly welcomed to the New World by Massachusetts Governor John Winthrop. He arrived in Boston.

Williams was an adamant separatist. He accepted a post as an assistant pastor in Salem, reputedly a friendly place. However, his teachings were deemed radical, and he was banished from Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635. He founded the colony of Rhode Island in 1636.

I know each State gets to choose which two statues you want to have. I look forward to him coming back. I am sure that they would never have permanently removed the statue of the founder of Rhode Island. There is nobody I can think of more appropriate.

I just thought it probably is appropriate that a man that staked his entire life on religious freedom would not have his statue here to figuratively witness what has gone on and what has passed in this Capitol.

To talk about this issue further, I want to yield to my friend from Georgia, DOUG COLLINS.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding. I also thank the gentlewoman from Missouri, who started our night off. I think there has been a lot said as we go forward in bringing this important matter.

I want to take just a little bit of a different tack as we talk about the issues of tonight.

I believe we are blessed to live in a time when medical research and technology have allowed us to extend and improve human life in ways we never thought possible, and the truth of this matter is that why we are standing here tonight is about life. It is about an understanding of life, and it is about the life not only of the unborn, but also those born, and the right to express the life that is given to them.

From the moment of conception, each individual has unique DNA that dictates his or her gender, eye color, blood type, and countless other specifications. Even from his or her earliest moments, a child in the womb has the ability to respond to his or her environment, as well as adapt to that environment.

These scientific facts are amazing, but I have an even deeper motivation for protecting human life because I believe life is a gift from God. I believe that that gift from God is also expressed and was expressed by the Founders when they said that they would stand up for the right to express our religious liberties. As ROGER WILLIAMS was just spoken of, that right to say: This is what I believe, and this is why I am in this country.

And that is what we are talking about here. It is not only life at birth and in the womb, but it is life expressed outside of that and the God-given, I believe, rights that are expressed in our Constitution.

So for me, I not only understand that life begins at conception, but life continues all through until natural death. That natural life here in America is expressed in ways that we can contribute our life to others. How we express it should not be taken away.

Unfortunately, this administration is too preoccupied with its own ideological commitment to its definition of good health insurance to care about other points of view. That is why it continues spending so much time and energy and, by the way, taxpayer resources trying to silence those who do not share its view of the contraceptive mandate.

Just a few months ago, I stood on the floor of this House and thought I would never have come to the House of Representatives and ever determined that it would have been non-essential to have religious liberty protected on the floor of this House or in this country.

□ 2145

That is just an amazing thought to me, that we would even have to think about that; but under the President's nonsensical policies that was just expressed by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, businessowners would face fines of $36,500 for each employer every year they were offered health insurance consistent with their religious convictions.

On the other hand, they could just quit offering health care altogether and only pay $2,000.

Tell me what the priorities of this administration are, and I will show you the money. I have always said: you want to see the priorities of somebody in life, look at their checkbook, and look at their calendar.

This administration's priorities are found in their checkbook, and they are found in their calendar because that is what they want to punish us for, and they have got a timeline to do it, and they said now is the time.

That is the argument to be made by the Supreme Court tomorrow, the argument you want to step forward with Hobby Lobby and others, that when they step forth before those Justices tomorrow, they say here is the priority of this country.

The priority of this country should be that it protects religious liberties, it protects what is found in the Constitution, it protects those liberties upon which we were founded and not an ideological agenda driven by points it made by hurting others.

I agree with my friend from Texas. I was always taught that, when you make a mistake, just say: look, I made a mistake.

But that is not what this administration wants to do. They want to continue to beat an ideological driven policy. They went to continue to beat down and say: this is what we believe, and you will believe like us because we are not so sure that the essentials of the Constitution are essential anymore.

It is time that I hope tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, that the argument made before the highest court in the land is that there is a right to protect life, that there is a right, even better, to have religious liberty protected; and that, when I get up and I go in or I have my business, that those rights aren't checked at the door, and that, when you look at priorities of this country—when, God forbid, they look back a number of years from now and they say: I hope they stood up for the rights that the Constitutional Founders founded.

And when they do that, then they will see our priorities. They will see the ones on this floor tonight, and they will say what is priority is what we spend on and what we plan on.

For this administration, it is obvious that theirs is an ideological driven agenda that says the Constitution only when it is convenient, and I will only pay for it, but I will punish you if you don't.

Mr. Speaker, that is wrong. It is time to change it.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank my friend from Georgia so very much. I need to come to where he preaches some time and get some more of that good preaching. That was outstanding; and I know, as a servant to the country in Congress and our military, as he is, as well as a servant of Christ, what a powerful message.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, you may not be aware—I wasn't until today—in past times, when there was oral arguments in which Members of Congress were interested, we could call over to the Clerk of the Supreme Court, and they normally just make one bench—sometimes more—but at least one pew there available for Members of Congress, either as the Speaker would allocate or first come.

But anyway, the Marshal of the Supreme Court, Pamela Talkin, has decided that, though it has always been reciprocity in the past, we invite the Supreme Court to come and watch speeches they may care to, reciprocity between the House and Senate, the Marshal, Pamela Talkin, perhaps she got guidance from one of the Justices or the Chief Justice, but Members of Congress are not going to have a reserved spot, which is interesting. We are supposed to oversee that Court, just as they oversee the Congress.

So as of today, I am going to be the most outspoken supporter of getting cameras in the Supreme Court. I think it is time. If they are going to do something untoward, we need to have people be able to see it.

As Members of Congress, if we are funding them, we need to be able to see what they are doing in there with our own eyes, so we need to get cameras in there, and we can thank Pamela Talkin for that.

At this time, I yield to my dear friend from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) and also the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for putting this time together tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Hobby Lobby Stores and Conestoga Wood Specialties as they take a stand for religious freedom against the unconstitutional coercive ObamaCare HHS mandate.

All Americans, including family businessowners, should have the freedom to live and work according to their religious values without fear of the government punishing them for doing so.

This issue of religious liberty is not limited to these two employers. Many family-owned small businesses and nonprofits across this country have expressed grave concern about this mandate from the Obama administration. It forces them to violate their deeply-held religious beliefs or face crippling penalties.

In my home State of Colorado, Hercules Industries, founded in 1962 by William Newland, a family-owned heating, ventilation, and cooling manufacturer with locations all over Colorado, including Colorado Springs, has been forced into this legal dilemma as well.

As devout Catholics, the Newland family has always worked to run their companies in a way that reflects their sincerely-held religious convictions. This is why, when the Obama administration issued this mandate to force them to violate those beliefs and provide coverage of potentially life-terminating drugs and devices, they had to file a lawsuit to protect their religious freedoms.

Hercules Industries already provides generous health insurance for their employees through a self-insured group plan. With 265 full-time employees throughout its various locations, Hercules could be facing over $9 million in government fines each year.

This comes if they refuse to violate their deeply-held religious convictions and if they don't comply with the Obama mandate to provide drugs to their employees that the Newland family believes can end human life.

What an unbearable choice the Obama administration has burdened them with. Not only is the HHS mandate an attack on religious liberty, it also puts into jeopardy jobs and health care of millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I support businesses like Hercules Industries, Hobby Lobby. And Conestoga Wood Specialties because of their principled stand against this oppressive mandate. Religious freedom is a foundational component of American greatness. It is of utmost importance that we do everything we can to defend it.

I look forward to the Supreme Court's decision, and I hope and I pray that this will be a positive precedent for future religious freedom cases.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank my friend from Colorado so very much. We have done much together in our time here, and I am grateful for his service.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend from Florida (Mr. YOHO), for such time as he may use.

Mr. YOHO. I thank the gentleman from Texas, along with the gentlewoman from Missouri, for starting this discussion.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today—or tonight—not only in firm opposition to the Affordable Care Act, but also to the Affordable Care Act's religious mandate.

I would like to take you back to March of 2009, when a one-sided government passed a bill, and they said that we have to pass it to see what is in it, we have to pass it to see how it is going to work. I think what we are seeing today is evidence of that, and we are just seeing the tip of the iceberg.

In accordance to this terrible law, HHS issued rules that health care plans must include all FDA-approved contraceptives, including drugs that can terminate a human embryo and sterilization services.

The HHS mandate only contains an exemption for churches, but not for religious nonprofits or businesses run by people of faith who are morally opposed to such practices.

The HHS mandate puts jobs and the health care of millions of Americans at risk. It forces people who stand up for their conscience to choose between paying crippling fines and dropping health care coverage altogether for their employees, as you have seen expressed over and over again tonight; yet it excludes some people of certain faiths, the Muslim faith or the Amish faith, because participating in group health insurance is a form of gambling and that is against their religious beliefs, but yet it won't exclude people who are morally opposed against this.

The First Amendment was put in place for a reason, to protect religions beliefs from being attacked by the Federal Government. The ACA, or ObamaCare, completely disregards this and attacks the freedom of America's conscience.

We are a nation of free individuals who should not have to forsake our religious beliefs and rights of conscience in order to adhere to legislation that was quickly passed into law before all the disastrous effects could be considered.

We, as Americans, must take this opportunity to stand up to the Federal Government and to protect our First Amendment. I would like to caution all of my colleagues and the American people that the more we allow the Federal Government to do for us, the less freedoms we, as Americans, enjoy.

For me, I will stand with the First Amendment, the Constitution, and with the American people and stand for freedom and liberty.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank my friend from Florida for those strong words.

We had strong words from the Vatican Chief Justice, as reported by CBS today. They quoted him, the Vatican Chief Justice, as saying:

> It is true that the policies of the President of the United States have become progressively more hostile toward Christian civilization. He appears to be a totally secularized man who aggressively promotes anti-life, antifamily policies.

I know he professed Christianity, so I don't necessarily agree with all of those statements; but how profound when the Vatican Chief Justice feels compelled to make that kind of statement.

Mr. Speaker, for the remainder of our time, I yield to my dear friend from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for your leadership in bringing to light an incredibly important issue that is going to be debated right across the street from where we stand today in the House over at the Supreme Court.

The Hobby Lobby case deals with so much more than just one company, but it really deals with one of the fundamental rights that has been laid out in our Constitution, and that is the right of religious freedom.

What does that right really mean? Just how much ability does the Federal Government have to impede upon that right, especially when we talk about the right of a President—in this case, Barack Obama—to put out an edict that would literally take away that right to religious freedom from millions of Americans that enjoy it today and have enjoyed it since the beginning of our country?

If you will look at the rostrum right above the Speaker, it says, ''In God We Trust.'' A lot of people across the country would be surprised because there are school boards, there are other governmental bodies that right now have threats against them if they try to pray before any kind of governmental service.

In schools—in many schools across our country today, that right of religious expression is being challenged by groups every single day, and they threaten different groups, schools, other governmental organizations; yet, here in the House Chamber, we pray at the beginning and the start of every session every day.

We have ''In God We Trust'' emblazoned right above the Speaker's rostrum, and it is there for a reason.

It is because our Founding Fathers, when they created this Nation, they didn't say these were rights, the rights that they laid out in the Constitution. These were not rights that were given by men. These were rights that were granted through men from God.

Don't take my word for it. These were the writings of our Founding Fathers. They acknowledged God. They praised God. They talked about the great blessings of liberty given to us by God.

Yes, our Founding Fathers said that. This isn't some rightwing nut in the Tea Party. Thomas Jefferson may have been considered one of those rightwing nuts, using the definitions of some of the liberals running around this town today.

But if you look at what this President is doing right now, trying to trample on those religious freedoms, the Hobby Lobby case is the epitome of where those tramplings of those rights converge, to our job creators.

This is a business that wants to just run and provide services to people all across this country, a few locations in my district. My wife likes going to Hobby Lobby.

They shouldn't have to be faced with a dilemma every time they cut their paychecks to their employees of whether or not they are going to violate their own religious freedoms just to continue operating as a business in this country.

Nobody should be faced with the threat of our government taking away their religious freedoms just to be able to operate as a business; and yet, that is what is happening right now with the President's mandate through his own health care law.

It is not just limited to businesses, Mr. Speaker. If you look at what is also happening, you know, the President loves talking about a war on women. This President loves dividing this country anywhere he gets the opportunity for political gain to try to divide Americans against each other. How shameless that is.

Where is the President's war on women when it relates to religious freedom?

It is against people like the Little Sisters of the Poor, a Catholic order of nuns that is just trying to do good for people. They are forced to sue the Federal Government because this President, Barack Obama, wants to make Little Sisters of the Poor pay for abortion-inducing drugs as part of their condition of providing health care. Otherwise, they are in violation of the law.

What law, Mr. Speaker, would force Catholic nuns to pay for abortion-inducing drugs just to comply with health care laws?

That is what is at stake here. That is why it is so important, this debate that is going to happen across the street, and that is why it is so important that we all come together to stand up against this kind of oppression of religious freedom.

It wasn't the tenth of all ten amendments in the Bill of Rights. It was the First Amendment that guaranteed religious freedom. That is what we stand here in support of tonight.

I sure hope the Supreme Court hears those arguments as well and recognizes not just what we are talking about tonight, but what our Founding Fathers laid out as one of the basic fundamental tenets of our Nation's constitutional guarantee, and that is the right of religious freedom.

I appreciate all of my colleagues standing up in support of it, as we all do; and hopefully, the Supreme Court hears those pleas and rules the right way.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you so much.

Mr. Speaker, I am so grateful to the gentlelady from Missouri for calling so many Members and leading this in this time.

Mr. Speaker, just closing with one line from Benjamin Franklin:

> Without God's concurring aid, we will succeed in our political building no better than the builders of Babel confounded by our local partial interests and becoming a byword down through the ages.

Mr. Speaker, we pray for his wisdom for the Supreme Court. I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BENISHEK (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and March 25 on account of attending a family funeral.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5037. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report presenting the specific amount of staff-years of technical effort to be allocated for each defense Federally Funded Research and Development Center during fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5038. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the Repair of Naval Vessels in Foreign Shipyards, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 7310; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5039. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Occupant Crash Protection [Docket No.: NHTSA-2013-0121] (RIN: 2127-AK56) received February 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5040. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 13-76, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5041. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 102(g) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for FY 1994 and 1995 (Pub. L. 103-236 as amended by 103-415), certification for FY 2014 that no United Nations affiliated agency grants any official status, accreditation, or recognition to any organization which promotes and condones or seeks the legalization of pedophilia; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5042. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the semiannual report detailing payments made to Cuba as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses as required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by Section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5043. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5044. A letter from the Chairman, Occupation Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's strategic plan for fiscal years 2014 through 2018; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5045. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations; Eleventh Coast Guard District Annual Marine Events [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0361] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received February 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5046. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0466; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-156-AD; Amendment 39-17749; AD 2014-03-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5047. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries GmbH Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0937; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-029-AD; Amendment 39-17762; AD 2014-04-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5048. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; 328 Support Services GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held by AvCraft Aerospace GmbH; Fairchild Dornier GmbH; Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0702; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-181-AD; Amendment 39-17753; AD 2014-03-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received

March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5049. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter France) (Airbus Helicopters) [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0351; Directorate Identifier 2009-SW-049-AD; Amendment 39-17770; AD 2 014-04-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5050. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1226; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-122-AD; Amendment 39-17741; AD 2014-03-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5051. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0125; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-119-AD; Amendment 39-17778; AD 2014-05-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5052. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0866; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-131-AD; Amendment 39-17743; AD 2014-03-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5053. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0830; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-128-AD; Amendment 39-17776; AD 2014-05-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5054. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's twentieth annual report prepared in accordance with section 207 of the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5055. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office Fiscal Year 2013 Report to Congress; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

5056. A letter from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting fiscal year 2015 Congressional Justification of Budget for the Office of the Inspector General; jointly to the Committees on Appropriations, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 4284. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to encourage greater State input and authority over species and habitat management by allowing States to propose and implement State Protective Action before species are listed under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 4285. A bill to facilitate State and local governmental entities in developing and implementing private sector job creating programs through local government financing of the installation of energy efficiency, water conservation, and renewable energy generation improvements on privately owned property with the financing to be repaid from assessments that may be levied on the local property tax bill, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BRIDENSTINE (for himself, Mr. COOK, and Mr. YOHO):

H.R. 4286. A bill to free the private sector to harness domestic energy resources to create jobs and generate economic growth by removing statutory and administrative barriers; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, the Judiciary, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself and Mr. FORBES):

H.R. 4287. A bill to advance the public health by encouraging independent innovators to pursue drug repurposing research and develop new treatments and cures by providing appropriate intellectual property protections for those innovations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 4288. A bill to provide certain protections from civil liability with respect to the emergency administration of opioid overdose drugs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana):

H.R. 4289. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 4284.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California

H.R. 4285.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Commerce Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, cl. 3)

By Mr. BRIDENSTINE:

H.R. 4286.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 gives Congress the power to ''make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper'' to execute the enumerated power of regulating ''Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes.'' The titles of the American Energy Renaissance Act deals existing laws affecting the production and transportation of energy among the states and Indian tribes and the export of energy to foreign countries.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 4287.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 4288.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article, 1 Section 8

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 4289.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. COSTA and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 32: Mr. SHUSTER.
H.R. 60: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 118: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 460: Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 477: Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 487: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 494: Mr. SIMPSON and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 522: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 580: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 594: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 596: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H.R. 647: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ and Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 683: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 713: Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 721: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 833: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 949: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 1020: Mr. DESANTIS.
H.R. 1070: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 1141: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 1175: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 1249: Mr. KLINE.
H.R. 1250: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 1286: Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 1313: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 1318: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 1333: Ms. BROWN of Florida and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 1339: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 1354: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 1431: Mr. KEATING, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 1490: Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 1551: Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. JONES, and Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 1563: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 1620: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 1666: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1692: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 1701: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 1725: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 1726: Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 1728: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 1761: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 1763: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 1772: Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 1775: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 1915: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 1998: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 2084: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 2143: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 2213: Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 2254: Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 2315: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 2405: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2415: Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 2429: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 2453: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 2536: Mr. ROYCE.
H.R. 2540: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 2548: Mr. BACHUS, Mr. YODER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 2591: Mr. COHEN, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 2656: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 2662: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. WALDEN.
H.R. 2663: Mr. MORAN and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 2670: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 2746: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.
H.R. 2750: Mr. TIPTON.
H.R. 2773: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 2788: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 2807: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 2825: Mr. SERRANO and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 2870: Mr. REICHERT and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 2892: Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 2901: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HECK of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. MARINO, Mr. REICHERT, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 2939: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 2957: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 2989: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 2994: Mr. FARR, Mr. GARCIA, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 2996: Mr. BENTIVOLIO and Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 3040: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
H.R. 3043: Mr. DAINES.
H.R. 3090: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 3162: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 3179: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3211: Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 3303: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 3322: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 3335: Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. SHUSTER.
H.R. 3344: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 3367: Mr. HARPER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 3383: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 3395: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 3461: Mr. BERA of California.
H.R. 3478: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 3493: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 3494: Mr. NEAL, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HIMES, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 3500: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 3505: Mr. LANCE, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 3513: Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 3518: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 3530: Mrs. NOEM, Mr. WOLF, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 3544: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. FORBES and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 3571: Mr. LANCE and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 3600: Mr. KILMER, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KEATING, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Ms. HANABUSA.
H.R. 3619: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 3620: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.
H.R. 3698: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 3708: Mr. MASSIE, Mr. HULTGREN, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. JONES, and Mr. DESANTIS.
H.R. 3712: Mr. BERA of California.
H.R. 3714: Mr. JONES and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 3717: Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 3723: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 3728: Mr. LATTA, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 3740: Ms. FUDGE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. BERA of California.
H.R. 3742: Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. LATTA, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. OLSON, Mr. TONKO, Mr. LANCE, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. BARROW of Georgia.
H.R. 3747: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 3761: Mr. CARTER and Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 3769: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 3771: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.
H.R. 3776: Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 3854: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3877: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 3930: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 3954: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 3989: Mr. COTTON and Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 3991: Mr. GARDNER, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 4012: Mr. KLINE.
H.R. 4016: Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 4031: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MARINO, Mr. RIGELL, and Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 4057: Mr. DINGELL and Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 4058: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4080: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 4092: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 4106: Mr. COTTON and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 4108: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 4112: Mr. LEWIS, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 4141: Mr. JONES and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 4148: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CHU, and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 4149: Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 4154: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 4155: Mr. STOCKMAN and Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 4162: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 4164: Mr. CHABOT.
H.R. 4169: Mr. WELCH and Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 4184: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 4188: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. DELANEY, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 4190: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 4205: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 4208: Ms. WATERS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.
H.R. 4213: Mr. GRIMM.
H.R. 4225: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PAULSEN, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H.R. 4227: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 4229: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. GRAYSON, and Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 4249: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 4254: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 4255: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4278: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. COOK.
H.J. Res. 43: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H. Con. Res. 4: Mr. BARBER.
H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. PIERLUISI and Mr. ENGEL.
H. Con. Res. 78: Ms. BASS.
H. Con. Res. 87: Mr. DELANEY and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H. Con. Res. 91: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H. Res. 72: Mr. LANGEVIN and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H. Res. 109: Mr. COOPER.
H. Res. 188: Mr. TIERNEY.
H. Res. 231: Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. SABLAN, and Mr. CLEAVER.
H. Res. 417: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H. Res. 418: Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. NORTON. and Mr. SHERMAN.
H. Res. 456: Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H. Res. 480: Mr. HANNA.
H. Res. 494: Ms. FOXX, Mr. FORBES, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. STEWART, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. ROSS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. BERA of California.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF UTAH

The amendment filed to H.R. 1459 by me does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of House Rule XXI.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Creator and sustainer of our destinies, You have loved us through the seasons of our lives. You accept us as we are, infusing us with Your peace, and strengthening us with Your grace.

Bless our lawmakers. Give them the wisdom to follow Your leading, to live with courage, and to release the powers of goodness throughout our land. Lord, empower them to run and not be weary, to walk and not faint, as You keep them always in Your care.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the Ukraine act.

At 5:30 there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to that important piece of legislation.

We have so much to do this work period and we have so much to do this week. I know I have said this on other occasions, and we have been able to work things out so it hasn't been necessary, but everyone should understand we have a lot to do and we may have to be in this weekend. If we are forced to go through all the procedural hoops to be able to complete the important Ukraine legislation, the important unemployment legislation, and the important SGR legislation, and setting it up so we can sometime next week get on minimum wage, we are going to have to be in this weekend. There is just no way around it, and everyone should understand that.

I know I will immediately start hearing from people: I have this event; I have that event. It is Monday at 2 p.m. in the afternoon. It is only 11 a.m. in the West. There is plenty of time to reschedule stuff or at least put it on hold, because we just have no choice. The only alternative is to take a week away from the break we are expecting to have. So everyone should understand that it is possible the Senate will need to work through the weekend to get all this work done.

UKRAINE

Mr. REID. The first item the Senate will consider, as I have already indicated, is a bipartisan package of aid to Ukraine. It includes sanctions against Russia for their untoward actions against their neighbor, Ukraine. As we prepare to debate this measure, I advise all Senators it is customary to show respect for the President—I am confident everyone will—when he is overseas. He is at a nuclear conference over there in Europe as we speak and it is an important meeting. President Putin is not there, but he has sent his Foreign Minister, as I understand it.

As we begin debate on this aid and sanctions package, I also hope the Republicans who stopped action on this legislation prior to the break have considered how their obstruction affects our great country's national security as well as the people in Ukraine, who are struggling so very much.

Since this was blocked by some Republicans, these important sanctions have not taken place. Russian lawmakers voted to annex Crimea and Russian forces have taken over, in many instances by force, military bases in Crimea. It is impossible to know whether events would have unfolded differently if the United States had responded to Russian aggression with a strong unified voice, which we did not do.

When a few extreme Republicans blocked action on this robust bill, which was reported out of the Foreign Relations Committee with a strong bipartisan vote, and then, when it came to the Senate floor, we sent a very weak message to the Russians by indicating we will work on this later; we won't do it now. In spite of what some Republicans did with their obstruction, President Obama moved forward with additional sanctions, and I am glad he did. The President is working closely with our European allies to impose the most effective sanctions possible. That is, in effect, what he is working on today.

In light of such clear-cut aggression against Ukraine, which continued as late as yesterday, it is difficult to believe Republicans blocked that package at all, but they did and it is almost unimaginable why they did this. They blocked aid to Ukraine in order to protect the anonymity of their big-time donors. They are saying: We will give the President the tools he needs to help the beleaguered people of Ukraine but only if—only if—the 501(c)4 work being done by the Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department is stopped.

That is pretty absurd, but that is the truth. It is all over the news today. So Republicans delayed this aid package for 10 days in order to protect the Koch brothers and billionaires just like them. That is very hard to believe, but it is true. Republicans objected to moving forward with this aid package in

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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order to protect the ability of the Koch brothers and other GOP donors to hide behind shadowy front groups—groups that spend millions on political attack ads. This is the reason for holding up something that is so important to 46 million Ukrainians and important to our country. It is important for our security. But they objected to moving forward with this aid package unless, I repeat, we agreed to allow the Kochs and billionaires just like them to continue anonymously spending millions and millions of dollars trying to buy America's democracy. Hard to believe, but it is true.

I applaud so very much the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, the junior Senator from Tennessee, as well as the senior Senator from Arizona, JOHN MCCAIN, for their impassioned defense of this bill prior to the break. No one spoke more fluently and with more articulation than those two good men. They joined in defending bipartisan sanctions and the role of the International Monetary Fund in stabilizing Ukraine's economy and keeping Ukraine free.

The measure before the body includes vital loan guarantees, sanctions, and IMF funding. That is what they are holding up more than anything else. In the work we did on the omnibus, this was one of the last items we tried to get done—IMF funding. But even back then they would not agree to IMF funding unless Treasury stopped all work on looking at these secret shadowy groups. If the American people knew what they were doing—but they do not because they are hidden—these millions and millions they are spending on ads around the country are hidden behind phony organizations. We couldn't get that IMF funding in the omnibus because Republicans opposed IMF funding unless they got relief from the Treasury Department.

This legislation provides money for Ukraine—direct money. It is not very much. But if the money we in effect owe the International Monetary Fund was received by the IMF, they would be able to multiply that money many times over, what we put into this. As I recall, it is $600 million. This would allow the International Monetary Fund to go to other countries that participate in IMF funding and it would generate more than the $600 million. Ukraine needs this money.

We had Senator DURBIN on a Sunday show, Senator AYOTTE on a Sunday show speaking together about how this country needs our help. And without this money, the help we give will be just a pat on the back, not really much help. So I am very grateful to have the support of Democrats and Republicans—this is bipartisan—to move this aid package forward this evening.

I hope the obstruction will stop. I am hopeful and somewhat confident this legislation will receive the strong bipartisan support it deserves.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Like all Senators, I get lots and lots of letters and emails and phone calls each month. Some write, some call, pleading for additional unemployment benefits because they have been out of work and they can't find a job. The sad part about that is most of them are not kids. I mean that not in the negative sense. They are not young men and women. Many of them trying to find a job are in their fifties and sixties and they can't find work because they have been laid off because of the recession, depression—whatever we want to call it—and they can't find a job. They need this help.

A number of these individuals have been driven into poverty. One thing we have to do this work period is do something about unemployment compensation, and we are going to try to do that. We have a bipartisan bill, and I so much appreciate the Republicans who have stood up and agreed to help us with that.

HEALTH CARE

There are also people who call, and they are calling because they are happy. They have hope. They do that because for the first time in their adult lives they have health insurance or they have health insurance that is cheaper than they had last year. They have family members who are disabled and who can now get health insurance. They couldn't do it before because they were considered to have a preexisting disability. People who are disabled are really happy because they can get insurance for the first time in their lives or if they have had it in the past, it has been so outrageously costly that it was burdensome to them.

Four years ago yesterday, President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law, making quality health care available to millions and millions of Americans for the first time in years. I talked to the President's Chief of Staff the day we left for our work period at home. In the 2 days prior to that, 80,000 people each day had signed up. Tens of thousands of people every day are signing up. We are fast approaching 6 million. Some say we will get over that.

The mix of people who are signing up is good. It is a good mix. We have a lot of young people. There was a piece on public radio this morning of a young man 21 years old who never had insurance before but he said: You know, I need insurance, so I am going to buy some insurance. And it is really very inexpensive.

Connecticut has such an unusual experience. They have two stores set up for people to come in and get their health insurance, and they have had thousands of people who have done that. Some people who aren't very computer literate have been able to go in and talk to somebody and sign up. They had the example of one woman who had struggled on the computer. She didn't know how to use it very well. She came in, and she saves $300 a month for her health care. So that is what Connecticut has done, but there are many messages of hope out there.

Families have college-aged children who have stayed on their parents' health plans. Seniors have saved hundreds of dollars on their prescriptions because we are filling the doughnut hole.

I have heard from entrepreneurs who finally—finally—can do what they want to do, which is go out and start a business of their own. They are entrepreneurs who have been locked into their jobs, but now they can leave. They are not locked into jobs to keep their health insurance; they can have health insurance on their own; they can strike out on their own without the fear of losing their health insurance. Women are benefiting from free preventive care, and people with preexisting conditions, which I have talked about, have signed up for health insurance for the first time. One lifelong Republican called recently to say that he and his son signed up for affordable insurance and saw the doctor for the first time in years. They had been without health insurance because of preexisting conditions they both have. But now that his insurance company can no longer discriminate against him or his son, they are getting the lifesaving care they need and deserve. In the long run, this saves huge amounts of money for us as a society.

Across the country, families such as the one I just mentioned have been freed from the fear of going bankrupt or reaching an arbitrary lifetime cap if they get sick. The Affordable Care Act puts patients in charge of their own health care decisions. There are many others on the other side of the aisle who don't want this law to work. We are approaching 13 million people, right as we speak, who have insurance now—or are using the benefits of this would be a better way to say it. Six million people have signed up, and 3 million people are on their parents' health insurance because of this law. We have at least 5 million or maybe more who are there because of Medicaid.

This is wonderful. These people have health care. It is good for our country. I can't imagine what the Republicans expect done—just to say, OK, get rid of all insurance we have? They keep talking about repealing this bill. What are they talking about? They have had about 60 votes to repeal it. It doesn't work, and all the polling—which they don't talk about—is now saying: I am glad we have this. There are some who don't like the bill because they don't think it is strong enough.

All the polls are somewhat misleading that the Republicans have been throwing around here, but they are still spending millions of dollars on disingenuous ads distorting the truth about the Affordable Care Act and how it is benefiting millions of Americans. We fought hard 4 years ago to pass this landmark expansion of quality, affordable health care, and we will fight just as hard to make sure the law works for every American family.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2148, H.R. 3474, AND H.R. 3979

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told there are three bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2148) to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes;

A bill (H.R. 3474) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of the employer mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act;

A bill (H.R. 3979) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to these three bills.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

SUPPORT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY, INTEGRITY, DEMOCRACY, AND ECONOMIC STABILITY OF UKRAINE ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2124, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 329, S. 2124, a bill to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOMMENDING GEOFFREY CRAWFORD

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in Vermont we have been fortunate that for almost two decades Judge William Sessions has served with distinction as a Federal judge for the District of Vermont. In January, Judge Sessions announced that he would take senior status later this year. In response to this news, the Vermont Bar Association, Senator SANDERS, and I, each appointed three members to the Judicial Nominating Commission.

The commission, as one can imagine, received many applications for this district court vacancy. It interviewed and vetted seven finalists, and then recommended to us the two candidates who garnered unanimous support.

I spent hours interviewing them last week in Vermont, and today I am recommending that the President nominate Geoffrey Crawford, a recently-appointed justice from Vermont's highest court. I talked to him at great length last week and again at length this morning. I am very comfortable in forwarding his name to President Obama, as I now have.

Justice Crawford is an experienced and well-respected jurist. He is known for his modesty and humanity, notwithstanding his elite educational background and intellectual heft. He was a successful plaintiffs' attorney before he was appointed to the Vermont Superior Court in 2002.

Then-Judge Crawford served on the superior court in our State for more than a decade, earning a reputation for his skill in working with juries and handling a wide variety of litigation. Attorneys who have appeared before him, on either side, have found him to be an engaged and careful jurist who treats everyone in the courtroom with respect. I have talked with a number of those lawyers, and they speak of his respect and abilities.

As a lawyer, I wanted to hear this, and although I did not know Justice Crawford before interviewing him for this vacancy, the Vermont legal community repeatedly told me of his intelligence, warmth, and unwavering commitment to the highest calling of public service.

When I met Justice Crawford, I found him to be well deserving of these accolades, and I was impressed by his thoughtfulness and pragmatic approach to the law, as was the chief counsel of the Judiciary Committee, Kristine Lucius, and the state director of my Vermont offices, John Tracy.

I am confident that Justice Crawford will make an excellent Federal district court judge and I hope the President will nominate him soon for the vacancy on Vermont's Federal district court.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL RICHARD CODY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is my honor today to pay tribute to a fellow native of Montpelier, VT, GEN Richard Cody. General Cody is going to be honored next month—and deservedly so—by his alma mater, Montpelier High School.

Following his graduation from Montpelier High School, General Cody attended and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. This was the launch of an outstanding U.S. Army career which took him all over our country and world and culminated in his service from 2004 to 2008 as Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. I am really proud to share a hometown with such a distinguished member of our military. I remember how proud Marcelle and I were of General Cody on the day of his retirement ceremony, with full honors, here in Washington.

The Codys and the Leahys go back decades in Montpelier and have always been friends. General Cody, his siblings, and parents have been among the business and civic leaders in that city for as long as I can remember, and they have always shown the best of true Vermont values. The General brought those values of hard work, patriotism, and especially integrity to his military career, and ended that career as the best example a soldier could have. Even the Secretary of Defense was there for the retirement ceremony to honor him.

I think of this man who would often march from his quarters in Virginia to the Pentagon carrying a military pack just to remind himself of what soldiers on the front line were doing. I have known many in the military—from privates to generals. No one has ranked higher in my esteem than General Dick Cody. He set an example for the whole country.

No salute to a member of the military would be complete without recognizing the family beside the man. Dick's wife, Vicki, and his sons Clint and Tyler, sacrificed much through his service to our country. In fact, Clint and Tyler followed in their father's footsteps, both as members of the Army, and served as helicopter pilots during several combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am told one flew the same helicopter his father had flown.

In closing, I would like to thank the Montpelier High School Boosters Club, and the citizens of Montpelier, for honoring General Cody. There is no more deserving alumnus, and I am proud to call him a friend.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, when the Senate last met, I introduced, together with Senator DURBIN, a resolution regarding our response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. That resolution, which received unanimous support in the Senate, called for a number of specific steps to punish and isolate Russia for its actions.

Among these steps we called upon President Obama to impose sanctions on officials of the Russian Federation who are most responsible for the invasion of the Crimean region. I am pleased with recent announcements by the White House which demonstrate that the President has begun the process of sanctioning some of these individuals, although I had hoped the numbers sanctioned would be far greater.

I also note that today the President is in the Netherlands discussing with

our European allies and partners the need for further steps. I trust and hope he will be successful in reaching a firm consensus with our allies and friends to define a strong united response to Russian aggression.

Further, I also welcome such provisions in the legislation that is now pending in the Senate, the Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014, which I trust and hope the Senate will be acting on beginning this evening and perhaps extending into this week.

I would note time is somewhat of the essence. If we are going to send a message to Russia, certainly we don't want to be bogged down in internal delay over nonrelated or only slightly related issues. In fact, that is why Senator DURBIN and I moved our provisions forward before the Senate adjourned for the break, simply to make sure there was a united, bipartisan Senate unanimously approved agreement on 15 measures that would get the message to Vladimir Putin and the Russians that we take this very seriously.

The legislation we will be dealing with also sanctions the Russians responsible for this recent aggression by prohibiting them from coming to the United States and freezing their assets in America. Our European allies have done likewise, and together we have begun to respond to Russia's outrageous behavior.

However, it is my strong belief that much more needs to be done. We and our European allies must recognize the enormity of Putin's crime as he rejects all modern standards of responsible international behavior and tramples on the sanctity of the territorial borders so vital to the stability of the postwar order.

The international response must be more vigorous if we are to prove that Putin's behavior is unacceptable and cannot be repeated. A strong response now is the best way to reassure our allies and friends who are precariously placed on Russia's borders that this outrage must be stopped, reversed, and ended. Conversely, to do little more than prevent a handful of Russian officials traveling abroad will show Putin and his cronies that in the end we actually do not mean what we say.

Again, the international response needs to be, has to be, much more vigorous if we are to prove that we stand together and united, one voice, claiming that the behavior of President Putin is unacceptable and cannot be repeated.

When Senator DURBIN and I introduced our prior resolution on this subject, we signaled our willingness to work with the administration to craft more punishing sanctions, including economic sanctions possibly targeting key sectors of the Russian economy, and I believe many of us here in the Senate on both sides of the aisle want to do more. I have suggested a range of provisions that would reduce Russia's oil and gas exports—which contribute a very significant amount to their economy and are therefore very dependent—I hope the President is discussing those very measures in Europe with our partners as we speak.

We are all aware that sanctioning key Russian economic activities carries the possibility that our economic interests and those of our European allies could be affected at the same time. While this is reason for us to be thoughtful in terms of how we move forward, it is not a reason for inaction. It should not be the basis for our standing by and watching what is happening and simply saying: Well, this could potentially affect us economically back at home and therefore excuse the actions and probably enable further actions by our Russian adversary in this case.

In the end, unpunished, unconstrained, rampant Russian territorial expansion will threaten us all to a much greater extent. Doing something now could prevent something much worse later. Standing up now could prevent something much more serious in terms of what we might have to do later. Sound policy decisions must reflect full assessments of all eventual consequences, and that includes a clear picture of what the world will look like if illegal, forceful annexation of a neighbor's territory is ignored or met only with a rap on the knuckles.

I continue to believe we can and must do more to isolate Russia. This includes, for example, explicitly expelling Russia from the G8—not temporarily but explicitly expelling them and ending the NATO-Russia Council.

In addition, I am proposing today a specific economic sanction that will harm Russian interests in a serious way and, hopefully, with minimal or no damage to our own. I am introducing an amendment to Ukraine aid bill and I trust it will find broad bipartisan support. The purpose of this amendment is to sanction Russia's Rosoboronexport, the sole state agency for export of Russian weapon systems and defense-related goods. This is a state corporation exclusively entitled to export the entire range of Russian armaments officially allowed for export. It was set up for that purpose. It was set up by President Putin. It is a state-owned enterprise and its business is sending Russian arms around the world—some to very bad actors.

Many of our colleagues here in the Senate know of this arms export agency because of Russia's continuing supply of arms to Assad's regime in Syria. Many here have repeatedly called on the administration to stop all cooperation with Rosoboronexport for that reason. We now have a new, broader reason for ending all cooperation with this export agency of Russia. To take steps to meaningfully obstruct that agency's work and the income it provides the Russian state will become the most effective ways we have of demonstrating our condemnation of Russian action by force of arms.

Let me briefly explain my amendment. It does three things: First, it prohibits the U.S. Government from doing any business with this Russian agency by prohibiting future contracts and canceling past contracts.

It is true the recent National Defense Authorization Act, which I supported, also includes similar language. But that act includes a waiver authority and another work-around provision the Defense Department has been using in order to buy Russian helicopters for Afghanistan. This practice has met with objection. It was objectionable when it began and it became more objectionable as the Russians continued to supply Assad. Now, based on what they have done in Crimea, it should be entirely unacceptable.

Also, I just learned this morning that President Karzai announced his support for the Russian annexation of Crimea and approval of Russian actions, which makes our purchase of Russian weapons for the Karzai regime even more outrageous. After all we have done to support President Karzai and the Afghans with U.S. tax dollars and the lives and injuries to U.S. and coalition soldiers—after all we have done over a decade of time—President Karzai reaches out and publicly supports the Russian action, contrary to ours. Russia is the nation which pillaged Afghanistan for a decade. It is beyond belief that President Karzai can support, along with countries such as Syria and Venezuela—haven't heard from Cuba yet, but probably will—the Russian action when we are there trying to save his hide not only with our tax dollars but with our soldiers' lives.

So my amendment takes away this waiver and would put a complete end to Karzai's business dealings with the Russians. Karzai will have to buy his Russian helicopters with his own money, not ours.

Secondly, I propose this amendment will prohibit contracts with any domestic or foreign company that cooperates with Rosoboronexport in the design, manufacture, or military development of military equipment. Other types of business dealings with the corporation for nonmilitary activities would not be affected. We are going after the military exports, many of which go to some of our sworn enemies.

Third, I propose to authorize the President to deduct from our foreign assistance programs any amount that a foreign state recipient spends on Russian weapons through Rosoboronexport. These deductions would be made from the Economic Support Fund and security assistance accounts but would not affect other aid programs. The President would be authorized to reprogram such funds for use elsewhere subject to congressional notification.

If a USAID recipient is tempted to use some of our money to buy Russian weapons, they need to know we would deduct that amount from our assistance programs. They can buy Russian

weapons on their own dime, not on our dime.

Taken together, I believe these proposals would be a very useful addition to the Ukraine aid act and give it the additional teeth it needs. This amendment would harm the Russian arms industry, the Russian economy, Russian prestige, and Putin's standing in the world. That ought to be our goal. Whether it is my amendment, any other amendment, or whether it is the act we will be debating, it needs to harm the Russian arms industry, the Russian energy portion of the economy, Russian prestige, and Putin's standing in the world.

This amendment will serve as a concrete and immediate response to the illegal invasion perpetrated by the Russian Federation. I urge the majority leader to permit a full debate, an up-or-down vote on my amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I rise today to support the Ukraine assistance package, which will be on the floor for a vote later this evening. I want to thank the leadership of Senator MENENDEZ and all the great work Senator CORKER has put into this bill. I was proud to help put it together, along with Senators JOHNSON, MCCAIN, and many others who were part of our debate in the Foreign Relations Committee.

I come to the floor, as I am sure others have and will over the course of this afternoon, to talk about the vital importance of a big bipartisan vote in favor of this legislation this evening.

Having just come from Ukraine—I was there this last weekend with a number of my colleagues, and it was my second trip to Kiev in the last 3 months—I can tell you they are awaiting a very strong signal of support from the U.S. Congress that will send a message we are going to stand together with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters as they engage in this epic battle for their independence, for their freedom, and for their sovereignty.

I won't belabor the underlying details of the bill, but the three components of the legislation are all equally important to Ukraine. We heard support for all three of these pieces while we were there over this last weekend.

First and foremost, clearly, we have to deliver on our promise of economic aid. There is $1 billion of loan guarantees in this bill, and it is contingent upon the signing of a new agreement with the IMF, but it will also leverage about $15 billion in funds from Europe. This is important because even before this crisis precipitated by the Russian invasion of Crimea, Ukraine's economy was incredibly fragile, and this international crisis has done nothing but to further weaken the country.

Ukrainians have a new government—one they have faith in, one they can believe in—that will finally bring an end to the corruption which has been rife throughout the Ukrainian Government over the past decade. But this new government will be undermined by an economic crisis that will occur, guaranteed, unless the United States steps up and provides this assistance. But we can't do it alone, and so that is why the second component of this bill would allow the United States to agree to a set of IMF reforms that would dramatically increase the amount of funding the IMF has to provide countries in crisis, such as Ukraine.

Every other IMF member has signed on to these reforms except for the United States, and it has been largely due to the intransigence of this body that the United States stands on the sidelines. Some people have categorized the IMF reform component of this bill as superfluous, as a political add-on. That couldn't be further from the truth. When we were meeting with Ukrainian officials in this new government last weekend, they specifically asked that we pass the IMF reforms, because they know the only way they get an assistance package that is in the neighborhood of $20 billion or $30 billion is through the IMF. And the IMF will be much more likely able to provide that if the United States steps up and agrees to these reforms.

Lastly, we need to send a strong, clear message to Russia there are consequences for their actions in Crimea. By giving the President the authorization to move forward on a broad range of sanctions, we will show that Putin was wrong when he calculated that a march into Crimea would come at little to no cost to Russia.

I want to talk for a minute about what this really tells us about the status of Russia in the region and in the world. I am sure my other colleagues will come down to talk about the importance of sanctions and how they may change the calculuses being made in Russia and Moscow today.

I have watched the media portray the events of the last couple of weeks as some sign of Russian strength. To me, this isn't a sign of Russian strength, this is a sign of Russian weakness.

Putin has designs for reestablishing some sense of the old Soviet empire by reasserting control over what Putin calls the near abroad, which are the former Soviet republics and Soviet satellite states. His dream of reestablishing the Soviet empire fell apart the day President Yanukovych fled Kiev.

Ukraine is the crown jewel of the near abroad. As Putin tried to recreate that empire under the guise of something called the customs union, he knew he couldn't do it without the second biggest country in Europe bordering on Russia—Ukraine. His invasion of Crimea was a panicked reaction to this new reality—a Ukraine now oriented toward the European Union.

So today, I think it is important to understand the position Putin is in. He has made a mess for the international community to try to clean up through his invasion of Crimea.

Crimea represents 2 million people in a country of 45 million, and 90 percent of Ukraine has a government in Kiev which just signed an association agreement with the European Union. Russia's economy is going to hemorrhage if he continues the occupation of Crimea through a broad-based set of international sanctions. He has become a pariah in the world community.

I agree with my colleague from Indiana: We shouldn't just be talking about removing Russia from the G8; we should take Russia out of the G8 and make it completely clear to them that they don't have a place at the international table along with countries such as the United States, France, Germany, and England if they behave in this way.

The bill we are debating today will give the President and new government in Kiev tools with which to try to address and perhaps end this crisis. But it is important to remember that this is not about reestablishing the Cold War. The world is oriented along paradigms that have nothing to do with who is with the United States and who is with Russia. This panicked invasion of Crimea, while rightly occupying the headlines on a nightly basis, is a display of Russia's weak position in the region and the world after the failure of their puppet government in Kiev to survive.

Lastly, I will talk about the broader history, both looking in the past but also looking to the future, we may miss when we concentrate on an hour-by-hour basis on the crisis at hand.

Having had the opportunity to visit Kiev a few times in the past several months, I have had the opportunity to learn a little bit about the history of the place and of the people. There is a wonderful cathedral in Kiev called the Church of St. Sophia. It is absolutely stunningly beautiful. It was built by Ukraine's greatest leader, Yaroslav the Wise. He presided over an empire which was at the time called Kievan Rus. Kievan Rus was essentially the hub of trading on the Eurasian continent. It took goods from the east and transported them to the west. It took goods from the Scandinavian countries and transported them down to the Mediterranean. Everything ran through the territory of Kievan Rus. It speaks to Ukraine's past but also to its future.

They have been set up with a false choice within the crisis of the last several months: Join the European Union or stay aligned with Russia. But what we know is that Kiev historically has stood at the crossroads—not just east and west but of east and west and north and south. This is Ukraine's past, but it is also going to be Ukraine's future.

While we try to deal today with a Russia run by a leader whose foreign policy seems dictated by a desire to poke a stick in the eye of the United States, I ultimately think viewing the

forest through the trees also means acknowledging that Russia's future ultimately, in a post-Putin era, is about integration with Europe and integration with the West as well. Frankly, this is the direction Russia was heading until Putin took power.

The conversation about how we realize that ultimate paradigm is a conversation for another day. But when Senator MCCAIN and I went to Kiev in December and stood on the stage speaking to a million Ukrainians who had come down to the square to protest the current government, they were there to talk about one concept: dignity. For some it was about Europe, for some it was about corruption, and for some it was about the brutal violence on the square displayed by Yanukovych. For most people, they wanted to restore dignity to their lives, and what dignity really is about in the end is the ability to choose for yourself what your future is. This is why we are here to support Ukraine.

No country—the United States, the Russian Federation, Germany—should dictate to the Ukrainians what their future should be. That is why, in the wake of the invasion, in the wake of years of economic manipulation from Russia, we are going to extend a firm hand to the Ukrainians with an assistance package and a message of economic consequences to Russia.

The world we envision ultimately is one not only where Ukraine gets to go back to its historical routes and draw from east and west but one in which Russia realizes that their economic salvation lies not in setting up some new Cold War but in fully integrating themselves, their economy, and their political institutions not only with countries such as Ukraine, not only with the nations of the EU, but beyond to American shores as well. This is the future.

But that reality will never exist for the young nation of Ukraine unless it survives this moment. And we can send a strong message this evening that this body stands with that future for this young nation of Ukraine by supporting the package before us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, while I realize Members of this body are very concerned about the situation in the Ukraine today and we are focused on the crisis happening there, I wish to take a few minutes to discuss two bills I have recently introduced that deal with reforms to the Internal Revenue Service.

As the Federal agency tasked with administering the U.S. Tax Code, the IRS has extraordinary influence on the lives of Americans from all walks of life and all points of view. Citizens have the absolute right to expect the IRS to be free from political influence, with taxpayers treated fairly and enforcement carried out in an unbiased manner. Unfortunately, we have learned our expectations sometimes are very different from reality.

In early 2013 the IRS acknowledged a history of targeting politically active groups as some of these groups sought tax-exempt status. This practice first involved flagging groups concerned about government spending and debt. Ironically, the targeting came at a time when poll after poll indicated that the Federal Government's out-of-control spending and our $17 trillion debt were top concerns for all Americans, and from my experience, they are the top concerns for Nebraskans as well.

Despite these legitimate concerns and the patriotic desire of Americans to effect change in government, the IRS worked to impede these organizations from full participation in our democratic process. To do so, the IRS dragged its feet and slow-walked applications for tax-exempt status, asking questions that weren't necessary, including questions regarding political beliefs. That is why I recently introduced S. 2043, the Stop IRS Overreach Act. This bill states that the IRS shall not ask any taxpayer any question regarding their religious, political, or social beliefs. This is a pretty straightforward concept, and it is an American concept. It shouldn't matter who you are or what you believe—we should all be treated equally before the law.

Given the recent behavior of the IRS, it appears this legislation is necessary. I believe this measure should enjoy support from both parties. It is worth noting that the legislation passed the House of Representatives on a voice vote.

American taxpayers are also frustrated with the lack of responsiveness from the IRS. Every single year taxpayers and their accountants write the IRS asking for additional information regarding their taxes. Often, the response from the IRS is silence—nothing but silence.

So taxpayers wonder: Did they even get my question? Did they get my letter? Are they going to answer my question?

Silence. No answer.

The IRS currently is not required to respond to taxpayer communication. We all know, though, that the inverse is true—taxpayers are compelled to respond when the IRS requests any information. This is a double standard which is not fair.

My bill, S. 2044, would require the IRS to respond to communication from any taxpayer within 30 days of receiving such communication. This way taxpayers will at least know that the IRS is not asleep at the switch and that they have received their letter.

My bill would also make two other significant changes to the IRS: First, it would require the agency to notify a taxpayer if the agency discloses that person's information to another government entity. Current law doesn't require such disclosure. Next, the legislation would require that when the IRS begins an audit on any individual taxpayer, the audit and any tax assessed with the audit must be completed within 1 year. The window for these painstaking audits can't be open forever. The uncertainty adversely impacts families, as these audits currently can be held up for years, with the taxpayers never quite sure if the tax is going to be assessed and when it is going to be assessed.

The House approved identical legislation by a voice vote.

These two bills are straightforward. They make simple but important changes to the way the IRS operates. Making these changes will help Americans all across our country. I urge my fellow Senators on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Michigan.

NATURAL GAS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, one of the true bright spots in our economy right now has been, and continues to be, manufacturing. Manufacturing jobs have been on the rise. We have over 12 million Americans who are now employed with good-paying jobs in the manufacturing sector. Many of them are in my own great State of Michigan.

This renaissance in the kind of good-paying jobs that built the middle class of this country is being powered in a significant way by American natural gas. More than $100 billion in investments, in more than 120 different manufacturing projects, is being fueled by abundant, affordable American natural gas. Thanks to American natural gas, the people in our country have a great new opportunity to go to work, have a good-paying job, and support their families.

Our country is truly blessed with this natural resource. It is critical that we continue to put our American natural gas to work so we can create American jobs, which is why I am confused and concerned by those who are rushing to send this American resource overseas without a careful review of the impact this will have on the costs to our manufacturers, our jobs, and our families.

I am not opposed to exporting some of our natural gas as part of a balanced, well-thought-out plan. A rush to approve every export facility request immediately is not wise. It is not wise for our economy or our people when we know that increased natural gas is needed here at home.

People need jobs in America. We have about 10 million people out of work. We have an awful lot of people who need a job. Good-paying jobs in manufacturing

can and will be part of their future if we manage our natural gas resources the right way. It is critical for America that we get this right. We need to export our products, not our jobs, and that is the debate I believe we should be having.

Low-cost natural gas is critical to our Nation's ability to create manufacturing jobs. It is critical. If we start exporting too much of our natural gas without monitoring or evaluating the impact over time, we may be giving up a real advantage we have right now for creating jobs and bringing jobs home from other countries.

What do we hear from a lot of businesses that are making decisions to bring jobs home? They talk about low-energy costs. We don't want to give that up as an advantage for America as we compete in a global economy. Also, if increased exports raise prices to the same level as global oil prices—and obviously some folks would like to see that happen for their own interests—American families will be hit with even higher energy costs at home, and that doesn't make any sense either. Exporting more American natural gas simply doesn't add up.

A study last month by Charles River Associates found that using our own low-cost natural gas to increase American manufacturing is twice as valuable to our economy and creates eight times as many jobs as sending this important American resource overseas. Let me say that again: Using our own low-cost natural gas to increase American manufacturing output is twice as valuable to our American economy and creates eight times as many jobs as exporting this important American resource overseas.

I am particularly dismayed that some people are using the very serious crisis in Ukraine as an excuse to rush through new projects to export our natural gas.

Last week I met with members of the Ukrainian community in Detroit. They are deeply concerned about what is happening. This is personal for them. They have family and friends in Ukraine. This crisis should not be used by those in the oil and gas industry to rush through actions that may be good for them in the long run. It certainly will not be good for some people in the short run. Anything that is approved now will take way too long before it has any impact in Ukraine. Raising prices may be good for some in the long run, but it will not be good for American manufacturers. It is not good if the whole idea is to create American jobs here at home, and it is not good for middle-class families.

I want to be very clear: I am extremely concerned about what is happening in Ukraine. We must stand with the people of Ukraine and our allies in Europe against the outrageous actions of Russia and President Putin. This crisis is very serious and requires a serious response by the Senate. I know colleagues on both sides of the aisle care deeply about this issue. I hope and I assume we will pass a package to help Ukraine as soon as possible.

Again, this crisis should not be used as an excuse to shortcut the permit process or the thoughtful evaluation that I know the Department of Energy is committed to doing to make sure we get this right. This crisis should not be used to rush through new natural gas export facilities that may undercut our effort to create good-paying jobs here at home.

The Department of Energy has already agreed to permit six liquefied natural gas LNG export facilities that will export over 9 billion cubic feet of LNG every day—and that is not counting the other 30 applications that have been approved for export to countries we have free trade agreements with. I am not suggesting that should not have been done; I have not opposed that. But we better be careful on how we move forward and how we evaluate the impact on our economy.

As we all know, LNG export facilities take years to build. We could approve permits for 100 new LNG facilities tomorrow, and unfortunately it would do nothing to address the crisis in Ukraine and potential supply disruptions to our other important allies in Western Europe.

Here is what I am most concerned about: We all know that gas prices are decided by the global marketplace. Prices are high in Asia right now. We don't have the existing infrastructure to get natural gas to Ukraine. The gas in the export facilities that are rushed through are very likely to go to Asia—very likely to go to China.

Should American natural gas be used to lower prices and create jobs in China or in other parts of Asia or should we be using low-cost natural gas to create jobs right here at home? I hope we can all agree on the answer to that question.

Rushing through more natural gas export facilities, unfortunately, would not help Ukraine. However, it could have a negative effect on our own economy in the long run. Increasing exports would reduce our supply here at home and raise consumer prices, and we all know how devastating that would be for our families. Higher prices for natural gas means it will cost more to cook your dinner, heat your home, and power your small business.

The recent propane shortages and dramatic price spikes we saw in States across the country should raise a red flag for everybody. We simply cannot afford to export too much natural gas too fast without truly understanding the impact on our own jobs and families. Plus, sending so much of our natural gas abroad will neutralize the competitive advantage we have right now for cheap and abundant fuel. We have an advantage right now, and we need to keep that advantage.

My concern is that we would be giving the big oil companies a boost because there would be higher prices for natural gas which would keep oil as a viable alternative because there would not be the advantage of natural gas anymore if we go to the global marketplace and all the prices go up.

In the end, the people of Ukraine and our allies who need our help would not be receiving it. Our own manufacturers, businesses, and families would not be receiving it. Instead, it would be going to the oil companies.

Shame on us if we squander the opportunities that low-cost, abundant natural gas resources offer our country. I believe we need to be smart in how we manage our resources.

Again, I am not opposed to exports. It is a question of a balance. It is a question of thinking it through in a thoughtful way and having an American plan where we are balancing out part exports, part keeping natural gas here at home, and making sure our manufacturers have the edge in a global economy because they have lower cost energy. We need to make sure we are bringing jobs back from overseas because of lower cost energy. We need to make sure our families have low-cost fuel and other energy assistance.

We need to be smart at this point in time about our resources. We have the opportunity, I believe, to find the right balance that allows us to both benefit from some exports and benefit from the resources by creating jobs here at home. Our manufacturers are families, the middle class of this country, the folks trying to hold on, folks trying to get into the middle class who know manufacturing jobs are a part of the way of doing that. They are counting on us. Our economy is counting on the fact that we will be smart about the way we make decisions about our natural resources. Right now with natural gas we have the opportunity not only for the States that have it to do well by exploration and extraction but by leveraging that as we look at the opportunities for manufacturing; leveraging our own resources, which we are told will give us eight times more in benefit in terms of jobs than just having our natural resources in America exported around the globe and the prices floating up to the higher prices of oil.

I thank the Chair. We are going to have a lot of discussion and debate on this issue going forward. I look forward to that. I think this is an opportunity for us to have an American plan on manufacturing, with American low-cost energy, to be able to jump-start our economy moving forward.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. McCAIN. Madam President, I have a parliamentary inquiry: What is the business before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is considering the motion to proceed to S. 2124, the Ukraine aid bill.

Mr. McCAIN. I thank the Presiding Officer.

I urge my colleagues to not only vote for this particular measure but also to

vote to pass as soon as possible the bill before the Senate that was reported out by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, by a vote of 14 to 4, before we went into recess. Obviously, it is intended to be an opening response—a beginning response—to the Russian aggression in Ukraine; specifically now occupying and absorbing Crimea into Russia, an act of aggression the likes of which has not been seen in a long time.

In addition, now additional pressures are being put on the Ukrainian Government as we speak, such as raising the price of gas, canceling Ukraine special price discounts. Also, oil deliveries are slow, border crossings for the delivery of trade have been closed, and the dirty tricks go on from the old KGB colonel Vladimir Putin.

This act is relatively mild. It will provide loan guarantees which are badly needed. Now the Ukrainian economy is under even greater pressure and greater difficulty, given the actions taken by Vladimir Putin, and it would stabilize the Ukrainian economy. It is just a beginning, but it is a strong signal of support by the United States for this fledgling Ukrainian democracy.

The IMF reforms are considered somewhat controversial by some of my colleagues, but the IMF reforms are not the reason this legislation is before us. The reason the legislation is before us is because Vladimir Putin has now absorbed Crimea into Russia. I predicted that when the Ukrainian Government became a government of the people and threw out Yanukovych, Putin would do exactly that because of his view of the need to have Sevastopol, the base on the Black Sea, in order to have access to the Mediterranean, without which his visions and view of the Russian empire would be threatened.

Right now the President of the United States is in Europe. I hope he is leading in Europe rather than just consulting in Europe. By the way, a comment by the President—I still don't quite get it—that there would not be a military excursion in Ukraine—I have never heard that word used in regard to military action. But the most important thing, in my view, is to pass this legislation as soon as possible. We can fight about other less important issues later on. We need to send a strong signal to the people of Ukraine who are watching us as we speak and as we vote today, as to whether we are going to come to their assistance and at least take some small measures to punish Vladimir Putin. If we get hung up for another week or another who knows how many hours because of our failure to act, in my view, it sends exactly the wrong signals.

I also speak again in the strongest terms that we need to send military assistance to this country. We need to help them defend themselves. Russian troops are amassed on the border of Eastern Ukraine as we speak. I don't know whether Vladimir Putin will go into Eastern Ukraine. I did predict he would go into Crimea. Now I believe he is watching carefully for the reaction of the West, led by the United States of America, as to how we are going to assist Ukraine, how we are going to prevent or at least make the cost of further encroachment into Ukrainian territory a very expensive one.

We have military assistance programs with a myriad of nations, and we should be giving them the weapons they need to defend themselves. I am talking about defensive weaponry. It is shameful for us not to do so.

I see my colleague from Illinois with whom I was privileged and proud to travel to Ukraine, a man who understands these issues as well or better than anyone in this body and one who represents thousands and thousands and thousands of Ukrainian Americans whom I know he has met with and who are deeply concerned.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. McCAIN. I am glad to yield.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I wish to say through the Chair it was an honor to join my colleague Senator McCAIN in a whirlwind trip to Ukraine: 48 hours, maybe 6 extra to spare; 2 full days of working, meeting every leader at every level of government there and sensing their concern over the pending so-called referendum on Crimea and what Russia will do next. The Senator from Arizona and I stand together in a bipartisan fashion, urging the passage of this resolution as quickly as possible.

I just left the phone—the reason I came to the floor, I say to the Senator from Arizona, I was on the phone with the Ambassador of Ukraine and we were talking about the situation there, and I said: Senator McCAIN is on the floor and I would like to go down and say a word.

He said the people of Ukraine are watching what we are doing. They are watching what Congress and the United States are going to do.

There are some differences between us. There are some differences between the parties. There comes a moment—and there always has, at least in the past—where we decide we are going to stand together as a nation, particularly when it comes to issues of foreign policy. This resolution doesn't address every issue the Senator from Arizona has raised, but it certainly addresses some key issues on which the Senator and I both agree. We both voted for this in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and we both want to see this move. The sooner the better.

I wish to salute my colleague, the Senator from Arizona, for returning to the Maidan, that area in Kiev where 103 Ukrainians lost their lives demonstrating against the former government and asking for change. Our experience together, visiting that country with a delegation of eight Senators, I hope sent a strong message: There is bipartisan support for Ukraine and we will not tolerate Putin's aggression at the expense of innocent people.

Mr. McCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with the Senator from Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCAIN. I ask my friend: Isn't it true the people of Ukraine are watching in a way that is hard for them to understand—before an empty Chamber. But, more importantly, whether we act and act quickly, that signal to them as they face this additional Russian aggression, maybe not military aggression but already borders have been closed, the price of their energy has been raised—in other words, Putin is putting more and more pressure on them. They look to us. Isn't it a fact they will not quite understand if we go another several days because of some additional issue that does not affect whether we are coming to their assistance, I ask my friend.

Mr. DURBIN. Through the Chair, I couldn't agree more. I think it is significant that when the new Prime Minister of Ukraine was scheduling his first trip outside of the country, where did he come? Here, Washington, DC. With whom did he meet? The President and the leaders. We sat together with him in a room downstairs—the Senate Foreign Relations Committee room. He came here because he wanted to bring the message to us of what he feared would happen if Putin's aggression went forward, and he wanted us to bring the message to the world that the United States stood by him. How can we possibly explain to these people who are worried about the existence and survival of their Nation that we got tied up in some political squabble between the House and the Senate and the two political parties? It is important for us to move and move quickly.

The Senator from Arizona understands this as well or better than most. Many of us have come from countries which were once under the yoke of the Soviets and we remember full well what it took to finally get independence and democracy. Today, Vladimir Putin is fighting to save a failing Soviet franchise, and where he can't win the hearts and minds of neighboring nations, he instead uses masked gunmen, troops, barbed wire, and energy extortion. That is how he works. He is not winning this battle, but he is saying to the world: The only way I can keep my ''friends'' in line is with pressure. So the United States, and I hope other civilized nations, will join us in saying that is unacceptable.

I thank the Senator and I agree with him. Now is the time to act in the Senate.

Mr. McCAIN. I note the presence of the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee whom I wish to thank for his rapid leadership in getting this legislation approved by an overwhelming majority of the committee on a bipartisan basis. I know he is waiting to speak.

I have just one more comment for my friend from Illinois. I understand he just met with Ukrainian Americans in Chicago, in his home State of Illinois. Isn't it true they don't quite understand why we have not acted more rapidly in the face of naked aggression—which is incredible acquisition of territory which the Russian Government guaranteed as part of Ukraine when Ukraine gave up its nuclear inventory, which happened to be the third largest in the world. I see the chairman waiting, so I will not ask any more questions, except to urge my colleagues let's have an overwhelming vote to move to this legislation and get it done as quickly as possible.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, first let me thank my two colleagues, both distinguished members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator MCCAIN and Senator DURBIN. Their work and their leadership on this issue has created the type of bipartisan spirit that I think is incredibly important in general but certainly in foreign relations. They both added greatly to the legislation that came out of committee with a strong bipartisan vote that we are considering on the floor.

Last week some of my colleagues in this Chamber were sanctioned by Vladimir Putin for standing up for the Ukrainian people, standing up for freedom, standing up for their democratic aspirations, standing up for the sovereignty of Ukraine. As I said in Brussels at the German Marshall Fund this weekend, if I have been sanctioned for those reasons, then I say, by all means, Mr. Putin, sanction me.

I urge all of my colleagues to be supportive of the legislation. They may be sanctioned at the end of the day, but that is really what standing for Ukraine is all about at this critical moment and what it means beyond.

When we look around the world, we realize that every so often we face a critical juncture at a time of great upheaval and change. With the backsliding of Russian leadership to a pre-1991 posture, we are at such a juncture. Vladimir Putin seems to view the pre-1991 Soviet Union's expansionist authoritarianism as a present-day goal and the last two decades, which saw the formation of new and independent states, as a departure from Peter the Great's expansionist aspirations.

From Ukraine, to Georgia, to the Middle East, we are seeing a new Russian leadership bent on using its military authority, its economic resources, and diplomacy to serve its parochial interests at any cost—despite violations of its own legal commitments and those it has made to the international community.

Russia's flatout extortion of Ukraine, supported by former corrupt leaders of Ukraine, forced the political explosion which Russia then exploited.

In Syria, President Putin is actively propping up President Bashar al-Assad and perpetuating the world's worst humanitarian disaster.

In Iran, the ink of the Joint Plan of Action signed in Geneva last November was barely dry when reports surfaced that Tehran and Moscow were negotiating an oil-for-goods swap worth $1.5 billion a month, and that they planned to build a new nuclear plant—all steps that only aid Iran in its pursuit of nuclear weapons, while diminishing the sanctions that forced that country to the negotiating table in the first place.

It is no surprise that Putin and his cronies have already threatened to derail Syria and Iran talks if their countries do not step back from punishing Russia for its annexation of Ukraine.

In Geneva, as the P5+1 talks with Iran continue, we can only hope that the crisis in Ukraine will not have a ripple effect in Russia's position or participation.

But, in my view, Mr. Putin has miscalculated. He has reignited a dangerous pre-1991 Soviet-style game of Russian roulette with the international community, and we cannot blink.

He must understand that we will never accept his violation of international law in Ukraine. That is why we passed this legislation in committee—an aid package for Ukraine that provides loans for economic stabilization, supports planning for upcoming democratic elections, aids in the recovery of stolen assets, and expands security cooperation between the two countries, and it holds Moscow accountable for its aggressive stance against Ukraine.

First, this legislation provides for Ukrainian loan guarantees, consistent with the $1 billion announced by the administration in recent days. It mirrors the House legislation.

Second, it ensures that the Obama administration can assist the Ukrainian Government to identify, secure, and recover assets linked to the acts of corruption by Viktor Yanukovych, members of his family, or other former or current Ukrainian Government officials.

Third, it authorizes $50 million for democracy, governance, and civil society assistance and $100 million for enhanced security cooperation for Ukraine and other states in Central and Eastern Europe.

Fourth, it mandates sanctions, complementing the President's recent Executive order, against Ukrainians and Russians alike responsible for violence and serious human rights abuses against antigovernment protesters—and those responsible for undermining the peace, security, stability, sovereignty or territorial integrity of Ukraine—as well as imposing sanctions on Russian individuals complicit in or responsible for significant corruption in Ukraine.

Fifth, it allows the administration to broadly sanction corrupt Russian officials and go after Putin's allies and cronies who are engaged in massive corruption to the detriment of the Russian people.

Finally, it provides needed reforms to the United States' participation in the International Monetary Fund, which would allow the United States to leverage significant support from the IMF for Ukraine today and for similar unforeseen crises that are going to come in the future.

It is the IMF that is leading the effort to stabilize Ukraine's fragile economy, an essential task if there is to be any chance of reaching a peaceful political solution to the standoff with Russia.

Congressional ratification of the 2010 IMF reforms would increase IMF emergency funding to Ukraine by up to 60 percent, and it would provide an additional $6 billion for longer-term support, setting an important marker for other donors such as the EU and the World Bank.

Failure to approve the reforms, on the other hand, would undermine both the IMF and the international standing of the United States.

Some countries are happy to see U.S. global influence diminish. Failing to approve the reforms weakens the United States and emboldens our competitors.

The IMF is strengthened at no cost to U.S. finances or influence. The United States retains its Executive Board seat and sole veto power at no net cost, since the $63 billion increase in U.S. quota is fully offset by an equivalent decrease to a separate emergency facility. Other countries, however, put in new money, increasing IMF lending power.

The fact is, it is a pure win for the United States. We will pay for the $315 million budget impact of the bill with real cuts and from funds that were underperforming or no longer needed. Given that the IMF helps to stabilize countries, often precluding future need for military action, the relatively minor cost will pay back many times over.

This is not a partisan issue. Presidents Reagan, Clinton, and both Presidents Bush backed legislation to increase IMF resources, and President Reagan called the IMF ''the linchpin of the international financial system.''

These efforts combined send a message to the world that the annexation of Crimea will not stand.

Let me close by saying we are at a dangerous moment in history, with global consequences, and the world is watching.

If the West does not act, what will China say when it is looking at its territorial desires in the South China Sea? What will Iran say when we are negotiating in Vienna about nuclear weapons? What will others in the world say—North Korea, whose march to nuclear weapons on a greater scale is still in play?

All of them will be looking at what we in the West do or do not do, in making a decision about Russia's brazen

move into Ukraine. They will be watching to see how far they can go, how much they can do. They will be asking: What can I get away with?

The fact is, as a matter of principle, Ukrainian sovereignty cannot be violated for simply looking westward and embracing ideals rooted in freedom. These ideals must always remain first and foremost in our strategic response to international events.

When I was in Brussels last week at NATO and the German Marshall Fund, I said: The broader question that faces us is this: Can a united transatlantic vision and our collective commitment to bold actions in this century match the vision and commitment of those who created the international institutions which brought peace and prosperity to millions in the last century?

I believe that—if we live, lead, and govern, guided by shared values and united by our common concerns—we can lead the world through this transformational moment in history and prevent further Russian aggression from taking us back prior to what was that 1991 world.

That is the choice before us. I urge my colleagues to strongly support the cloture motion so that we can work toward a statement that will do exactly that.

Mr. MCCAIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. MENENDEZ. I will be happy to yield to the distinguished Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I think it is very clear that Vladimir Putin has amassed forces on the border of Russia and eastern Ukraine, and right now he is calculating as to whether to move there or even into Moldova, where the Transnistrian region is now occupied and has been by Russian troops. Also, there is pressure on the Baltic countries that is being exerted as we speak, a lot of it in defense of ''Russian-speaking people.'' If we do not send this message now, with this package, in a bipartisan and strong manner, Vladimir Putin will be encouraged to enact further acts of aggression against Crimea and in the region.

I would ask my colleague if he does not agree with that assessment.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I think the Senator is spot-on. Right now, Putin is looking at whether or not he proceeds in Eastern Ukraine. He is looking at Transnistria and Moldova. He is calculating and he is calculating: What are the costs? What will the United States and the European Union do?

From my perspective, President Putin only understands strength, and that strength is either in a military context—which, of course, no one is speaking about at this moment—or an economic one. That is why this package is so incredibly important—because it takes every single dimension that the distinguished Senator helped us in the committee on. It aids Ukraine up front for the loan guarantee. It sanctions—and the Senator was very engaged in several elements of that—elements of the Russian hierarchy for engaging in corrupting the country, Ukraine, and at the same time for invading its territorial integrity. It prepares assistance for that election which is supposed to take place in May that is critical to be fair, open, and transparent and, at the same time, provides for the greater resources through the IMF.

So all of these elements are critical. It also includes a very clear statement about greater defense cooperation, which is also critically important.

So these are all the elements of sending a strong message, as Putin is calculating: What will be the cost? If the cost is not high enough, he may very well proceed into Eastern Ukraine or to those parts of Moldova. That is an action that we can ill-afford and the action that others will look at across the world, as I mentioned, that they will calculate: The West is not willing to take the actions necessary to stop my designs.

If that is the case, then I think we are in a world of hurt across the globe.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank the chairman for his eloquent statement.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 329, S. 2124, a bill to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Robert Menendez, Debbie Stabenow, Barbara Boxer, Patty Murray, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Carl Levin, Joe Donnelly, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Maria Cantwell, Barbara A. Mikulski, Tom Harkin, Tim Kaine, Jeanne Shaheen, Jon Tester.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to S. 2124, a bill to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 78, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 79 Leg.]

YEAS—78

Alexander	Graham	Murkowski
Ayotte	Grassley	Murphy
Baldwin	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Hatch	Portman
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Pryor
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Brown	Inhofe	Rubio
Burr	Isakson	Sanders
Cardin	Johanns	Schatz
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Shaheen
Coats	Kaine	Stabenow
Collins	King	Tester
Coons	Klobuchar	Thune
Corker	Leahy	Toomey
Cornyn	Levin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Durbin	Markey	Vitter
Feinstein	McCain	Walsh
Fischer	McConnell	Warner
Flake	Menendez	Warren
Franken	Merkley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—17

Barrasso	Enzi	Roberts
Boozman	Heller	Scott
Coburn	Lee	Sessions
Cochran	Moran	Shelby
Crapo	Paul	Wicker
Cruz	Risch	

NOT VOTING—5

Cantwell	Kirk	McCaskill
Chambliss	Landrieu	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 78, the nays are 17. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Washington.

OSO LANDSLIDE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am sure all our colleagues have seen the news over the past few days from my home State of Washington where we are suffering from a devastating natural disaster.

For those who haven't seen the coverage, on Saturday the town of Oso, WA—a very small, tightly knit community on the Stillaguamish River—was hit by a massive landslide. It has cut off the town of Darrington just a few miles up State Road 530, and houses over a square mile have been swept away.

We know already we have lost eight people. This morning we learned there are more than 100 people still missing, and right now in my home State of Washington there are dozens of families who do not know if their loved ones are still alive. These are moms and dads, they are sons and daughters, they are neighbors and friends who in the blink of an eye saw water and earth

wipe away their homes and their entire community, and now many of them don't know if their loved ones survived.

I was in Arlington, WA, yesterday, where the search and rescue operations are being coordinated. It is just down the road from where the slide hit, and I want to talk for a few minutes this evening on the Senate floor about this tragedy.

Oso and Darrington are very small towns like a lot of others in this country. The population of Oso is 180 people. These are the types of places where everyone knows everyone, where they stop to say hello, and where everyone lends a helping hand. It is impossible to describe the scope of this devastation. There isn't a single person who hasn't been impacted in some way by this tragedy. There also isn't a single person anywhere who isn't doing everything they can to help. I saw neighbors who were there providing food, providing shelter, offers of all kinds of hope, help, hugs, and prayers. First responders are risking their lives every minute, braving very dangerous conditions to look for survivors. People across my State are offering help and donations, anything they can to assist these communities that are experiencing the unthinkable. We have grocery stores offering food to the families who need it and to the rescue workers. The Red Cross is there on the ground. Tribal leaders from the local community are coming to offer what they can.

I wanted my colleagues to know that this weekend I saw some of the worst devastation I have ever witnessed in my home State. At the same time I also saw firefighters who hadn't slept. They refused to stop as they searched for survivors. I saw families refusing to give up hope, and I saw communities that need our entire State and our entire country to stand with them now.

Even though Oso and Darrington are 2,300 miles away from the Nation's Capital, our hearts and prayers are with the families in those communities tonight. In the coming weeks and months—and even years if that is what it takes—all of us need to stand with the people of Oso and Darrington and Arlington and provide the Federal resources they are going to desperately need in this recovery and rebuilding operation. I want them to know they will have the thoughts and prayers of everyone in this country going out to the real Washington as they see this through.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

SMITH AND MCHUGH NOMINATIONS

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise this evening to speak in support of two nominees for Federal judgeships from Pennsylvania. I believe my colleague Senator CASEY is going to have a message he will share with us momentarily.

First, I wish to be very clear that I am very enthusiastically in support of both Judge Ed Smith and Mr. Gerald McHugh, the two nominees, both of whom are likely to get a vote this week. If confirmed, they will serve as U.S. district judges for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

I thank Chairman LEAHY and Ranking Member GRASSLEY for their work in ushering these candidates through the committee process.

I thank Leader REID and Leader MCCONNELL for their role in ensuring these nominees would have a chance to have a vote on the Senate floor.

Most of all, I thank my colleague Senator CASEY. Senator CASEY and I have been working hard to fill a number of vacancies on the Federal bench in Pennsylvania since I got to the Senate. He predates my arrival here, so he has been at this longer than I have, but since I have arrived we have had a terrific working relationship. We have had eight terrific men and women confirmed to the Federal bench across Pennsylvania. Hopefully, these two gentlemen will join them and we will be up to 10.

We have developed a rigorous process by which the many candidates who apply for these vacancies are thoroughly vetted, and I am very pleased that we have been able to make this ongoing process work. Pennsylvanians expect us to work together across party lines—a Democratic Senator and a Republican Senator—to simply find the best candidates. I have to say that I think we are doing exactly that with respect to our judicial nominees, and there could be no better examples than Judge Smith and Gerald McHugh.

Ed Smith was approved by the Judiciary Committee by a voice vote on January 16. He is very well respected. I have known Judge Smith for nearly 20 years. There is no question that he has the requisite skills, the knowledge, the background, and the acumen. He will be a great Federal judge. We know this because of what he has already accomplished in his career. He serves as a captain in the U.S. Navy, in the JAG Corps. He has been a commanding officer at the Navy Reserve Naval Justice School. He served as a military trial judge in the Navy Reserve. He was deployed to Iraq in 2007 and 2008 to serve as a rule of law advisor to the Iraqis, and he received a Bronze Star for his service.

Currently, Ed Smith is a judge on the Northampton County Court of Common Pleas. He has been a partner in the law firm of DeRaymond & Smith, and he is a cum laude graduate from Dickinson Law School.

Importantly, Judge Smith has agreed that if he is confirmed, he will sit in the Easton Courthouse in the First District. That is a courthouse which has not had a district court judge since 2004. The people of Northampton County deserve to have that courthouse filled, and Judge Smith is an outstanding candidate to do it.

I am also delighted to support Gerald McHugh. Gerald McHugh is a highly accomplished attorney, of very keen intellect, with a great commitment to public service. He is currently a partner in the Raynes McCarty firm. His work has mostly been in civil litigation, in medical malpractice, in litigation regarding unsafe products, aviation disasters, and in civil rights. He has been a shareholder in the firm of Litvin, Blumberg, Matusow & Young.

He began his career clerking for District Court Judge Luongo in the Eastern District. He is a cum laude graduate from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Gerald McHugh is not only a skilled lawyer, but he has been very active in his community. He has been giving back to the greater Philadelphia area for a long time. He is on the boards of many charitable and civic organizations. He is the president of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network and has been since 2004. He cofounded the Hospitality House of Philadelphia to help ex-offenders, and he does pro bono work to improve neighborhoods and prevent crime in West Philadelphia.

Both of these candidates have the crucial qualities necessary to make outstanding judges, and they have manifested that throughout their very distinguished careers. They have the intelligence, they have the integrity, they have the commitment to public service, and they have respect for the limited role the judiciary has under our constitutional system. So I am pleased to rise to speak on behalf of these two highly accomplished nominees, and I urge my colleagues to support their confirmation later this week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I would like to commend and salute the work done by Senator TOOMEY and his staff, working with ours, as well as the leaders he mentioned, beginning with Majority Leader REID and Chairman LEAHY.

Like Senator TOOMEY, I am grateful to have the opportunity to talk about both of these nominees for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania: Edward George Smith, who serves now as a judge, as well as Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr. I have known Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr., a lot longer, and I will speak about him first. I know him as Jerry.

If there is one thing I could say about Jerry McHugh, it is he is a lawyer's lawyer. He is the kind of lawyer other lawyers go to for advice, for guidance, and sometimes for education. He has been a great leader in the bar, but also someone who has been a strong advocate for those who need a voice, often serving as a lawyer for those who wouldn't have an advocate absent his involvement in a case.

Jerry McHugh is a Philadelphia native. He was educated at St. Joe's University in Philadelphia where he received a degree in theology, graduating summa cum laude with the highest

honors. He also graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and he graduated from Penn law school with honors as well.

He began his practice at the law firm of Litvin Blumberg Matusow & Young in the early 1980s. Prior to his career as a lawyer, he served two judges as a law clerk: first, Judge Spaeth, Superior Court of Pennsylvania, the second highest court in the State right next to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. He then served Judge Alfred L. Luongo, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He then went into practice in the Litvin firm, and later the Raynes McCarty law firm in Philadelphia, PA, starting in 2004.

I will highlight a few memberships which I think bear upon his work as a lawyer and the work he will do as a judge. He has been a member of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers and a board member of the Legal Aid Network in Philadelphia. He served the bar association in a number of capacities, including Volunteers for the Indigent Program, helping those who may not have a voice.

Jerry focused his practice on complex civil litigation, including a variety of matters. I think it is noteworthy that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court three times appointed him to chair the Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts Program, a program which is very important so that when the fund is needed to help resolve a case which involves a lawyer, the fund is there. It has to be administered and overseen by folks who have the highest integrity.

I know Jerry McHugh as someone who has a wide range of experience as a lawyer, an advocate, an active citizen, someone who would bring to the court a passion for justice and a sense of outrage in the face of injustice. I can't say enough about his experience and his preparation for this very important assignment he would have upon confirmation to be a judge in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. I am grateful for his willingness to serve.

In addition, Judge Edward George Smith, as Senator TOOMEY noted, has a great career and a varied set of experiences, serving now as a judge in the Court of Common Pleas in Northampton County since January of 2002. He was elected to that position and then retained, which is the ultimate validation of someone's services on the bench in the Court of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania.

Prior, as Senator TOOMEY noted, Judge Smith served the United States in the Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps as a captain, from 1984 until the present time. He also served in the DeRaymond & Smith law firm for about 11 years. In that time period he served as solicitor for a number of entities in the region.

Edward Smith has also demonstrated his commitment to his community. He is a former president of the Boys and Girls Club of Easton, PA, former president of the Kiwanis Club of Palmer Township, former emergency medical technician in Forks Township.

His 27-year military career is substantial. In addition to serving in the Navy and achieving the rank of captain, he served our country in Iraq. Just a few of his commendations are the Bronze Star medal, Meritorious Service medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medal.

Whether by way of life experience as well as legal experience or whether his experience as a judge, Judge Smith is prepared to be a judge again on a different court—in this case, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

When we make decisions about whom to nominate for either the district court or the appellate court, we always want to consider a range of characteristics, experiences, and qualifications. First and foremost, we look to people who have unquestioned integrity. We look to them as people who have a varied experience, whether in the law as a judge or in other life experiences as well. We also look to people who can do the job—not just by way of their integrity and ability but also those who have the judicial temperament, the approach to litigants, to treat them with fairness and to arrive at a measure of justice.

On those qualifications and characteristics, as well as others, both of these nominees possess them in abundance. I am grateful for Senator TOOMEY's work with us to get this done to have two judges to be confirmed, and we are looking forward to doing that later this week.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

1964 ALASKA EARTHQUAKE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Thank you, Mr. President.

In Alaska there is a great deal of attention focused this week on the Great Alaska Earthquake of 1964. March 27 marked the 50th anniversary of this amazing physical event, the second largest earthquake that has ever been recorded, an episode Alaskans have been talking about for the past 50 years and will be talking about for the next 50. I rise this afternoon not to speak about that anniversary but to speak of a 25-year anniversary that while not caused by Mother Nature had a devastating impact on Alaska and the surrounding waters of our State. I would like to speak very briefly about where we are 25 years after the Exxon Valdez ran aground on Bligh Reef.

The Exxon Valdez was a 987-foot tanker. It was carrying 53 million gallons of crude oil. It struck Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound at 12:04 a.m., on March 24, 1989, and within literally hours it had released approximately 11 million gallons of crude oil into the water.

As most know, the Alaskan coastline isn't just a nice thin straight beach; it is hundreds and hundreds of coves and islands and miles of shoreline. That oil spread over approximately 1,000 miles of shoreline across our coast. It is absolutely a fact that this environmental disaster is something that has left an impression on Alaskans not unlike what we experienced 25 years prior to that with another one of Mother Nature's devastations, the Great Friday earthquake in 1964.

It is important when we have milestones, when we have anniversaries or times where we pause to think about what has happened before, that we not only think about the tragedy at the time but we think about how we have moved forward from that time, hopefully learning from those incidents that trigger such strong memories.

So many Alaskans have stories of how they worked to help clean up the oil spill in the aftermath of the Exxon Valdez, whether it was fishermen who had been displaced—they were no longer going out and fishing; instead they charged their vessels to be part of the massive cleanup effort that was underway. The stories that are out there throughout our State and from folks around the country are as poignant and touching 25 years later as they were at the time, because as the environment was impacted, the lives of Alaskans were clearly impacted.

I like to think I spend a good amount of time in the small fishing community of Cordova—a community that was dramatically impacted by the Exxon Valdez spill—visiting with fishermen and fishing families decades after the fact and hearing their stories not only of the loss they incurred because they were not able to go out and fish, they were not able to meet their boat mortgages, but the other stresses the community experienced because of this disaster, whether it was personal bankruptcies, whether it was divorce, whether it was social issues because people just couldn't deal with the fact that their landscape and their livelihoods had been changed. It was a very trying and traumatic time. I think those scars take decades to heal.

My hope is that, as Alaskans, we come together and learn from these tragedies and events so we can move forward. We are pretty resilient people. The people who have been so dramatically impacted are proof and evidence of that.

What else have we seen as we have tried to learn from that tragedy? I think it is fair to say that at the time—back in 1989 when the Exxon Valdez ran aground—there was perhaps, as some would call it, a complacency. Perhaps we were just not monitoring operations as we should have,

but we had an industry that had been operating quite safely—absolutely safely—for decades without incident. When you lose that vigilance, things can happen, and things happened with the Exxon Valdez.

Since that time, we have learned that you have to have a level of preparedness as you operate in areas such as the Prince William Sound, you have to have a level of preparedness that meets the challenge you face. At the time the tanker ran aground, the spill response equipment that was there and had been planned for was not readily available. We didn't have sufficient boom available in the event of a disaster. We didn't have the fleet that could go out and assist in the disaster.

Now, 25 years later, Alyeska has 189 skimmers, 49 miles of boom and on-water storage capacity of almost 38 million gallons. We have put in place a requirement that North Slope oil must be transported in double-hull tankers. You cannot bring a tanker in to carry North Slope crude unless it is double-hulled. It doesn't matter what the weather is, we require a level of escort—a two-tug escort—out of the Prince William Sound. It can be a flat, calm summer day or a foul winter day, but every tanker going out is escorted by two tugs. We also have radar monitors that are in place that truly allow for a greater level of oversight and scrutiny.

What we have done in response to the spill is, I think, something that is worthy of note. Clearly, it is something that Other Nations look to as the example of preparedness. We have our Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council in place. They are truly active and engaged, not only with the community, but with the fishing fleets.

We have learned that the company Alyeska—the management company for the transportation of Alaska's North Slope oil—conducts two major oil spill drills every year to make sure that there is a level of preparedness. We have about 400 local fishing boat owners that are trained to deploy and maintain the boom. They come together with drills to make sure we never have anything like we saw with the Exxon Valdez again.

I think it is fair to say that 25 years after the spill, we are continuing to monitor not only the land and water but our fisheries. I recognize we still have a herring fishery that has not yet recovered. We still have a bird population—the guillemot—which has not recovered.

Twenty-five years is a long time. When you have a disaster, as we had, it does leave an impact. My goal, mission, and effort as a legislator is to make certain we do not have a level of complacency where we close our eyes and fail in our efforts for preparedness again.

I think what we have demonstrated in Alaska since the spill is, as I say, admirable in recognizing that we had failed in a level of prevention, but we also recognized we could learn from that tragedy and move forward, and we did.

I wanted to take a couple of minutes this afternoon and acknowledge that there are still many Alaskans who woke up this morning not thinking about the weather or getting their kids to school, but with a very strong reminder of where they were 25 years ago and how the events of that day changed people's lives. Again, the goal here is to never have a tragedy of that scale and scope again.

With that, I thank the Chair, yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING RICHARD CLINE

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Richard Francis Cline, a member of ''The Greatest Generation.'' Mr. Cline, who passed away last September at the age of 89, will be honored today by interment at Arlington National Cemetery. Mr. Cline was a dedicated father and patriot who, like so many of his generation, left friends, family, and the comfort of home to take up arms in defense of his Nation.

A native of Chicago, and North Carolinian later in his life, Mr. Cline and his eight siblings knew hardship early in life, coming of age during the Great Depression. To help support his family he worked at several jobs as a boy and as a young man. He began working by selling popcorn at Wrigley Stadium at the age of 9 and learned, out of necessity, the merit of a strong work ethic that would follow him for the rest of his life.

After graduating from high school, he joined the U.S. Army at the age of 18. He served his country in General Patton's famous 3rd Army Corps, where he was a member of the 15th Medical Supply Division that operated in England as well as France and Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. He witnessed the horrors of war and served his country to provide not only for his family, but also for the freedom of all Americans.

While stationed in a small town in Belgium, he met his future wife, Jeanine. She returned with him to America and they continued their lives together following the war. They were married for 64 years, and together they raised 4 children who saw their father not only as their parent, but as their friend.

Once Mr. Cline returned home, he started what would become a 44-year career with the Continental Can Corporation. Those who knew him would tell you that he expected nothing he did not earn, and worked hard to achieve the American dream he fought so hard to protect. He gave earnestly to his community in many ways throughout his life, often making wooden toys for children who might not otherwise have had any presents at Christmas. Richard Francis Cline embodied the spirit of the ''greatest generation'' and made many who knew him proud to call him both a fellow American and a friend.

I am honored to have been able to call Mr. Cline a constituent. His interment at Arlington National Cemetery is recognition of his loyal service to this great Nation. I offer my condolences to his family and those who knew Mr. Richard Cline, for we have lost a remarkable man and role model.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JUAN GONZALEZ AND BRIAN LAW

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of two dedicated public servants, California Highway Patrol officers Juan Gonzalez and Brian Law. Officer Gonzalez and Officer Law were tragically killed in the line of duty while responding to an automobile accident in Kingsburg, CA.

A graduate of Tulare Union High School and California State University, Fresno, Juan Gonzalez joined the California Highway Patrol in 2008, the culmination of years of hard work and the realization of a goal that he had held since he was 5 years old. He worked for 2 years in San Jose before transferring to the Fresno area in 2010.

A Marine and Air Force reservist, Brian Law also graduated from the California Highway Patrol Academy in 2008 and worked in Alameda County for the CHP for 5 years before transferring to Fresno last year.

Officer Gonzalez and Officer Law first met as cadets at the California Highway Patrol Academy, where they became good friends. In 2013, they teamed up as partners in the CHP's Fresno office.

Those who knew Officer Gonzalez fondly remember him as a trusted colleague and friend who was committed to his career and family. His determined spirit, unique laugh, and camaraderie will be missed.

Officer Law was an avid sports fan with an engaging personality whose willingness to help others and passion for law enforcement helped him to become a respected member of the California Highway Patrol. Above all else,

Brian is remembered as a devoted family man.

Officers Gonzalez and Law dutifully served the people of California with honor and valor. Their service and dedication epitomize the best ideals of law enforcement, and I send my heartfelt sympathies to their families, friends and colleagues—especially Maria, Officer Gonzalez's mother, and his sister Sandra; and Rebecca, Officer Law's wife; his stepdaughter Lauren; son Brandon; daughter Samantha; father Denis Law; mother Judy Doty; and sister Carol Law-Stetson.

They will be sorely missed.●

REMEMBERING SERGEANT TOM SMITH

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Sergeant Tom Smith, a 23-year veteran of the Bay Area Rapid Transit, BART, Police Department, who was an exceptional law enforcement officer, a devoted and loyal friend, and most of all a dedicated family man. Sergeant Smith was tragically struck down on January 21, 2014, becoming the first police officer in BART's 42-year history to be killed in the line of duty.

Tom Smith was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, the youngest of three brothers who all became police officers and the first to pursue a career in law enforcement. Joining the BART police at age 19 as a cadet, he rose through the ranks, serving as a field training officer and a K–9 handler before becoming a detective and eventually reaching the rank of Sergeant, where he led BART's detective unit.

Colleagues remember Sergeant Smith as an experienced and respected leader who was passionate about his work. It was through his job that he met the love of his life, Kellie, a BART police officer with the K–9 unit. Married in 2001, Sergeant Smith and his wife have a beautiful 6-year-old daughter, Summer. His friends remember him as a devoted husband, father, and brother. When he was not on duty he spent as much time as he could with Kellie and Summer, his brothers Patrick, a Newark police officer, and Edward, an Alameda County sheriff's deputy, and his brother-in-law Todd, a Hayward police officer.

Tom Smith dedicated his life to his family, his community, and his country. His dedicated and courageous service will not be forgotten. On behalf of the people of California, whom he served so bravely, I extend my gratitude and deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and colleagues.●

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COYOTES

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I am proud to congratulate the University of South Dakota, USD, Coyotes Women's basketball team for making the NCAA Division I tournament. In just their second year of eligibility, this is an extraordinary achievement.

On March 11 the Coyotes faced off against the Denver Pioneers. They played remarkably well and defeated their rivals capturing the Summit League Championship title, and ultimately clinching an automatic berth in the NCAA tournament.

Founded in 1862, the University of South Dakota has continually sought and achieved excellence. As my alma mater, I personally can attest to the spirit of this world-class institution. Qualifying for the NCAA Division I tournament exemplifies the hard work that defines the USD community and showcases its prestige.

I commend the exceptional leadership and vision of president James W. Abbott who, in 2006, announced that USD's athletic programs would transition from NCAA Division II to Division I. That move made this journey to the Big Dance possible. Additionally, director of athletics David Herbster along with head coach Amy Williams, assistant coaches Brook Atkinson, Josh Hutchinson, and Chuck Love, and graduate assistant Tandem Mays helped lead the team through this remarkable season.

In honor of their dedication and success I would like to congratulate to each of the outstanding Coyote team members: Bailey Milne, Tia Hemiller, Madeleine White, Kelly Stewart, Taylor Moore, Bridget Arens, Raeshel Contreras, Jaylah Jackson, Margaret McCloud, Emily Smith, Polly Harrington, Nicole Seekamp, Heidi Hoff, and Lisa Loeffler. Their tireless work ethic, determination, and skills are second to none. Congratulations and Go Yotes!●

REMEMBERING MASTER SERGEANT DAVID POIRIER

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor the life and service of U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant David Poirier, who passed away February 28, 2014, while stationed at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. Master Sergeant Poirier was serving his sixth tour overseas as a member of the New Hampshire Air National Guard's 157th Operational Support Squadron. He had also previously completed tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guam, Qatar, and El Salvador, in addition to other Guard missions in New Hampshire.

Dave, as he was known to family and friends, was born in Woonsocket, RI, and grew up in Blackstone, MA, where he graduated from Blackstone-Millville Regional High School. A resident of Salem, NH, Dave was an active and respected member of the New Hampshire community in his role as an airman as well as his position as postmaster for the town of Atkinson. At the time of his passing at age 52, Dave had served over 22 years in the U.S. Air Force and had earned the Air Force Commendation Medal twice, campaign medals for Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the Global War on Terrorism, as well as other awards.

Like many New Englanders, Dave enjoyed the outdoors by taking camping and fishing trips throughout the region. He also took particular pleasure in riding his Harley-Davidson on the back roads of New Hampshire. Most of all, Dave loved spending time with his family, entertaining them with magic tricks and card games.

I had the honor of meeting Master Sergeant Poirier's family during his dignified transfer ceremony at Pease Air National Guard Base. He was a devoted family man and I know his absence will be felt by many. However, it is my hope that during this extremely difficult time Dave's family and friends will find comfort in knowing that Americans everywhere appreciate deeply his vow to defend our country so that the rest of us may continue to live in peace and freedom.

Along with his wife, Kim, Master Sergeant Poirier is survived by his sons Andrew and Bradley Poirier; his daughter Nicole Poirier; his step sons Kevin and Dillon Forzese; his grandchildren Eliana, Kai, and Olivia; his brothers Kenny, Charlie, John, and Bob Poirier; as well as his step father Charlie Caine.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in honoring the life and service of this brave American, David Poirier.●

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER TO TAKE ADDITIONAL STEPS WITH RESPECT TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY ORIGINALLY DECLARED ON MARCH 6, 2014 IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13660 WITH RESPECT TO UKRAINE, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON MARCH 17, 2014—PM 36

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, DC, March 16, 2014.

Hon. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.,
President of the Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the ''order'') expanding the scope of the national emergency I declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the situation in Ukraine.

In the order, I find that the actions and policies of the Government of the Russian Federation with respect to Ukraine—including the recent deployment of Russian Federation military forces in the Crimea region of Ukraine—undermine democratic processes

and institutions in Ukraine; threaten its peace, security, stability, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and contribute to the misappropriation of its assets, and thereby constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. The order blocks the property and interests in property of persons listed in an Annex to the order. The order also blocks the property and interests in property of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

- to be an official of the Government of the Russian Federation;
- to operate in the arms and related materiel sector in the Russian Federation;
- to be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly:
  - a senior official of the Government of the Russian Federation; or
  - a person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order; or
- to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of:
  - a senior official of the Government of the Russian Federation; or
  - a person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order.

In addition, the order suspends entry into the United States of any alien determined to meet one or more of the above criteria.

I have delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury the authority, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. All agencies of the United States Government are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on March 14, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

S.J. Res. 32. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of John W. McCarter as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the joint resolution was subsequently signed on March 14, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. KING).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on March 14, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2650. An act to allow the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in the State of Minnesota to lease or transfer certain land.

H.R. 3370. An act to delay the implementation of certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4076. An act to address shortages and interruptions in the availability of propane and other home heating fuels in the United States, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the bills were subsequently signed on March 15, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REED).

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on March 18, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy: Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3189. An act to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture.

H.R. 3973. An act to amend section 530D of title 28, United States Code.

H.R. 4015. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and improve Medicare payments for physicians and other professionals, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3189. An act to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3973. An act to amend section 530D of title 28, United States Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs pursuant to the order of January 13, 2014, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1352. A bill to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2148. A bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3474. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of the employer mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

H.R. 3979. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2149. A bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on March 14, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled joint resolution:

S.J. Res. 32. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of John W. McCarter as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK):

S. 2149. A bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2150. A bill to advance the public health by encouraging independent innovators to pursue drug repurposing research and develop new treatments and cures by providing appropriate intellectual property protections for those innovations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 393. A resolution supporting the goals of World Tuberculosis Day to raise awareness about tuberculosis; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 394. A resolution designating April 5, 2014, as ''Gold Star Wives Day'' ; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 132

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 132, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of New Columbia into the Union.

S. 170

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to recognize the heritage of recreational fishing, hunting, and recreational shooting on Federal public land and ensure continued opportunities for those activities.

S. 192

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 192, a bill to enhance the energy security of United States allies, and for other purposes.

S. 204

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 204, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, supra.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. WALSH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 338, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 370

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 382

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 392

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 392, a bill to support and encourage the health and well-being of elementary school and secondary school students by enhancing school physical education and health education.

S. 398

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, a bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 728

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 728, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage for employees' spouses and dependent children to coverage provided to other eligible designated beneficiaries of employees.

S. 917

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 917, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain qualifying producers.

S. 948

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 948, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program.

S. 994

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 994, a bill to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes.

S. 1053

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1053, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to strengthen and protect Medicare hospice programs.

S. 1064

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

S. 1069

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1069, a bill to prohibit discrimination in adoption or foster care placements based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of any prospective adoptive or foster parent, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved.

S. 1212

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1212, a bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States.

S. 1242

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1242, a bill to amend the Fair Housing Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1291

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1291, a bill to strengthen families' engagement in the education of their children.

S. 1306

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1306, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in order to improve environmental literacy to better prepare students for postsecondary education and careers, and for other purposes.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 1468

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 1468, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Network for Manufacturing Innovation and for other purposes.

S. 1517

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 1517, a bill to amend the Public Health Services Act and the Social Security Act to extend health information technology assistance eligibility to behavioral health, mental health, and substance abuse professionals and facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1574

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1574, a bill to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes.

S. 1647

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1647, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to repeal distributions for medicine qualified only if for prescribed drug or insulin.

S. 1659

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1659, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding proprietary institutions of higher education in order to protect students and taxpayers.

S. 1694

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1694, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of hearing aids.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1738, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 1767

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1767, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require gas pipeline facilities to accelerate the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of high-risk pipelines used in commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 1768

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1768, a bill to establish State revolving loan funds to repair or replace natural gas distribution pipelines.

S. 1823

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1823, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to better enable State child welfare agencies to prevent human trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of human trafficking, and for other purposes.

S. 1827

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1827, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces, collectively, in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom throughout the history of aviation warfare.

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1827, supra.

S. 1941

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1941, a bill to establish requirements for the adoption of any new or revised requirement providing for the screening, testing, or treatment of an airman or an air traffic controller for a sleep disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 1956

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1956, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to review the discharge characterization of former members of the Armed Forces who were discharged by reason of the sexual orientation of the member, and for other purposes.

S. 1992

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1992, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a standard definition of therapeutic foster care services in Medicaid.

S. 2008

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2008, a bill to strengthen resources for entrepreneurs by improving the SCORE program, and for other purposes.

S. 2024

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2024, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 1, United States Code, with regard to the definition of ''marriage'' and ''spouse'' for Federal purposes and to ensure respect for State regulation of marriage.

S. 2037

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 2082

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2082, a bill to provide for the development of criteria under the Medicare program for medically necessary short inpatient hospital stays, and for other purposes.

S. 2083

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2083, a bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to promote economic growth and job creation in the United States, to strengthen strategic partnerships with allies of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2103, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations with respect to the medical certification of certain small aircraft pilots, and for other purposes.

S. 2105

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2105, a bill to prohibit the Federal funding of a State firearms ownership database.

S. 2106

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2106, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the individual health insurance mandate not apply until the employer health insurance mandate is enforced without exceptions.

S. 2115

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2115, a bill to provide for the establishment of a fund to provide for an expanded and sustained national investment in biomedical research.

S. 2122

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2122, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and to improve Medicare and Medicaid payments, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 348

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S.

Res. 348, a resolution expressing support for the internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace.

S. RES. 372

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 372, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights.

S. RES. 390

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 390, a resolution designating March 11, 2014, as ''World Plumbing Day''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 393—SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT TUBERCULOSIS

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 393

Whereas 1/3 of the population of the world is infected with the tuberculosis bacterium;

Whereas more than 9,500 tuberculosis cases were reported in the United States in 2013;

Whereas more than 1,300,000 individuals die from tuberculosis each year;

Whereas over 95 percent of tuberculosis deaths occur in low- and middle-income developing countries;

Whereas tuberculosis is the second leading global infectious disease killer, behind HIV/AIDS, and claims 1,800,000 lives each year;

Whereas tuberculosis is a leading killer of people living with HIV/AIDS, causing 1/5 of all deaths among people with HIV/AIDS;

Whereas tuberculosis is the third leading killer of adult women, and the stigma associated with tuberculosis disproportionately affects women, causing women to delay seeking care and interfering with treatment adherence;

Whereas the global tuberculosis pandemic and the spread of drug-resistant tuberculosis present a persistent public health threat to the United States;

Whereas according to 2009 data from the World Health Organization, 3.6 percent of all new tuberculosis cases are drug resistant;

Whereas multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (referred to in this preamble as ''MDR-TB'') is present in virtually all countries surveyed;

Whereas approximately 450,000 people around the world developed MDR-TB in 2012;

Whereas extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (referred to in this preamble as ''XDR-TB'') is a strain of tuberculosis that is very difficult and expensive to treat and has high and rapid fatality rates, especially among HIV/AIDS patients;

Whereas there have been more than 63 cases of XDR-TB in the United States between 2004 and 2014;

Whereas as of September 2013, 92 countries have reported at least 1 case of XDR-TB;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated, in 2009, that the cost of hospitalizing a single patient with XDR-TB is $483,000;

Whereas, between 2005 and 2007, the 373 XDR-TB cases in the United States collectively cost the health care system an estimated $53,000,000;

Whereas the death rate of tuberculosis dropped 45 percent between 1990 and 2012;

Whereas the Institute of Medicine found that a decrease in tuberculosis control funding and the spread of HIV/AIDS caused the resurgence of tuberculosis between 1980 and 1992;

Whereas although the number of tuberculosis cases in the United States continues to decline, progress towards eliminating tuberculosis has slowed and the disease does not recognize borders;

Whereas African Americans are 8 times more likely to have tuberculosis than Caucasians, and significant disparities exist among other minorities in the United States, including Native Americans, Asian Americans, and Hispanic Americans;

Whereas over 530,000 children became infected with tuberculosis in 2012;

Whereas tobacco use greatly increases the risk of tuberculosis and death, and more than 20 percent of tuberculosis cases worldwide attribute to smoking;

Whereas diabetes is a major risk factor for tuberculosis, and people with diabetes are more likely to develop the disease and have a higher risk of death due to the disease;

Whereas a new technology, known as Xpert, developed in the United States, is able to diagnose cases of tuberculosis within 2 hours, and such technology can even diagnose cases that are difficult to detect, such as cases involving individuals living with HIV;

Whereas although drugs, diagnostics, and vaccines for tuberculosis exist, these technologies are antiquated and increasingly inadequate for controlling the global epidemic;

Whereas Xpert can quickly detect resistance to 1 of the primary tuberculosis drugs, but other tests to detect drug resistance take at least 1 month to complete and the medical community must develop even faster drug susceptibility tests to stop the spread of drug-resistant tuberculosis;

Whereas Bacillus Calmette-Guérin, a tuberculosis vaccine that is known as ''BCG'', provides some protection to children but has little or no efficacy in preventing pulmonary tuberculosis in adults;

Whereas there is a critical need for the development of tuberculosis drugs that individuals can safely take concurrently with antiretroviral therapy for HIV;

Whereas the Millennium Development Goal of the World Health Organization is to reverse the spread of tuberculosis by 2015;

Whereas the enactment of the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–293; 122 Stat. 2918) and the Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–392; 122 Stat. 4195) provides an historic United States commitment to the global eradication of tuberculosis, including a commitment to successfully treating 4,500,000 tuberculosis patients and 90,000 MDR-TB patients between 2008 and 2013 and to providing additional treatment through coordinated multilateral efforts;

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development provides financial and technical assistance to nearly 40 highly burdened tuberculosis countries, supports the development of new diagnostic and treatment tools, and is authorized to support research to develop new vaccines to combat tuberculosis;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, partnering with the other entities of the United States and individual States and territories, directs the national tuberculosis elimination program, directs essential national tuberculosis surveillance, technical assistance, and prevention activities, and supports the development of new diagnostic, treatment, and prevention tools to combat tuberculosis;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health, through its many institutes and centers, plays the leading role in basic and clinical research on the identification, treatment, and prevention of tuberculosis;

Whereas the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria provides 63 percent of all international financing for tuberculosis programs;

Whereas the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria finances—

(1) proposals worth $3,200,000,000 in 112 countries;

(2) tuberculosis treatment for 6,000,000 people; and

(3) 1,800,000 HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis services;

Whereas the prevalence and mortality rates of tuberculosis are declining in many countries with programs supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; and

Whereas March 24, 2014, is World Tuberculosis Day, a day that commemorates the date in 1882 on which Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacteria that causes tuberculosis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of World Tuberculosis Day to raise awareness about tuberculosis;

(2) commends the progress of anti-tuberculosis efforts by entities that include the United States Agency for International Development, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; and

(3) reaffirms the commitment to global tuberculosis control set forth in section 4 of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7603).

SENATE RESOLUTION 394—DESIGNATING APRIL 5, 2014, AS ''GOLD STAR WIVES DAY''

Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 394

Whereas the Senate honors the sacrifices made by the spouses and families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. represents the spouses and families of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who have died on active duty or as a result of a service-connected disability;

Whereas the primary mission of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. is to provide services, support, and friendship to the spouses of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas in 1945, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. was organized with the help of Eleanor Roosevelt to assist the families left behind by the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas the first meeting of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. was held on April 5, 1945;

Whereas April 5, 2014, marks the 69th anniversary of the first meeting of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.;

Whereas the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States; and

Whereas the sacrifices of the families of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 5, 2014, as ''Gold Star Wives Day'';

(2) honors and recognizes—

(A) the contributions of the members of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.; and

(B) the dedication of the members of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. to the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Wives Day to promote awareness of—

(A) the contributions and dedication of the members of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. to the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(B) the important role that Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. plays in the lives of the spouses and families of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2853. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BURR, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2854. Mr. COATS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2855. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2853. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BURR, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 28, after line 25, add the following:

SEC. 12. EXPEDITED APPROVAL OF EXPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS TO UKRAINE AND NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION MEMBER COUNTRIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(c) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(c)) is amended by inserting '', to Ukraine, or to a member country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization'' after ''trade in natural gas''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to applications for the authorization to export natural gas under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) that are pending on, or filed on or after, the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2854. Mr. COATS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Insert after section 12 the following new section:

SEC. 13. PROHIBITION ON DIRECT OR INDIRECT USE OF FUNDS TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS WITH ROSOBORONEXPORT.

(a) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an executive agency may not enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, or make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan agreement to Rosoboronexport, any subsidiary or affiliate of Rosoboronexport, or any domestic or foreign entity that has a business relationship with Rosoboronexport or any subsidiary or affiliate of Rosoboronexport related to the design, manufacture, or sale of military equipment.

(2) TERMINATION OF EXISTING CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS.—The head of each executive agency shall immediately terminate any contract, memorandum of understanding, cooperative agreement, loan, or loan agreement described in paragraph (1).

(b) REPROGRAMMING AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may reprogram funds appropriated or otherwise made available for Economic Support Fund assistance or security assistance for the government of a country that, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, enters into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, or makes a grant to, or provides a loan or loan agreement to Rosoboronexport, or any subsidiary or affiliate of Rosoboronexport, in an amount up to or equal to the total amount of each such contract, memorandum of understanding, cooperative agreement, loan, or loan agreement.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—The President shall notify Congress not later than 15 days before reprogramming funds under paragraph (1).

(c) EXECUTIVE AGENCY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''executive agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code.

SA 2855. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 13.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The Committee will conduct a hearing entitled ''Importing Energy, Exporting Jobs. Can It Be Reversed?''

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510–6150, or by email to todd_wooten@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Todd Wooten at (202) 224–3907, Abigail Campbell at (202) 224–4905, or John Assini at (202) 224–9313.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet on March 25, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Teacher Preparation: Ensuring a Quality Teacher in Every Classroom.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Aissa Canchola of the committee staff on (202) 224–2009.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet on March 27, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Strengthening the Federal Student Loan Program for Borrowers.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Aissa Canchola of the committee staff on (202) 224–2009.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has scheduled a hearing entitled, ''Caterpillar's Offshore Tax Strategy.'' The Subcommittee will continue its examination of the structures and methods employed by multinational corporations to allocate income outside of the United States and how such activities are affected by the Internal Revenue Code and related regulations. Witnesses will include representatives of Caterpillar Inc. and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, as well as tax experts. A witness list will be available Friday, March 28, 2014.

The Subcommittee hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at (202) 224–9505.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a legislative hearing to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 1474, to encourage the State of Alaska to enter into intergovernmental agreements with Indian tribes in the State relating to the enforcement of certain State laws by Indian tribes, to improve the quality of life in

rural Alaska, to reduce alcohol and drug abuse, and for other purposes; S. 1570, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service by providing 2–fiscal-year budget authority, and for other purposes; S. 1574, to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes; S. 1622, to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes; and S , the Native American Children's Safety Act. Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Chris Landberg, a detailee from the State Department to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the consideration of any legislation related to Ukraine, including S. 2124, Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014. The original request comes from my colleague standing here, Chairman BOB MENENDEZ from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2149

Mr. REID. I understand S. 2149 is due for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2149) to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I object to my own request to have a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for a second time on the next legislative day.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, just alerting everyone, we have a lot to do this week. We have to have some finality on the Ukraine matter, we have SGR—and we are waiting for the House to take some action on that—and we have unemployment compensation. Then we have a number of things we have to do during the next 2 weeks of this work period. We are going to have to finish those I just outlined now, which means that if we can't get some way forward without a lot of procedural roadblocks, we will have to be in this weekend. It is not pleasant for some people, but I have alerted everyone as often as I can. We have been able to avoid the weekends, but this work period is very significant. We have a lot we have to get done. We may either have to start spending a weekend here and there or what we would have to do is just take the week we were supposed to start our Easter break and work that week. It would be a short week, but we would at least be here. So I just alert everyone so people can't come back and say, ''Why didn't you tell us?'' Because I have been saying this for—at least all day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning; that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that time, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; that following morning business the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the Ukraine act postcloture—again, Mr. President, 30 hours postcloture. We have done it scores of times, and it is totally wasted time, but that is what the Republicans want and that is what they get under the rules of the Senate—further, that all time during adjournment and morning business count postcloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2124.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:09 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SIMULATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the National Center for Simulation (NCS), headquartered in Orlando, Florida, on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. Since 1993, NCS's mission has been to ''serve as the nation's focal point and as a catalyst for the development, understanding, and advancement of simulation and related technologies; to improve defense readiness and facilitate space exploration; to support education and training initiatives; and to extend useful applications of simulation.''

NCS is a consortium that facilitates collaboration and networking among its local, national and international membership. Home to acquisition commands for the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, the University of Central Florida, the Air Force Agency for Modeling Simulation and over 150 industry companies, Orlando is a focal point for cooperative and collaborative efforts across diverse fields.

NCS fosters relationships between these varied communities to help disperse resources and innovations in modeling, simulation and training to those industries which may benefit from the knowledge. These relationships result in new understandings in fields such as health care, transportation, entertainment or even military readiness. In addition, their advancements support our workforce and business development, as well as growth in education.

As membership continues to grow and strengthen bonds across diverse communities, I would like to congratulate NCS on its successes and advancements thus far, and trust NCS will continue to provide us with the latest ideas and efforts in simulation, modeling and training.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF AIR FORCE LIEUTENANT COLONEL DARREN HALL

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Lieutenant Colonel Darren Hall, United States Air Force for his 21 years of service to our nation and to congratulate him on his announced retirement.

Lieutenant Colonel Darren Hall is the Joint Staff/J–4, Deputy Chief of the Distribution Division and is responsible for shepherding programs related to air mobility through the Joint Capability Integration Development System (JCIDS) and providing inputs on all current, planned, and potential mobility platforms across the Department of Defense. Lt. Col. Hall also serves as the J–4 representative in the National Military Command Center during exercises and crisis/contingency operations.

Having received his commission from the United States Air Force Academy in 1993, Lt. Col. Hall has served in a variety of leadership and staff positions at the wing, major command, and air staff level. Additionally, he is a command pilot with more than 3,000 hours in the C–21A, KC–135R, T–1A, and T–37.

During his service to our nation, Darren has received multiple awards and decorations including: the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Darren is married to Sophia and they are the proud parents of Cord, Michael, Xavier, Cameron, and Maxwell. Lt. Col. Hall's hometown is Newport News, Virginia, and I am proud to say that Darren and his family have chosen Bristow, Virginia, as their new home.

XAVIER CORRAL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Xavier Corral for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Xavier Corral is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Xavier Corral is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Xavier Corral for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING DR. KANT TUCKER AND DR. IRMA HARRIMAN'S 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dr. Kant Tucker and Dr. Irma Harriman on the special occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary.

Dr. Tucker, who was born in Mumbai, moved to the United States in 1975 with just eight dollars in his pocket, a plane ticket that was purchased by his siblings and a bag of clothes. Unaware of the trials and tribulations that lay ahead, Dr. Tucker was determined to make a living and stay true to his humble beginnings.

During his first months in the United States, Dr. Tucker struggled to earn a living. He was hired as a dishwasher at a fast food chain for only a short time before he was let go. The owners believed that he was a short term employee because he was a medical school graduate.

He continued his search for a career as a doctor, hoping that he would find a hospital that would accept him as an intern. On one occasion, Dr. Tucker was on his way to St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx to interview for an internship when he was mugged at gunpoint causing him to miss his appointment. Although discouraged and disappointed, Dr. Tucker went back to the hospital for a second interview, where he was later offered an internship. From there, Dr. Tucker went on to complete a residency in Jersey City and then to research positions at hospitals in New York and California.

During the course of Dr. Tucker's career, he was also able to find love. In the early 1980s, Dr. Tucker was an assistant professor of nephrology at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) where he met Irma Harriman. Seven years after Irma Harriman became his partner in his Simi Valley practice, they married.

In Dr. Tucker, Dr. Harriman saw the same determination and idealism that she saw in herself and related to the same barriers that she, too, had faced. The pair symbolized hard work and determination. Despite the adversity that both Dr. Tucker and Dr. Harriman faced, they remained persistent in their pursuit of success, always remaining true to their upbringing.

Today, Dr. Tucker and Dr. Harriman operate nine dialysis centers throughout Southern California. Currently living across the Santa Susana Pass, Dr. Tucker and Dr. Harriman never forget the experiences, people, and opportunities that shaped their lives.

I want to sincerely thank Dr. Tucker and Dr. Harriman for their generosity and commitment to our community and wish them all the best upon the celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary. I applaud the love and support they have both provided each other over the years, and I know that there are many more memories to be made.

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR JOHN L. MURRAY, U.S. ARMY CONTRACTING COMMAND

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and applaud the achievements of Command Sergeant Major John L. Murray of the U.S. Army Contracting Command (ACC). Headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, ACC includes more than 6,100 military and civilian employees across the globe that provide support to our war fighters by acquiring equipment, supplies, and services vital to our Soldiers' mission and daily needs. Command Sergeant Major Murray will soon retire after more than 35 years of distinguished service to America's Army. He has served with distinction at virtually every level in the Army—from team chief to command sergeant major, the Army's highest enlisted grade. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated the highest level of professionalism, initiative and selfless service in the execution of programs supporting the total force of quality Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians.

A native of Mobile, Alabama, Command Sergeant Major Murray began his Army career in 1979 as a radio operator, completing initial entry and advanced individual training at Fort Gordon, Georgia. Before joining Army Contracting Command Headquarters at Redstone Arsenal in December 2011, Command Sergeant Major Murray was the Command Sergeant Major for the Expeditionary Contracting Command at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He previously served as Commandant of the Regimental Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Fort Gordon, Georgia. A former drill sergeant, Command Sergeant Major Murray has served with distinction in a number of critical assignments while deployed to over 20 countries including Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, Korea, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. He spent more than five years in Southwest Asia in support of Operations Southern Watch, Desert Storm, Desert Watch, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom with the Joint Communication Support Element MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, the 10th Mountain Division, the 11th Signal Brigade and the 160th Signal Brigade.

While his career accomplishments are many and significant, I wish to highlight Command Sergeant Major Murray's contributions to the establishment of the Army Contracting Command on March 13, 2008. He was one of several key Army leaders who worked tirelessly to create a new major subordinate command from the ground up in record time. His wisdom, insight and vision were essential elements in building the foundation of a global enterprise that awarded and managed more than 190,000 contractual actions valued at more than $60.9 billion in fiscal year 2013.

Command Sergeant Major Murray also played an important role in the relocation of ACC Headquarters from Fort Belvoir, Virginia, to Redstone Arsenal in 2011. This move followed the transfer of ACC's parent command, Army Materiel Command (AMC) Headquarters, to Redstone Arsenal from Fort Belvoir, as directed by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's decision in 2005. While AMC had several years to plan for and transition to its new Alabama home, ACC completed its relocation in less than 18 months. This tremendous accomplishment was a direct result of Command Sergeant Major Murray's inspired leadership, foresight and team-building skills.

I also wish to acknowledge and thank Command Sergeant Major Murray's wife, Ingrid, for supporting her husband and Army families. She served as the Family Readiness Group leader for the 11th Signal Brigade and Signal Corps Regimental Non Commissioned Officer Academy. She has also served as a senior spouse advisor and mentor for other Family Readiness Groups and the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Even the youngest member of the Murray family, John, Jr., was recognized by the Army Surgeon General for encouraging Army family members to "Ask for Help" when contemplating suicide.

The distinctive accomplishments of Command Sergeant Major Murray represent a long and distinguished career in the service of his country and reflect great credit upon himself, Army Contracting Command and the United States Army. We wish Command Sergeant Major Murray, Ingrid and John Jr., all the best in the years ahead.

TIA FRANK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Tia Frank for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Tia Frank is an 11th grader at HOPE House and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Tia Frank is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Tia Frank for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Slippery Rock University on celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

In 1887, the citizens of Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania saw the need for affordable and accessible higher education in their community. In less than 18 months, Slippery Rock raised funds, acquired land, erected buildings and gained approval to be a state normal school. Slippery Rock State Normal School opened its doors on March 26, 1889 to its first class of 168 students with its "ultimate object . . . to make the student, as far as possible, an educator." The Norman School became Slippery Rock State Teachers College after it was purchased by the Commonwealth in 1926. In 1960, it was renamed Slippery Rock College and was granted university status in 1983 to become Slippery Rock University.

Today, Slippery Rock University offers a broad array of undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 8,000 students. The University is a recognized leader in evidence-based planning and decision making. The approximately 80,000 alumni have served in occupations across the spectrum. Slippery Rock University has consistently been recognized not only as one of the best universities in the Northeast but also as a great place to work. Shaped by its normal school heritage, Slippery Rock University is characterized by its commitment to intellectual development, leadership, and civic responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, in light of Slippery Rock University's 125th anniversary, I ask that my colleagues join with me today in recognizing its educational leadership in Pennsylvania for more than a century.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE MANUFACTURING EXPO AND CONGRATULATING THIS YEAR'S INDUSTRY HONOREES

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor Oakton Community College, in partnership with NSERVE and with the support of the Tooling and Manufacturing Association, the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, North Shore Community Bank and more than 50 local manufacturers, for hosting the 2014 Manufacturing Expo in the suburban Chicago district I represent.

The Expo includes workshops, speakers and student tours of local manufacturers offering young people the opportunity to learn more about American manufacturing and available careers. Since 2008, nearly 2,000 students have benefited from these experiences.

The 2014 Expo is also honoring some of its most outstanding industry partners for demonstrating a true commitment to serving young people and to ensuring our future economic and manufacturing success.

It is my honor to congratulate Terry Iverson of Iverson and Company; John Winzeler of Winzeler Gear; John Rubeo of Woodward; and Mark Glennerster and Tara Kandra of John Crane, this year's award recipients.

Since 2008, countless manufacturers have generously opened their doors and welcomed curious students, making these education/business partnerships possible. I am grateful for their excellence and participation. I would also like to recognize all the participating high schools, with Oakton Community College, for

their dedication to providing the next generation with the skills and knowledge necessary for success in the 21st Century.

The 2014 Manufacturing Expo is poised to be the most successful to date, and I am so proud that these partnerships are happening in and around the Tenth District.

WILLIAM GRASER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud William Graser for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. William Graser is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by William Graser is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to William Graser for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. PEARL RILEY

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Mrs. Pearl Riley and I join her family members and friends on April 6, 2014, in commemorating this special centenarian birthday.

Pearl was born on April 6, 1914, and raised in Alsuma, Oklahoma, a suburb of Tulsa. Pearl and her husband, the late Alonzo Riley, Sr. were married for 50 years and raised eight children. She is the grandmother of twenty two; great grandmother of thirty nine; and great, great grandmother of fourteen. One of Pearl's great loves in life, in addition to her family and gardening, was the church. Throughout her life, she was a regular teacher of both children and adults in Sunday school, drama, arts and crafts, and choir. She also served as her church's President of the District Missionary Society and was a member of the Deaconess and Mother's Board. Outside the church, Pearl was an active member of her community working as a volunteer for voter registration and serving as a community representative.

Pearl Riley has led an outstanding life, highlighted by her love of family and service to her community. I wish her many more years of health and happiness.

INVISIBLE FAMILY

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, the following speech has been delivered to audiences at various veteran service organizations and veteran events in Kansas by a brave young lady named Kristin Stowers who lives in the Big 1st District of Kansas that I represent. After hearing twelve year old Kristin Stowers deliver her remarks on her family's experience with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, I wanted to share it with my colleagues in Congress. We could all learn a tremendous amount about sacrifice, commitment, and perseverance from this young lady's remarks.

INVISIBLE FAMILY

(By Kristin Stowers of Hutchinson, Kansas)

It is hard to realize that these amazing people that gave up their lives to save and protect our nation and its people are gone. . . . It makes you see that life is not just a fairy tale ending that we were taught as children, we were taught that it was going to be okay in the end. We now realize you can't win every battle you enter. Some don't make it home to their families, but you have to say to yourself. We were put to the test to complete life a way that we see fit and once you have completed your mission, you wait patiently in your favorite place that you have always found comfortable. Where you wait to see your family that has not yet completed their missions. I know it is hard to coop with what you are going through I had to deal with it, but in a different way.

My mother had a brain tumor and had to have surgery on my first day of kindergarten and had a stroke later on. Our house caught on fire in my fourth grade year and we had to live in a hotel for three months. My father was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and we as a family have to deal with the others sufferings each day. In the last few months we have discovered many other things have gone wrong in our relationship with each other causing more pain than intended. We have not gotten the chance to talk to each other about our problems at home and since the VA does not implement family counseling in their facilities, but they do have spouse counseling. Having said that, I would like to say that the injuries affect the whole family not just the spouse.

PTSD is like a black hole, you get sucked in without even knowing what is happening around you. Your hoping that tomorrow will be better than today, but still hoping that when you come from school or work that the stress has not overcome them and they are laying in their chair. . . . Silent. . . . Dead. With the help of the VA it is still progressing, but still worse than before. It makes me think that he is floating away in a bubble, but God will not leave him without a fight. To this day he is in a battle with PTSD and the prize of the battle is him and us. . . . His family and friends. We are hoping that he wins, but you never know what the outcome will be. That is why we are all here. Every person in the world with PTSD is in a battle. Some lost and some still lead victorious and I trust him to be victorious.

All I ever wanted is for the pain to end and many of you may be thinking the same thing, and I know this is over used but it will heal with time. I will promise you that it will get better even if it doesn't look like it. Just think they want you to carry on with your life even if it is looking grim at the moment. It takes guts to take that chance that you will never see your smiling family that on the inside is torn from your choices, but know that they are the right ones.

It makes me realize that I will not have a perfect life and no one ever will with our missions, and the people that finish theirs when you're not ready to let go of the memories that you had together. The memories that will and have impacted your world and will leave a crater that you have to live with and have to move on even if you can't. The thoughts and the people will ever be imprinted in our minds and will never leave because the pain will always be demanding. People always think that war is just a thing that can be stopped on the spot, but they don't know the aftershock of the explosion that is a death or an injury that is fatal.

The people that saved us from ourselves and different countries that are or was threating us. They saved us and our nation from danger and the problems of life. Heroes and Inspirations are these people that risked their own life to save the people that are going to change a million lives or just a few. Humans like this are my inspiration and I hope to be just like them; they changed a thousand people; a thousand points of views on life; and a twelve year old girl that is striving to be an inspiration just like them later on in life.

Many young people have their favorite bands and/or actors as their people to look up too, and sure I have my own but I have many leaders in my life some I can't name but they changed my life no matter what they did to protect me, my family, and my neighbors. They will be remembered as the ones that grew up as the kids that were big hearted and the ones that were strong and brave. The reason we are here is these people wanted to save us and that is what they did and they bought us time.

Time to spend thinking of ways to buy us more time. These warriors spent their lives saving their family and friends and their generations and so on. These are the people that are my heroes and my saviors at the time of need and always will be.

STEPHANIE McDANIEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Stephanie McDaniel for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Stephanie McDaniel is an 11th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Stephanie McDaniel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Stephanie McDaniel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE TECHNOLOGY AND MANUFACTURING ASSOCIATION FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO TRAINING AND EDUCATION IN THE ADVANCED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN ILLINOIS'S TENTH DISTRICT

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Technology and Manufacturing Association (TMA) for its outstanding commitment to training and education in the advanced manufacturing industry in the district I represent and across the country.

Since 1925, the TMA Training & Education program has served as a valued source of employee learning and development for member companies. TMA training has experienced a significant resurgence.

Its Related Theory Apprentice Training program has been assisting member companies in training their apprentices for more than 70 years, and is one of the largest, most recognized precision metalworking apprenticeship programs in the United States.

Remarkably, enrollment in this program has more than quadrupled in the last three years. TMA has also expanded its curriculum to include the latest advancements and, for the first time since 1925, incorporates hands-on training.

The Fred W. Buhrke Training Center in Arlington Heights trains in the programming, setup and operation of new, state-of-the-art computer numerical control (CNC) machines. More than 100 students have completed CNC training with TMA and can now earn nationally-recognized, stackable credentials.

TMA continues to partner with local organizations to expand training and work hand-in-hand to help bridge our skills gap and ensure our future success in advanced manufacturing.

I personally thank TMA for all it does to support advanced manufacturing and to expand economic opportunities throughout our communities and in the Tenth District.

HONORING NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Autism Awareness Month, a special opportunity to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about autism and to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community.

Autism is a developmental disorder that by some estimates affects 1 in 88 children age 8. These rates mark dramatic increases from just decades ago, and I believe it is vital that more research be done to investigate the causes of autism and to determine prevention tactics, as well as treatments and possible cures for people already afflicted. As a member of the Congressional Coalition on Autism Research and Education, I have long supported increased funding for medical research to combat this unfortunate condition.

I would also like to recognize Rising Tide, which will celebrate its first anniversary on April 1. Rising Tide embodies the spirit of National Autism Awareness Month. Founded by John D'Eri and his son Thomas to create a supportive environment for Thomas' autistic brother Andrew, Rising Tide is a carwash that employs forty-three men and women with autism. The mission of this company is to empower autistic individuals and inspire communities to redefine their perception of the capabilities that people with autism have. Rising Tide is the largest single store retail employer of individuals with autism in the United States.

I am proud to recognize National Autism Awareness Month and the hard work that advocacy groups are doing in communities across the country to increase autism awareness in our community and make the world a better place for individuals with this diversity.

REMEMBERING ASHLEY EARL

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great sadness to mourn the death of Peace Corps volunteer Ashley Earl. Ashley passed away on Saturday, March 8, in her beloved host community of Oshakati, Namibia.

As a community health volunteer, Ashley worked tirelessly for the health and well-being of the residents of Oshakati, a community she was proud to be a part of. Working with Catholic AIDS Action, she coordinated after-school programs for youth in the local area. Those who worked with her say she "cared deeply for her students, and taught them to show respect for others as well as respect for themselves."

Ashley's time as a volunteer in the Peace Corps was just one component of her legacy of service. Prior to joining, she served six years in the Army Reserve and worked for a variety of social service organizations on behalf of women, children, and veterans.

At the beginning of her Peace Corps service, Ashley wrote, "I am hoping that I will be able to instill or inspire positive change in the community I will be working with." I can say with confidence that Ashley not only instilled and inspired positive change in the community of Oshakati, but also in those who encountered her. We all have much to learn from her heart for service and passion for life.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness, and even greater admiration that we remember the legacy of Ashley Earl. Our hearts go out to her parents, Phyliss and Lee Lundquist, and her sister, Stacy Earl.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. EDWARD ZALOGA AND HIS SERVICE TO THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Edward J. Zaloga, who on March 22, 2014, retired from his position as the 136th President of the Lackawanna County Medical Society. Since his graduation from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Zaloga has used his training and expertise to improve the state of health care in Pennsylvania.

Founded in 1878, the Lackawanna County Medical Society works to foster excellence in medical care, act as an advocate for physicians and their patients, and represent physicians to the entire community. Taking an active role in the health of the local community, Lackawanna County Medical Society holds an annual "Health Fair in the Park" that offers health screenings and benefits to county residents free of charge. Physicians of Lackawanna County Medical Society joined together to establish the Leahy Clinic for Uninsured at the University of Scranton, which provides crucial health care for local residents who cannot afford insurance.

Through his continued involvement with the Lackawanna County Medical Society, Dr. Zaloga has demonstrated a sincere commitment to his community. He served as a strong advocate for patients and his fellow physicians as a delegate to the House of Delegates of the Pennsylvania Medical Society and as the Society's chief spokesperson on patient rights and quality of care issues. Throughout his career, Dr. Zaloga pushed the medical community to provide quality, cost-effective health care to the citizens of Lackawanna County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I am proud to congratulate Dr. Zaloga on his many achievements during his career, and I thank him for his dedication to improving health care in Lackawanna County. He has done a great service for the health care professionals, the uninsured, and all those who need health care in the Lackawanna community.

SOLEDAD SIERRA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Soledad Sierra for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Soledad Sierra is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Soledad Sierra is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Soledad Sierra for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING HOWARD UNIVERSITY PHARMACY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and congratulating the Howard University Pharmacy Alumni Association on 55 years of service to the Howard University College of Pharmacy and to the profession of pharmacy.

Pharmacy education is an essential part of the core curriculum at Howard University. Since its establishment, Howard University has consistently educated diverse, culturally competent and thoughtful pharmacists. In fact, one of Howard University's earliest graduates earned a Bachelor of Sciences in Pharmacy, and started the legacy of service and excellence that has defined subsequent generations of graduates.

The College of Pharmacy's graduates work tirelessly to address existing and emerging health care concerns, including health care disparities along racial and economic lines. However, their call to serve extends well beyond the clinical and beyond the confines of their profession. For 55 years, the Pharmacy Alumni Association has served as one of the most effective advocates for the school and its students. Through its efforts, countless students have received scholarships and mentoring that enabled and empowered them to join this noble profession.

I ask the House to join me in celebrating the Pharmacy Alumni Association's 55th anniversary, and I wish the Howard University Pharmacy Alumni Association many more years of success as they continue to provide financial and networking opportunities to the next generation of pharmacists.

HONORING ABDULLAHI CHARIF

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Abdullahi Charif, a 12-year-old boy who tragically lost his life on March 1st, 2014, as a result of an accident that occurred while swimming during a physical education class at school.

Abdullahi lived a short life but he made a significant impact on his family and community. He was a bright and promising young man who enjoyed life. We must cherish the gifts and lessons he provided to his family and friends during his short time.

The tragic loss of Abdullahi should serve as a reminder that pool procedures in schools must be evaluated and held to the highest standards of safety. We must do all we can to avoid tragedies like this from occurring again.

I offer my condolences to his family and community in this time of loss.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the life of Abdullahi Charif.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Congregation Ahavas Achim in Highland Park, New Jersey as it celebrates its 125th Anniversary this year. Since its incorporation in 1889, Congregation Ahavas Achim has provided a spiritual center for prayer, education and community to Middlesex County residents.

Upon its incorporation, Congregation Ahavas Achim began humbly, meeting in members' homes or rented stores in New Brunswick. Over the next several years, it grew, purchasing land and a building and continued to enlarge and remodel to meet the needs of a growing membership. Congregation Ahavas Achim relocated to Highland Park in 1987 and its new building was dedicated in 1989. The synagogue expanded once again and was re-dedicated in 2010.

Congregation Ahavas Achim is a Torah-observant congregation and member congregation of the Orthodox Union. It is open to Jews of all backgrounds and strives to include all members in synagogue life.

Over the years, Congregation Ahavas Achim has been led by Rabbi Israel Marcus, Rabbi Samuel Baskin, Rabbi Abraham Shapiro and Rabbi Ronald L. Schwarzberg. After serving as Assistant Rabbi, Interim Rabbi and Program Director, Rabbi Steven Miodownik became Rabbi of the congregation in 2006 and continues to provide spiritual leadership and guidance today. In addition to the Rabbi, the officers, staff and members of Congregation Ahavas Achim endeavor to carry on its mission and commit to a Halakhic life.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating Congregation Ahavas Achim as its members and supporters gather to celebrate its 125th Anniversary on March 30, 2014 and honor Marcia and Barry Levinson and Jennie and Josh Fine. Congregation Ahavas Achim and the esteemed honorees and guests of honor are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

WILSON MANTILLA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Wilson Mantilla for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Wilson Mantilla is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Wilson Mantilla is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Wilson Mantilla for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 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 $17,546,932,628,558.05. We've added $6,920,055,579,644.97 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 13 and 14, 2014 I joined Admiral Mike Connor, Commander of US Submarine Forces, on a visit to the USS *Missouri* to see firsthand the operations of a Virginia Class Submarine and missed several recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Yes" on rollcall No. 129, on the motion to recommit H.R. 3973 with instructions;

"Yes" on rollcall No. 130, on agreeing to the Polis of Colorado Part A Amendment No. 3 to H.R. 3973;

"Yes" on rollcall No. 131, on the motion to recommit H.R. 3189 with instructions; "No" on rollcall No. 132, on passage of H.R. 3189;

"No" on rollcall No. 133, on the motion to table H. Res. 517;

"Yes" on rollcall No. 134, on the motion to recommit H.R. 4015 with instructions;

"No" on rollcall No. 135, on passage of H.R. 4015.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND RANDALL TREGO

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a man who has put God and others above himself. The Reverend Randall Trego has been a blessing to The Woodlands through his ministry. As chaplain at St. Luke's The Woodlands Hospital for the past 11 years, Rev. Trego has helped families heal. Since

the hospital's opening in 2003, patients, staff, and families have all relied on Rev. Trego for loving, spiritual guidance.

Rev. Trego began his service at St. Luke's The Woodlands Hospital with four volunteers as part of his pastoral care team. Today those same individuals have been joined by 19 other spiritual caregivers. St. Luke's volunteer chaplains come from all faiths and are available to all patients, employees, doctors, nurses, and visitors 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In 2004, Rev. Trego, began what has become known as the ''feelie heart'' ministry. Inspired by another's story, the Reverend encouraged his team to make small fabric hearts to give to those who needed encouragement. With love, the team initially made 50 hearts to give away. To date, nearly 30,000 hearts have been hand made by volunteers, organizations and even the families of prior patients. The hearts have become so important to patients that those having surgery have their feelie heart pinned to the underside of their gurney for reassurance.

This week Rev. Trego is retiring, but not before performing his last Blessing of the Hands ceremony on Tuesday, March 25. Annually, the Reverend has offered this ceremonial washing, drying, and anointing of hands in service to others. Over 2,000 individuals have participated in these ceremonies that serve as a reminder of God's healing power and compassion. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this special day.

It can't be overstated what a tremendously important part of the fabric of St. Luke's The Woodlands Hospital that Rev. Trego has become. He truly embodies St. Luke's motto of ''Faithful, Loving Care.'' As the St. Luke's family honors him this week and receive their Blessings from him, they reflect on how they have been blessed by this man's faith, compassion, and dedication. Bless you, Rev. Trego. Your retirement is well earned.

TIMMY RITTER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Timmy Ritter for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Timmy Ritter is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Timmy Ritter is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Timmy Ritter for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS LEONARD KRAVITZ

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Private First Class Leonard Kravitz, who gave his life during the Korean War in an extraordinary act of heroism and posthumously received the Medal of Honor on March 18, 2014. PFC Leonard Kravitz fought valiantly to protect our country and rightfully deserves our recognition and admiration.

I am proud to represent a district that is home to such a large number of veterans, and I feel tremendous gratitude to the heroes of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and to the new generation of veterans from the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan. My father, Bernard Deutch, volunteered to fight in World War II as a teenager where he earned a Purple Heart at the Battle of the Bulge. It was his example of service to our nation that motivated me to serve in Congress.

PFC Leonard Kravitz sacrificed himself for his platoon when he took over a machine gun, fired into an ambush of Communist forces, and stayed behind so that his fellow soldiers could withdraw safely. He received the Distinguished Service Cross for his sacrifice. PFC Leonard Kravitz was also recommended for the Medal of Honor, but he never received it due to widespread prejudice in the military against Jewish and other minority servicemembers. His childhood friend, Mitch Libman, a resident of South Florida, worked tirelessly for decades to ensure that the courageous sacrifice of his dear friend would not go unnoticed. This heartfelt act of advocacy led to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2002 and H.R. 3304, a bill that I introduced, which ensures the recognition of all soldiers who never received the Medals of Honor they deserved.

In this era of partisan vitriol and gridlock in Washington, our leaders can always look to veterans as an example of how individuals from all walks of life can put their differences aside in order to accomplish great things. PFC Leonard Kravitz has finally been recognized as the hero he is, and his friend Mitch Libman reminds us of the duty we all have to ensure that no soldier becomes a forgotten hero. I urge every citizen of this great country to live by their examples.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S CHIEF DIPLOMAT TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise, along with the other co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus—Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART, Representative ALBIO SIRES, and Representative JOHN CARTER—to recognize the service of Taiwan's chief diplomat to the United States, Representative Pu-tsung King. During his tenure in our nation's capital, Representative King was an invaluable resource and dear friend to the Taiwan Caucus. We congratulate him on his next assignment as Secretary General of National Security Council for the Republic of China on Taiwan.

Representative King earned a Ph.D. in journalism from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Arts in Communications from Texas Tech University. During his recent tenure, Representative King worked to resume negotiations for the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), turning a new page in trade relations between Taiwan and the United States. He and his team also worked toward passage of a bill which called for Taiwan to be granted observer status in the International Civil Aviation Organization. President Obama signed the bill into law in July 2013.

As co-chairs of the Taiwan Caucus, we would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the upcoming 35th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). The legislation established direct relations between Washington, DC, and Taipei. The 35th anniversary represents an important milestone in our long-standing relationship with Taiwan, serving as the foundation for our bilateral economic, security, and trade relations.

In closing, we congratulate Representative King and on his successful tenure as Taiwan's top diplomat in the United States. We look forward to working with him in his new capacity and to his enduring friendship.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHWEST IMMIGRANT RIGHTS PROJECT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise to recognize the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) on thirty years of fighting for the rights of immigrants and refugees in my home state of Washington. With four offices throughout the state, the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project has protected the well-being of tens of thousands of immigrants throughout its history.

The Northwest Immigrant Rights Project was founded in 1984 as a non-profit legal services organization serving Central American refugees. Since that time, it has expanded to serve individuals and families from more than 100 countries around the world, and added educational and public policy work to its efforts. This level of excellence can be seen in NWIRP's innovative weekly legal clinics on the Deferred Action Program, which have been a vital resource for immigrant youth in our state.

Our nation needs more advocates for the rights of immigrants and refugees, and I am proud that an organization in Washington state is setting such a fine example. I am confident that the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project will be a strong voice on these issues for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project on a fantastic thirty years. Their work is of incredible value and I wish them well in the future.

TAYLOR NATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Taylor Nation for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Taylor Nation is a 12th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Taylor Nation is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Taylor Nation for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 115TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 115th anniversary of San Francisco State University. The San Francisco State Normal School, a small women's-only teaching academy, opened its doors in March 1899. With a $10,000 stipend from the State Legislature, the school rented a building on Powell Street and offered free tuition. The first graduating class was made up of just 36 women with the motto Experientia docet—''Experience teaches.''

During the 1906 earthquake, the SF State Normal School was destroyed. Relocating at a new site on Market Street, SF State Normal School was the first public school to re-open after the destruction of the earthquake. In 1921, SF State Normal School changed its name to San Francisco Teachers' College and received authorization to grant the Bachelor of Arts degree

In the 1930s, the college chose the colors purple and gold. With sports becoming more popular at SF State, the student newspaper, ''Bay Leaf,'' called for the school to adopt a mascot. A reader proposed the alligator because ''it is strong, and we hope our teams have strength.''

In 1935, SF State Teachers College changed its name to San Francisco State College. The influx of returning WWII veterans swelled the student population from 1,117 in 1945 to 4,390 in 1950. To accommodate the growing number of students, 56 acres of land near Lake Merced was purchased to replace the cramped and aging campus.

During the 60s, SF State became the center of student activism. When the House Un-American Activities Committee met in San Francisco, students from SF State demonstrated and disrupted the Committee's hearings in City Hall. The students were fire-hosed down the steps and arrested. Student sit-ins at the Administration Building protested racial discrimination, the Vietnam War, and the draft, pressing for campus reform.

Events came to a head in 1968, with the beginning of the longest campus strike in the nation's history. This five-month event defined the University's core values of equality and social justice, laying the groundwork for establishment of the only College of Ethnic Studies in the United States.

In 1972, San Francisco State College briefly changed its name to California State University, San Francisco. The name changed when Governor Ronald Reagan signed a measure officially changing the name to San Francisco State University in 1974.

In the 80s, SF State became the first major university to select a President of Chinese-American heritage. President Chia-Wei Woo is a symbol of SF State's continual progressive attitude that has represented the larger San Francisco community. By the millennium, SF State garnered a reputation for having several prestigious educational programs, with some of the finest trained faculty in the world.

Robert A. Corrigan served as the 12th president of San Francisco State University from September 1988 to July 2012. President Corrigan became one of the longest-serving university presidents in the education system of the United States. Under his direction, SF State developed into a respected institution with the highest ranking in the nation for the number of international students at a comprehensive university. Under President Corrigan's leadership, SF State increased its grant funding. The campus had just $9 million in federal research grants and contracts when he first arrived, but by the time he left, SF State had $53 million. SF State also expanded its campus with the creation of the downtown campus at Westfield San Francisco Centre mall. I had the privilege of working with President Corrigan during my tenure in Congress and he has left a lasting legacy.

Leslie E. Wong joined San Francisco State University as its 13th president in August of 2012. He now oversees one of the nation's premier urban comprehensive universities. President Wong has hit the ground running and is frequently seen on campus cheering on student athletes, academic competitors and performers. He endowed the Leslie and Phyllis Wong Scholarship as a cornerstone of the campus-wide Students First Scholarship Campaign. Having partnered with President Wong on numerous campus events and activities, I know President Wong will continue to lead SF State into a prosperous future.

Veterans make up a good portion of the student population at the university. SF State has stayed true to its commitment in helping active duty members and veterans of military service attain their educational goals. On November 10, 2010, the Veterans Services Center opened its doors and has brought together a range of veterans' support services under one roof, including pre-admissions counseling, educational benefits assistance as well as a study area with computer workstations. I had the distinct honor of meeting several of these student veterans and thanking them for their service.

Notable alumni of San Francisco State include business leaders, elected officials, award winning authors, journalists, film stars, athletes, musicians, doctors, and scientists. This list grows with every graduating class. Though the school's name, mascot, and location have all changed, San Francisco State University remains committed to public education 115 years later. Today, SF State offers more than 200 degrees and certificates and serves nearly 30,000 students each year—quite a different story when compared to the humble beginnings of the University.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to commend the San Francisco State University for its dedication to higher education.

BREAUX BRIDGE LOSES KEY LEADER JOHN ''JOHNNY'' THOMAS RAYMOND

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to commemorate the passing of a great leader in our community who served his country as a soldier and later as a civic leader while opening numerous small businesses in South Louisiana.

John ''Johnny'' Thomas Raymond was a distinguished war veteran who served as a platoon leader in the Korean War and later became a member of the Army's 77th Special Forces Group. This group helped to train and reorganize the Royal Thai Army Ranger Battalion in special operations. In 2004, he was recognized as the father of the Royal Thai Army's special forces. After serving a tour in Vietnam, Johnny retired from the Army in 1968 as a lieutenant colonel. His decorated military career included receiving the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross, and the Gold Star.

Johnny was instrumental in laying the foundation for numerous civic activities such as the Louisiana Military Hall of Fame & Museum in Abbeville and the Breaux Bridge Downtown Merchants Association. He was also active in the Atchafalaya Basin Board in addition to the Louisiana Boxing Commission. For many years, he served on the Louisiana Nursing Home Association Board of Directors. This year, he was chosen as King Agricole II of the Krewe de St. Martin.

Survivors include his wife, Coatney Sibley Raymond of Breaux Bridge; his son, John R. ''Bobby'' Raymond and his wife, DeAnna, of Owasso, OK, his daughters, Renee R. Delahoussaye and Carol Raymond both of Breaux Bridge; his grandson, John C. Raymond and his wife, Joy, of Baton Rouge and one great granddaughter, Sadie Laine Raymond; his stepsons, Barrett Reid Branch and his wife, Angel, Byron Branch and his wife, Rhonda, all of Breaux Bridge, and Beau Branch and his wife, Wendy, of Broussard, and 5 step grandchildren, Sydney Branch, Barry Branch, Deuce Hardy, Julian Branch and Tylor Guillot.

SONA METZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sona Metz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Sona Metz is a 12th grader at Pomona High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sona Metz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sona Metz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF COUNCILMAN JAMES A. WALLACE, JR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Councilman James (Jim) A. Wallace, Jr. for his 45 years of service to the Metuchen Fire Department. Councilman Wallace's outstanding contributions to his community are to be celebrated by the Metuchen Fire Department at its 2014 Chief's Dinner and Installation of Officers.

A lifelong resident of Metuchen, Councilman Wallace serves his community in many capacities. He was recently re-elected to his second term on the Metuchen Borough Council. In addition, Councilman Wallace served on the Metuchen Police Department for 27 years, retiring in 1992 as a sergeant.

Before joining the police force, Councilman Wallace volunteered with the Washington Hose Co. for 4 years. In 1971, he rejoined the Metuchen Fire Department with the Eagle Hook and Ladder Co. and was elected Captain a year later. He also served as treasurer, Assistant Fire Chief and Chief. In 2010, the Washington Hose Co. and the Eagle Hook and Ladder Co. merged to become the Metuchen Volunteer Fire Co. Councilman Wallace was elected treasurer of the newly formed company in 2011.

Councilman Wallace was a member of the Metuchen Fireman's Relief Association, serving as treasurer for many years, and the Middlesex County Fireman's Association, where he served as president for several years. He was also a member of the board that created the Middlesex County Fire Academy, which has trained thousands of firefighters since opening in 1992.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in thanking Councilman Wallace for his service to the Metuchen Fire Department and the greater Metuchen community. He has dutifully served Metuchen for 45 years and his selfless commitment is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE RAINIER BEACH HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Rainier Beach High School (RBHS) men's basketball team on their invitation to the Dick's Sporting Goods High School National Tournament. This prestigious invitation is yet another example of the program's excellence and reminds us that Rainier Beach deserves a place in the upper echelon of high school basketball in our nation.

The Rainier Beach High School basketball team has played with excellence all season long, and is incredibly deserving of this opportunity. Going undefeated throughout their regular season has made them the top-ranked team in Washington State, and has given them much deserved national recognition as the basketball powerhouse that they have proven themselves to be.

Founded in 2009 to create a national championship tournament for high school basketball, the Dick's Sporting Goods tournament invites the top eight teams in the country to compete. The tournament will be broadcast on national television and the final game played in New York City's Madison Square Garden. This event is a fantastic opportunity for the RBHS Vikings to showcase their skills in front of a national audience. I am pleased that the incredible athletic prowess from the 9th District of Washington State will be recognized across the country.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the Rainier Beach Vikings on their successful season. I wish them the best of luck as they take on the top talent our country has to offer.

SIERRA SANCHEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sierra Sanchez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Sierra Sanchez is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5–8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sierra Sanchez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sierra Sanchez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF KILAH DAVENPORT

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Kilah Davenport, a young girl from my district in North Carolina who was taken from this world much too soon.

Kilah was a young girl full of joy, laughter and love. Two years ago, when Kilah was just three-years-old, she was a victim of felony child abuse and suffered severe mental and physical damage. All of the doctors told Kilah's family that she would not survive, but she pulled through and overcame the odds stacked against her.

I had the pleasure of meeting young Kilah and her wonderful, loving family, and I was moved by their incredible strength and faith. Kilah's recovery was slow and she faced extensive physical therapy and rehab. When most people would have given up, Kilah and her family endured, becoming advocates for legislation to protect our children. Kilah inspired the state of North Carolina to pass legislation that increases sentencing punishments for five child abuse-related felonies. Tragically, on March 12, just three weeks before her 5th birthday, Kilah Davenport passed away.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of the Kilah Davenport Child Protection Act of 2013 (H.R. 3627), which guarantees that our states can address the serious problem of felony child abuse and makes certain that those who choose to harm a child suffer real and meaningful consequences. I am committed to ensuring the safety of the most innocent in our society. I support this bill that passed the House, and I encourage the Senate to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to pray for Kilah's family. I hope they can find the peace and comfort that only comes from our loving God as they go through this troubling time.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF DR. TERRI H. FINKEL

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Terri H. Finkel, M.D., Ph.D. Dr. Finkel serves as Chair of Pediatrics and Chief Scientific Officer at Nemours Children's Hospital in Lake Nona Medical City, Orlando, Florida, and Professor of Pediatrics and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine.

Dr. Finkel received both her medical degree in 1982 and a Ph.D. in biochemistry and biophysics in 1984, from Stanford University. She completed pediatric residency training at Boston Children's Hospital and the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. She then completed a fellowship in pediatric

rheumatology and postdoctoral training as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) fellow at the National Jewish Medical & Research Center (NJMRC). Dr. Finkel also served on the faculty at NJMRC and the University of Colorado.

In 1999, she was recruited to lead the Division of Pediatric Rheumatology at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and to serve as the Joseph Lee Hollander Chair of Pediatric Rheumatology and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, where she was later promoted to Professor of Pediatrics. At CHOP, Dr. Finkel built the Division of Rheumatology from a small group to one of the largest and most academically productive divisions of rheumatology in the country. Her trainees are currently on faculty at leading academic medical centers in the United States and abroad. In 2011, she was recruited to help lead the building of Nemours Children's Hospital, which opened in October 2012.

Dr. Finkel has devoted more than 20 years to caring for children with rheumatic diseases. U.S. News & World Report has ranked her in the top one percent of pediatric rheumatologists in the Nation for each of the past 4 years, a distinction held by only 15 physicians across the U.S.

Dr. Finkel's work has been recognized by more than 100 publications and she has received 140 invitations to speak nationally and internationally. She has nine issued patents and patents pending, and has had continuous funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 1990, with research grants totaling more than $12 million. Among Dr. Finkel's many honors and awards are those from the American Cancer Society, American College of Rheumatology, American Foundation for AIDS Research, American Medical Association, Children's Miracle Network, Colorado Women's Hall of Fame, Henry Kunkel Society, HHMI, Lupus Foundation, Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Philadelphia Magazine, State of Pennsylvania, and Gates Foundation.

A strong advocate of evidence-based medicine, Dr. Finkel's research has helped to uncover extensive genetic overlap across many pediatric autoimmune diseases. Using cutting-edge genomics, she has successfully unmasked dozens of novel risk factors common to childhood arthritis, lupus, diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, celiac disease, immunodeficiency, thyroid disease, and psoriasis. Dr. Finkel has led studies that investigate the origins of immunodeficiency and autoimmunity in individuals with HIV infection and AIDS. Other key interests include expanding caregiver sharing of electronic medical records and exploring faster ways to deliver new therapies to patients.

In 2001, the Arthritis Foundation selected Dr. Finkel as one of 50 "Research Heroes" for her significant contributions to the field of rheumatology. In 2003, the Arthritis Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania presented the Arthritis Hero Award to Dr. Finkel for her leadership in the field of arthritis. In 2004, Dr. Finkel was awarded the University of Pennsylvania's Lady Colyton Prize for Autoimmune Research, based on her research on autoimmune disorders. In 2009, she was elected to the prestigious Henry Kunkel Society for her contributions to the fields of immunology and rheumatology.

Dr. Finkel is married to pediatric neurologist Dr. Richard Finkel. Among the Finkels' proudest accomplishments are their two children. Paul will graduate this year from Carnegie Mellon University with a master's degree in Electrical & Computer Engineering. Valerie is completing a master's degree in Philosophy at The New School in New York City.

I am happy to honor Dr. Terri Finkel, during Women's History Month, for her leadership and contributions to the medical community.

WORLD TB DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize World TB Day and call for a continued effort to drive down rates of tuberculosis (TB) across the world and accelerate progress toward ending TB as a threat to global public health.

World TB Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about TB-related problems and solutions and to support TB-control efforts. While great strides have been made to control and cure TB, much more needs to be done to eliminate this disease.

Often believed to be a disease of the past, TB is still a life-threatening problem in the United States and around the world. Anyone can contract TB, and our current efforts to find and treat latent TB infection and TB disease are not sufficient.

We must raise awareness, enhance prevention, control, and treatment efforts, and develop new therapies to treat TB, especially for multi-drug resistant (MDR–TB) and extensively-drug resistant TB (XDR–TB).

Everyone has a role in ensuring that one day TB will be eliminated. As a co-chair of the Congressional TB Elimination Caucus and longtime advocate on this issue, I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress and our partners to further the commitment to a world free of TB.

RECOGNIZING WHITE CASTLE

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize White Castle, a family-owned hamburger chain based in my district, for being the creators of Time Magazine's "Most Influential Burger of All Time."

Since White Castle opened in 1921 in Wichita, Kansas, White Castle has revolutionized the fast food industry. White Castle's signature 5-holed square patty has skyrocketed the company's popularity, developed an almost-cult following of self-proclaimed 'Cravers' and resulted in White Castle becoming the first hamburger chain to sell one billion hamburgers.

A little over a decade after its first store opened, White Castle moved its headquarters to Columbus, Ohio—where it has resided for the last 80 years. This trailblazing company has provided hundreds of jobs in the great state of Ohio, as well as in Ohio's 15th Congressional District.

Today, White Castle is more than a hamburger chain. White Castle is now an experience which people from across the country and across the world travel great distances to get their hands on.

I offer my congratulations to White Castle for their years of success and their designation as having the "Most Influential Burger of All Time" by Time Magazine. Ohio's 15th District, the Buckeye State and Cravers across the nation have loved the first billion sliders and look forward to one billion more.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DONNA DOWLESS

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Donna Dowless, Chairman of the XOXO Media Group. Dowless is an instrumental and creative force in her community and in the entertainment industry. She is an experienced executive and strong community leader that is goal oriented and results driven. She fosters powerful partnerships with diverse groups to cultivate positive change and create economic impact and sustainability.

Prior to starting her own Orlando-based entertainment media and arts consulting company, Ms. Dowless served as Executive Vice President of Industry Relations for Ticketmaster, a position she held for 18 years. She has over 30 years of experience in sports and live entertainment. She has directed and managed sports arenas, theaters and concert venues and worked with professional sports leagues, prominent live event producers and numerous political and presidential event directors. Ms. Dowless was recently recognized by Venues Today Magazine as one of the "Top 5 Women of Influence in the Entertainment Industry." In 2005, she was honored with a lifetime achievement award for distinguished service from the International Association of Venue Managers.

As Chairman of XOXO Media group, Dowless is dedicated to delivering results-driven programs for her arts and entertainment clients. Her specialty services range from event development, public relations, branding, and customer relations management to strategic insights for growth and sustainability. Additional services include career and business development, public speaking, mentoring and motivational programming. Her clients, who include the Ticketmaster Corporation, Atlantic Hill Music, Churchill Development, Castaneda Studios, Florida Artists Registry, Kosmo Creative Studios, and select arts and entertainment venues, have achieved great success under her direction and counsel.

Ms. Dowless is an award-winning contemporary artist creating compositions of balance and harmony which express affirmations from the heart. Her art is featured in collections worldwide. Over the years she has encountered many unique individuals and entertainers, including the Beatles, Elvis, Tina Turner, Madonna, Frank Sinatra, The Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, and Bruce Springsteen. All of these entertainment icons left her with inspiring memories that continue to stir her desire and passion to create each day. An early

1970's encounter with Andy Warhol left her with these defining words: "If you are in an artist in your heart, so be it."

Dowless currently serves on the Executive Board of the Downtown Orlando Arts District and CityArts Factory, the Executive Board of See Art Orlando, the Orange County Public Art Review Board, the Executive Board of After School All Stars, and Full Sail University's Entertainment Advisory Board. She has been an arts advocate and supporter, community leader, executive volunteer, mentor, and philanthropist for over 25 years. Because of her inspirational efforts to spread the meaningful message of love through arts and culture, Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer appointed Donna as Orlando's official "Ambassador of Love" in October, 2007. Dowless' impact is sure to be seen and cherished for decades to come.

I am happy to honor Donna Dowless, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

SELECTION OF SENATOR ROBERT DOLE FOR THE 2014 NATIONAL VETERANS AWARD

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of National Veterans Day in Birmingham, it is my privilege to inform this House that a distinguished American statesman and patriot, Senator Robert Dole, has been selected as the recipient of the 2014 National Veterans Award.

The National Veterans Award was created in Birmingham for America's first official National Veterans Day observance November 11, 1954 as authorized by Congress and tirelessly advocated by Raymond Weeks. Each year, the award recognizes an outstanding veteran who has made the greatest contribution to veterans and veterans organizations in America.

As one of the greatest of our "Greatest Generation," Bob Dole embodies the values celebrated by this award and essential to the preservation of our freedom: duty, honor, and service to country.

Senator Dole's life story should inspire every American. As a young man, he left his home state of Kansas to answer the call of duty during World War II. He received two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star for his valor in combat. As so many know, he was gravely wounded on the battlefield while leading a platoon of the 10th Mountain Division in Italy in April 1945.

Returning home, Bob Dole surmounted the challenge of physical injury and entered into a new form of service to his country: public service. He was elected to this House in 1960 and elected in 1968 to the U.S. Senate, where during his 28 years of service he earned recognition as one of the true legislative giants in the history of the chamber. He was the Republican vice-presidential candidate in 1976 and the Republican presidential candidate in 1996.

Throughout his service in elected office, Senator Dole stood as a principled voice for fiscal responsibility, free enterprise, a strong national defense and American values. He was skilled in working in a bipartisan manner on issues including hunger and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The National Veterans Award specifically recognizes his unwavering support of our troops in the field and his commitment to ensuring quality medical care for veterans.

After leaving government service, Senator Dole accepted a new mission that will stand as an enduring and indeed monumental legacy: the construction of the National World War II Memorial on our National Mall. His leadership of the national campaign for the memorial was instrumental in bringing this long-held dream to honor those who fought on overseas battlefronts and those who contributed here at home into magnificent reality.

At the dedication ceremony on May 29, 2004, Senator Dole said, "What we dedicate today is not a memorial to war, rather it's a tribute to the physical and moral courage that makes heroes out of farm and city boys and that inspires Americans in every generation to lay down their lives for people they will never meet, for ideals that make life itself worth living."

As a congressman, I have cherished the opportunity to welcome and express gratitude to veterans brought to the World War II Memorial by Honor Flight. Senator Dole is known for coming to the memorial to meet with Honor Flight groups, and I have personally witnessed how proud and privileged veterans from Alabama have felt to be in the presence of this American hero. It is altogether appropriate that Senator Dole has been recognized with his own bronze plaque at the memorial.

Senator Dole has always been modest about the immense contributions that he has made to the good of our nation, often minimizing them with his quick wit and willingness to share credit. But his steadfast devotion to the cause of freedom towers as sure and lasting as any of the glorious monuments in our nation's capital. With the support of his lovely and accomplished wife Elizabeth, he continues to provide wise guidance and inspiration to our country.

National Veterans Day in Birmingham takes pride in being the home to the largest and longest-running commemoration of Veterans Day in the U.S. The recipient of the National Veterans Award holds a special and esteemed place in this tradition. For lifelong defense of liberty and dedication to America, Senator Robert Dole honors us by accepting the 2014 National Veterans Award in the name of the veterans across many generations who have sacrificed to keep us all free.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STEPHANIE PORTA

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Stephanie Porta. Born and raised in Orlando, Florida, Stephanie has been a leader from an early age. While in middle school, she received the Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest award a Girl Scout Cadet can earn for her demonstration of successful leadership skills.

After graduating with honors from American University in Washington, DC, she worked on several campaigns until becoming Director of Central Florida ACORN and then Florida ACORN.

Stephanie left Florida ACORN in 2009 when she co-founded Organize Now! and the Florida Institute for Reform and Empowerment (FIRE). Both organizations work to address the needs of Florida's low and moderate income communities. Stephanie serves as the Executive Director for both organizations.

Throughout her career, Stephanie has worked on a variety of successful campaigns for candidates and issues, including affordable utilities, police accountability, foreclosures, environmental justice, community safety, community development, health care, and public education.

In 2012, Stephanie led the effort to pass an ordinance to allow employees in Orange County to earn sick time. When the effort was thwarted by the Orange County Commission breaking the law, the campaign called out the injustice and continued to fight for more transparency and accountability in Orange County while leading the investigation around the scandal called "Textgate" in which the Mayor and Commissioners were secretly communicating with special interest lobbyists via text messages to thwart the will of 50,000 voters.

In 2013, Stephanie was recognized by the Orlando Sentinel as an "up and comer" for its "25 Most Powerful People in Central Florida" list and was recognized as one of "12 to Watch" in Orlando Magazine's "50 Most Powerful People in Orlando" list.

Stephanie was raised by Katie Porta, a single mother who spent her lifetime advocating for the disabled and taught Stephanie from an early age to treat people with dignity. Katie raised Stephanie with the belief that "people don't want to be treated down; they want to be treated up," a mantra that has influenced Stephanie's work. Stephanie's relentless quest to achieve justice for those who have no voice in our community has been a beacon of hope and inspiration.

I am happy to honor Stephanie Porta, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF LINDA W. CHAPIN

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize former Orange County Mayor Linda Chapin. A Florida native, Ms. Chapin holds a Bachelor's Degree from Michigan State University. Ms. Chapin served as the first elected mayor of Orange County, Florida, from 1990–1998.

After leaving office, she joined the University of Central Florida where she founded the Metropolitan Center for Regional Studies, which focuses on issues facing the region such as growth, the environment, and transportation. Today she serves on a number of civic and community boards, and is Chairman of the Orlando Health Board of Directors.

As Orange County Mayor, Ms. Chapin took a strong role in promoting business and industry in Central Florida by developing an economic action agenda that included annual regional economic summits; incentives for high-technology companies; and trade missions to Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Under her

leadership, Orange County was the first county in Florida to mandate that attention to economic development be included in its local comprehensive plan. In 2004, she became the first woman to receive the James B. Greene Economic Development Award from the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission.

Ms. Chapin's tenure in public office also included the construction of the nation's second-largest convention center, a new courthouse, the Regional History Center, fifteen new parks and recreational trails, and the purchase of over twelve thousand acres of environmentally sensitive lands. In an effort to work with citizens to redevelop historically neglected neighborhoods, Ms. Chapin began the Targeted Community Initiative. President Clinton awarded the Initiative the 1997 Public Service Excellence Award for the best local government program in the country. At the conclusion of her final term in elected office, the Orlando Sentinel described Ms. Chapin as ''a model of integrity and character.''

In 1999, the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University named Ms. Chapin Distinguished Alumni of the Year, and the University of Central Florida awarded her an honorary doctoral degree. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center, the Trust for Public Lands, and myregion.org. A committed proponent of citizen involvement and the need to build social capital and confidence in public decision-making, Ms. Chapin has published articles in the National Civic Review and other social policy journals.

I am happy to honor Linda Chapin, during Women's History Month, for her leadership and contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LANDRA ROBESON

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Landra Robeson. Raised by ''super voters,'' Landra understood the strength of the vote at a very young age. She gravitated towards C-SPAN and National Public Radio when most people her age found it boring and insignificant.

After graduating from college, Landra spent many years in the workforce serving in managerial roles for staffing, telecommunications and banking companies. Even though she had succeeded financially in these positions and had the opportunity to mentor both men and women, she felt something was lacking.

Her fate changed when she was afforded the opportunity to serve as a Legislative Aide for then State Representative, and now State Senator, Geraldine Thompson. She came to discover that no role was more significant than that of a public servant. The gratification that came from assisting constituents with unemployment claims, child support and a myriad of other issues was incomparable to any bonus she had ever received from her previous professional positions.

Landra's position as a Legislative Aide also provided the opportunity for her to work with students from the University of Central Florida (UCF) through their Legislative Scholars Program. Her former students recognized Landra's dedication to mentorship by honoring her as UCF's first ''Legislative Scholars Mentor.''

During Women's History Month, Landra is grateful for her grandmother Roxy, who she never had the pleasure of meeting, because she lost her battle with cancer at a young age. Roxy raised Landra's mother Doris Wormack, who helped Landra understand that she could make a difference by participating in the political process through the simple act of voting. Like her parents, Landra is a super voter.

I am happy to honor Landra Robeson, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida 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, March 25, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 26

9:15 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Interior.

SD–124

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Agriculture.

SD–192

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Navy.

SD–106

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR–222

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection

To hold hearings to examine if alternative financial products are serving consumers.

SD–538

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD–406

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine strengthening public-private partnerships to reduce cyber risks to our nation's critical infrastructure.

SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of, ''The Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act''.

SD–226

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion.

SD–G50

2 p.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine unwinding quantitative easing, focusing on how the Fed should promote stable prices, economic growth, and job creation.

SH–216

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine preventing Medicare fraud, focusing on the best way to protect seniors and taxpayers.

SD–562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

To hold hearings to examine the current readiness of United States forces in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR–232A

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine strategic forces programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Office of Environmental Management of the Department of Energy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR–222

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine protecting personal consumer information from cyber attacks and data breaches.

SR–253

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine Syria after Geneva, focusing on the next steps for United States policy.

SD–419

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for Tribal Programs.

SD–628

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control
To hold hearings to examine America's addiction to opioids, focusing on heroin and prescription drug abuse.
SD–192

MARCH 27

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD–G50

9:45 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Janice Marion Schneider, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, both of the Department of the Interior, and subcommittee assignments.
SD–366
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine MAP–21 reauthorization, focusing on state and local perspectives on transportation priorities and funding.
SD–406

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation; to be followed by a closed session in SVC–217 at approximately 11:15 a.m.
SD–192
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the Federal Communications Commission.
SD–138
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine strengthening the Federal Student Loan Program for borrowers.
SD–430
Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 1720, to promote transparency in patent ownership and make other improvements to the patent system, and the nominations of Gregg Jeffrey Costa, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Tanya S. Chutkan, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, M. Hannah Lauck, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, Leo T. Sorokin, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Richard Franklin Boulware II, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, Salvador Mendoza, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Staci Michelle Yandle, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois, John Charles Cruden, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, and Leon Rodriguez, of Maryland, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.
SD–226

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on African Affairs
To hold hearings to examine powering Africa's future, focusing on the Power Africa Initiative.
SD–419

1 p.m.
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To receive a briefing on the highs and lows in United States-Russia relations.
RHOB–2103

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Sherry Moore Trafford, and Steven M. Wellner, both to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.
SD–342
Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH–219

3 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Oversight, Federal Rights and Agency Action
To hold hearings to examine access to justice for those who serve.
SD–226

MARCH 31

3 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine creating a 21st century government part II, focusing on outside views.
SD–342

APRIL 1

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. European Command and U.S. Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD–G50
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
To hold hearings to examine Caterpillar's offshore tax strategy.
SD–106

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
To hold hearings to examine proliferation prevention programs at the Department of Energy and at the Department of Defense in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session.
SR–222

APRIL 2

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
To hold hearings to examine tactical aircraft programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD–562
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
To hold hearings to examine military construction, environmental, energy, and base closure programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR–232A

10 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger and the impact on consumers.
SD–226

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 1474, to encourage the State of Alaska to enter into intergovernmental agreements with Indian tribes in the State relating to the enforcement of certain State laws by Indian tribes, to improve the quality of life in rural Alaska, to reduce alcohol and drug abuse, S. 1570, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service by providing 2-fiscal-year budget authority, S. 1574, to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, S. 1622, to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and an original bill entitled, ''The Native American Children's Safety Act''.
SD–628

APRIL 3

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD–G50

APRIL 10

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD–106

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
To hold hearings to examine Navy shipbuilding programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR–222

MAY 20

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

11 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
Closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

2 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

3:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

5 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

MAY 21

10 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to mark up the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

MAY 22

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to mark up the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to mark up the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1677–S1696

Measures Introduced: Two bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2149–2150, and S. Res. 393–394. **Pages S1691–92**

Measures Considered:

Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine. **Pages S1679–89**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 78 yeas to 17 nays (Vote No. 79), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S1686**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, post-cloture, at approximately 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2014; and, that all time during adjournment and morning business count post-cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S1696**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order to take additional steps with respect to the national emergency originally declared on March 6, 2014 in Executive Order 13660 with respect to Ukraine, received during adjournment of the Senate on March 17, 2014; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–36) **Pages S1690–91**

Messages from the House: **Page S1691**

Measures Referred: **Page S1691**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S1679, S1691**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S1691, S1696**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S1691**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1692–94**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1694–95**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1689–90**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S1695**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Pages S1695–96**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S1696**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—79) **Page S1686**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 7:09 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1696.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 6 public bills, H.R. 4284–4289 were introduced. **Page H2610**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2610–11**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Upton to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2567**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:06 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H2568**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:07 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H2569**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 3060, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the "Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building", by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 398 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 136; **Pages H2570–71, H2589–90**

Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 1451, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building"; **Pages H2571–72**

Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 1376, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building"; **Pages H2572–73**

Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 1813, amended, to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the 'Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin Post Office Building'', by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 393 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 137; **Pages H2573–74, H2590–91**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the 'Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building' ". **Page H2591**

National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 1036, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, as the "National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office"; **Pages H2574–75**

Philippines Charitable Giving Assistance Act: H.R. 3771, amended, to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines; **Pages H2575–77**

Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act: H.R. 4275, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for cooperative and small employer charity pension plans; and **Pages H2577–89**

Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 2391, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5323 Highway N in Cottleville, Missouri as the "Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office". **Pages H2591–92**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:25 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H2589**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the landslide in Washington State on March 22, 2014. **Page H2590**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed:

Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 1228, amended, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Packerland Drive in Green Bay, Wisconsin, as the "Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building". **Pages H2569–70**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2589–90, H2590–91. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 10 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a hearing on the Office of National Drug Control Policy FY 2015 Budget. Testimony was heard from Michael Botticelli, Deputy Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy.

APPROPRIATIONS—CAPITOL POLICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a hearing on the United States Capitol Police Budget. Testimony was heard from Chief Kim Dine, United States Capitol Police.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology began a markup on a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes.

ONGOING INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Ongoing Intelligence Activities''. This was a closed hearing.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D246)*

S. 23, to designate as wilderness certain land and inland water within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in the State of Michigan. Signed on March 13, 2014. (Public Law 113–87)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Veterans Affairs', 10 a.m., SD–124.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the United States Capitol Police, the Senate Sergeant at Arms, and the Secretary of the Senate, 3:30 p.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to receive a closed briefing on challenges to maintaining United States military technology superiority, 2:15 p.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold an oversight hearing to examine importing energy and exporting jobs, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine teacher preparation, focusing on ensuring a quality teacher in every classroom, 2:30 p.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine transparency and training, focusing on preparing our first responders for emerging threats and hazards, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, hearing on the Budget for Department of Energy, Applied Energy Funding, 9:30 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies, hearing on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, hearing for Navy and Marine Corps FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., H–140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing on Transportation Security Administration FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, hearing for public and outside witnesses, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, hearing on Department of Interior FY 2015 Budget, 1:30 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, hearing on Department of Energy Budget, 2 p.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing on Federal Communications Commission FY 2015 Budget, 2 p.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing on Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Budget Request from the Department of the Army, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing on Military Personnel Overview, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing on Fiscal Year 2015 Missile Defense, 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Members' Day'', 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled ''The Foundation for Success: Strengthening the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, continued markup on a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes, 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing on H.R. 6, the ''Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act'', 1:30 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Why Debt Matters'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4278, the ''Ukraine Support Act''; H. Res. 494,

affirming the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act; and H. Res. 418, urging the Government of Burma to end the persecution of the Rohingya people and respect internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''The First One Thousand Days: Development Aid Programs to Bolster Health and Nutrition'', 1:30 p.m. 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled ''U.S. Disengagement from Latin America: Compromised Security and Economic Interests'', 2 p.m., 2255 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, hearing entitled ''The Federal Emergency Management Agency's FY 2015 Budget Request: Ensuring Effective Preparedness, Response, and Communications'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation, hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 863, the ''Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum Act of 2013''; H.R. 3006, to authorize a land exchange involving the acquisition of private land adjacent to the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona for inclusion in the refuge in exchange for certain Bureau of Land Management lands in Riverside County, California, and for other purposes; H.R. 4017, to designate a peak located in Nevada as ''Mount Reagan''; H.R. 4120, to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date; and H.R. 4253, to permanently withdraw, reserve, and transfer Bureau of Land Management lands used for military purposes in Alaska, Nevada, and New Mexico to the appropriate Secretary of the military department concerned, 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Water and Power, hearing entitled ''Examining the Proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Spending, Priorities and the Missions of the Bureau of Reclamation, the Four Power Marketing Administrations and the U.S. Geological Survey's Water Program'', 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 1459, the ''Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act'', 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, meeting to consider the views and estimates on the Small Business Administration's FY 2015 budget request, 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled ''The Role of Trading in Achieving Clean Water Objectives'', 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on H.R. 3593, the ''VA Construction Assistance Act of 2013''; H.R. 4261, the ''Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014''; and H.R. 4281, the ''Protecting Business Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2014'', 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 2942, to amend title 38, United States Code, to reestablish the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 3056, the ''Warriors' Peer-Outreach Pilot Program Act''; H.R. 3614, the ''Military Skills to Careers Act''; H.R. 4031, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance, and for other purposes; H.R. 4037, the ''Improving Veterans' Access to Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Act of 2014''; H.R. 4038, the ''Veterans Benefits Administration Information Technology Improvement Act of 2014''; H.R. 4147, the ''Student Veterans IT Upgrade Act''; H.R. 4150, the ''Veterans Employment and Training Service Longitudinal Study Act of 2014''; and H.R. 4151, the ''Veterans Education Survey Act of 2014'', 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of March 25 through March 28, 2014

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday,* at approximately 11 a.m., Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2124, Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act, post-cloture.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: March 25, Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Veterans Affairs', 10 a.m., SD–124.

March 25, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the United States Capitol Police, the Senate Sergeant at Arms, and the Secretary of the Senate, 3:30 p.m., SD–192.

March 26, Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Interior, 9:15 a.m., SD–124.

March 26, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Navy, 10 a.m., SD–106.

March 26, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget

estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Agriculture, 10 a.m., SD–192.

March 27, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation; to be followed by a closed session in SVC–217 at approximately 11:15 a.m, 10 a.m., SD–192.

March 27, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the Federal Communications Commission, 10 a.m., SD–138.

Committee on Armed Services: March 25, to hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

March 25, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to receive a closed briefing on challenges to maintaining United States military technology superiority, 2:15 p.m., SVC–217.

March 26, Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 10 a.m., SR–222.

March 26, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine strategic forces programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Office of Environmental Management of the Department of Energy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

March 26, Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine the the current readiness of United States forces in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR–232A.

March 27, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: March 26, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection, to hold hearings to examine if alternative financial products are serving consumers, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: March 26, to hold hearings to examine protecting personal consumer information from cyber attacks and data breaches, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: March 25, to hold an oversight hearing to examine importing energy and exporting jobs, 10 a.m., SD–366.

March 27, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Janice Marion Schneider, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, both of the Department of the Interior, and subcommittee assignments, 9:45 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: March 26, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., SD–406.

March 27, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine MAP–21 reauthorization, focusing on state and local perspectives on transportation priorities and funding, 9:45 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: March 26, to hold hearings to examine Syria after Geneva, focusing on the next steps for United States policy, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

March 27, Subcommittee on African Affairs, to hold hearings to examine powering Africa's future, focusing on the Power Africa Initiative, 10:30 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: March 25, to hold hearings to examine teacher preparation, focusing on ensuring a quality teacher in every classroom, 2:30 p.m., SD–430.

March 27, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine strengthening the Federal Student Loan Program for borrowers, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: March 25, Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine transparency and training, focusing on preparing our first responders for emerging threats and hazards, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

March 26, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine strengthening public-private partnerships to reduce cyber risks to our nation's critical infrastructure, 10 a.m., SD–342.

March 27, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Sherry Moore Trafford, and Steven M. Wellner, both to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: March 26, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for Tribal Programs, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: March 26, to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of, ''The Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act'', 10 a.m., SD–226.

March 27, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1720, to promote transparency in patent ownership and make other improvements to the patent system, and the nominations of Gregg Jeffrey Costa, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Tanya S. Chutkan, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, M. Hannah Lauck, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, Leo T. Sorokin, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Richard Franklin Boulware II, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, Salvador Mendoza, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Staci Michelle Yandle, to be United States District Judge for

the Southern District of Illinois, John Charles Cruden, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, and Leon Rodriguez, of Maryland, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD–226.

March 27, Subcommittee on Oversight, Federal Rights and Agency Action, to hold hearings to examine access to justice for those who serve, 3 p.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: March 25, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

March 27, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: March 26, to hold hearings to examine preventing Medicare fraud, focusing on the best way to protect seniors and taxpayers, 2:15 p.m., SD–562.

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: March 26, to hold hearings to examine America's addiction to opioids, focusing on heroin and prescription drug abuse, 2:30 p.m., SD–192.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, March 26, Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry, hearing to Review the impacts of Endangered Species Act and related litigation on National Forest System management, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, March 26, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science, hearing on Federal Bureau of Investigation's Post 9/11 Reform Efforts FY 2015 Budget and Oversight, 9 a.m., H–309 Capitol.

March 26, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies, hearing on USDA Research, Education and Economic FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

March 26, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing on Air Force Budget FY 2015, 10 a.m., H–140 Capitol.

March 26, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, hearing on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

March 26, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing on Federal Emergency Management Agency, FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

March 26, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education oversight hearing entitled ''Future of Biomedical Research'', 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

March 26, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing on U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea, 2 p.m., H–140 Capitol. This is a closed hearing.

March 26, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, hearing on Bureau of Reclamation FY 2015 Budget, 2 p.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

March 26, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing on the Judiciary FY 2015 Budget, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

March 27, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies, hearing on Food and Drug Administration FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

March 27, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, hearing on the National Science Foundation FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., H–309 Capitol.

March 27, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing on United States Army FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., H–140 Capitol.

March 27, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing on Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

March 27, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, hearing on Veterans Affairs FY 2015 Budget, 1:30 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services March 26, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing on Interim Report of the Advisory Panel on the Governance of the Nuclear Security Enterprise, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 26, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing on Fiscal Year 2015 Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Combat Aviation Programs, 12:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 26, Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing on Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2015 Science and Technology Programs: Pursuing Technology Superiority in a Changing Security Environment, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

March 26, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, hearing on Department of the Navy Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request for Seapower and Projection Forces, 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 27, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing on Operation and Maintenance without OCO Funds: What Now?, 9 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, March 26, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Reviewing the President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Proposal for the Department of Labor'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, March 26, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Where Have All the Patients Gone? Examining the Psychiatric Bed Shortage'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, March 26, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Geopolitical Potential of the U.S. Energy Boom'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

March 26, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing entitled ''The Shocking Truth about North Korean Tyranny'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, March 26, Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, markup on H.R. 4228, the ''DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act'', 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

March 27, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, markup on H.R. 3283, the ''Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2013''; H.R. 4263, the ''Social Media Working Group Act of 2014''; and legislation on the ''Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, March 26, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations,

hearing entitled ''Innocence for Sale: Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

March 26, Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law, hearing entitled ''Exploring Chapter 11 Reform: Corporate and Financial Institution Insolvencies; Treatment of Derivatives'', 4 p.m., 2237 Rayburn.

March 27, Over-Criminalization Task Force, hearing on Over-federalization, 9:30 a.m., 2237 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, March 26, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Collision Course: Oversight of the Obama Administration's Enforcement Approach for America's Wildlife Laws and Its Impact on Domestic Energy'', 10 a.m., 1324 Rayburn.

March 27, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled ''Advances in Earthquake Science: 50th Anniversary of the Great Alaskan Quake'', 9:30 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

March 27, Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs, hearing on H.R. 4002, to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes; and H.R. 3822, the ''Fort Wingate Land Division Act of 2014'', 11 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, March 26, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Examining the IRS Response to the Targeting Scandal'', 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, March 26, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''A Review of the President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request for Science Agencies'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

March 27, Subcommittee on Space, hearing entitled ''A Review of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Budget for Fiscal Year 2015'', 9 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, March 26, Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce, hearing entitled ''Barriers to Opportunity: Do Occupational Licensing Laws Unfairly Limit Entrepreneurship and Jobs?'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, March 26, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled ''President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request for Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Programs'', 9:30 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, March 26, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 2018, the ''Honor Those Who Served Act of 2013''; H.R. 2088, H.R. 2119, the ''Veterans Access to Speedy Review Act''; H.R. 2529, the ''Veteran Spouses Equal Treatment Act''; H.R. 3671, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the eligibility for a medallion furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to signify the veteran status of a deceased individual; H.R. 3876, the ''Burial with Dignity for Heroes Act of 2014''; H.R. 4095, the ''Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2014''; H.R. 4102, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify that the estate of a deceased veteran may receive certain accrued benefits upon the death of the veteran, and for other purposes; H.R. 4141, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into enhanced-use leases for excess property of the National Cemetery Administration that is unsuitable for burial purposes; and H.R. 4191, the ''Quicker Veterans Benefits Delivery Act'', 3:30 p.m., 334 Cannon.

March 27, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 183, the ''Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act; H.R. 2527, the ''Veterans Access to Timely Medical Appointments Act''; H.R. 2661, the ''Veterans Access to Timely Medical Appointments Act''; H.R. 2974, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the eligibility for beneficiary travel for veterans seeking treatment or care for military sexual trauma in specialized outpatient or residential programs at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; H.R. 3508, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the qualifications of hearing aid specialists of the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; H.R. 3180, to amend title 38, United States Code, to include contracts and grants for residential care for veterans in the exception to the requirement that the Federal Government recover a portion of the value of certain projects; H.R. 3387, the ''Classified Veterans Access to Care Act''; H.R. 3831, the ''Veterans Dialysis Pilot Program Review Act of 2014''; H.R. 4198, the ''Appropriate Care for Disabled Veterans Act''; and legislation to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, March 27, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Ongoing Intelligence Activities'', 9 a.m., 304–HVC. This is a closed hearing.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: March 26, to hold hearings to examine unwinding quantitative easing, focusing on how the Fed should promote stable prices, economic growth, and job creation, 2 p.m., SH–216.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: March 27, to receive a briefing on the highs and lows in United States-Russia relations, 1 p.m., 2103, Rayburn Building.

Joint Hearing: March 26, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 25

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond one hour), Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2124, Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act, post-cloture.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 25

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 2824—Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bachus, Spencer, Ala., E426
Boustany, Charles W., Jr., La., E423
Brady, Kevin, Tex., E421
Brooks, Mo, Ala., E418
Brownley, Julia, Calif., E417
Cartwright, Matt, Pa., E420
Coffman, Mike, Colo., E421
Connolly, Gerald E., Va., E422
Courtney, Joe, Conn., E421
Deutch, Theodore E., Fla., E420, E422
Ellison, Keith, Minn., E419, E421
Grayson, Alan, Fla., E424, E425, E426, E426, E427
Green, Gene, Tex., E425
Hudson, Richard, N.C., E424
Huelskamp, Tim, Kans., E419
Kelly, Mike, Pa., E418
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, D.C., E421
Pallone, Frank, Jr., N.J., E421, E424
Perlmutter, Ed, Colo., E417, E418, E419, E419, E420, E421, E422, E423, E424, E424
Schneider, Bradley S., Ill., E418, E420
Smith, Adam, Wash., E420, E422, E424
Speier, Jackie, Calif.,E423
Stivers, Steve, Ohio, E425
Webster, Daniel, Fla., E417
Wittman, Robert J., Va., E417

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