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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 28, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS E. PETRI to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

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

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

Bless abundantly the Members of this people's House as they return from a long recess, when millions of Americans remembered who they were as men and women of faith. Their prayers must certainly include hope that our Nation's ongoing challenges might be met with wisdom in solutions forged by all those who represent them.

During this season of new growth, may Your redemptive power help those who have been elected by their fellow citizens to see new ways to productive service, fresh approaches to understanding each other, especially those across the aisle, and renewed commitment to solving the problems facing our Nation.

May they, and may we all, be transformed by Your grace, and better reflect the sense of wonder, even joy, at the opportunities to serve that are ever before us.

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.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST FOR MOX REPORT

(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, in February, the President, sadly, announced his plan to terminate the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, also known as MOX, at the Savannah River Site.

The administration blamed the cost estimate as the reason to halt construction. Shutting down this project halts environmental cleanup, which is converting weapons-grade plutonium into green fuel.

South Carolina and Georgia are at risk of being a nuclear waste dump site, breaking a nonproliferation agreement with Russia. This highly exaggerated cost was assessed in a report that is closed to the public.

Constituents living in Aiken and Barnwell Counties, adjacent to Georgia, deserve to know the truth. I am grateful that the Aiken Standard has filed a Freedom of Information Act request in pursuit of the cost analysis.

We should be working together for environmental cleanup, for nonproliferation compliance, and for national security to support the Savannah River Site in its vital mission with dedicated employees.

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

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, on Holocaust Remembrance Day, we solemnly reflect on the 6 million Jews who were systematically murdered by a madman known as Hitler and his Nazi followers.

We remember the children torn from the arms of their parents as they marched to the gas chambers. We remember the teenagers who were forced to dig their own graves. We remember the men and women who perished in labor camps from disease and starvation.

This day is a tribute to the enduring memory of the destruction of humanity during the Jewish Holocaust. It is a forceful reminder for generations to come: never forget, and never again.

ARMY RESERVE 106TH BIRTHDAY

(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, today I rise to honor the United States Army Reserve, which this week celebrates 106 years of service defending our country.

For generations, the Army Reserve has played an essential role in the defense of this Nation. These citizen-soldiers are also actively engaged citizens

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in every community throughout the country. They continue to be a true testament to America's All-Volunteer Armed Forces.

Most reservists must strike a balance between family life, full-time employment, and the growing demands of serving in our Nation's professional Army. This upcoming weekend I will have the honor of meeting with several Army Reserve units throughout Pennsylvania to highlight the important role that these men and women play in our national defense and also our local communities.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Army Reserve for continuing to play an important role in the defense of our great Nation.

I rise and reiterate how very proud we are of these men and women and all that they do for our country and to wish a special 106th birthday to our Army Reserve.

GROUNDBREAKING OF THE CONNECTICUT TREES OF HONOR MEMORIAL

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

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, last week Connecticut broke ground on a new memorial to honor the 65 men and women who died serving our country in the war on terror.

Like all memorials, this beautiful place will serve both as a source of comfort for loved ones, as well as a lasting reminder of the cost of freedom. That cost is measured in lives, but also in promises kept.

We have a duty to honor our veterans and support their families. That is why I am a proud author of the Caregivers Expansion and Improvement Act. My bill would assist home caregivers of all veterans injured during their service, allowing them to recover in the comfort of their own homes.

I stand with the VFW and the DAV to do my part to ensure that we care and honor all those who so bravely serve our country.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 3383.

IF YOU LIKE YOUR DOCTORS, YOU CAN KEEP YOUR DOCTORS, BUT WE WON'T PAY THEM

(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, just late last week there was a news story that healthcare.gov was still not finished. The back-end portion, the part that deals with payments to doctors and hospitals, still has not been constructed.

Now, that was odd because just the week before the President held a big press conference down at the White House and said, Mission accomplished; everything we wanted to do has been done.

Well, how do you reconcile these discrepancies? What, in fact, is the timeline for this to be accomplished?

Mission accomplished: the patients, the doctors, and the hospitals who are going to end up the ones on the hook for these payments that are not going to be received, I wonder if they feel the same way.

WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate Workers' Memorial Day, which is today, and honor those Americans who have lost their lives.

From steel mills to nursing homes, offices to construction sites, we must work to strengthen safety measures for all those who still face hazards in the workplace. We must ensure that workers in all areas are able to do their jobs in a safe environment. That includes agriculture.

Whether in a factory or on a farm, even one death on the job is too many. But in central New York, we are seeing far too many farmworkers being hurt and killed. In fact, two died in farm accidents in a single week recently. That is why I support the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's local emphasis program. My office and I have worked hard to ensure that dairies know the standards and have a reasonable time to comply.

But on this Workers' Memorial Day, let's dedicate ourselves to making our farms safe workplaces and support OSHA's efforts to do so.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by Speaker pro tempore THORNBERRY on Thursday, April 10, 2014:

S. 2195, to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 10, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 10, 2014 at 5:32 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 994.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 11, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 11, 2014 at 11:33 a.m.:

Appointments: National Commission on Hunger.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 17, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the Superior Court for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for both documents and testimony in a criminal case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will determine whether compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM DIRECTOR OF APPROPRIATIONS, THE HONORABLE CHAKA FATTAH, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Michelle Anderson-Lee, Director of Appropriations, the Honorable CHAKA FATTAH, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 21, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules

of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, for testimony in a criminal case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will determine whether compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

MICHELLE ANDERSON-LEE,
Director of Appropriations.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1610

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) at 4 o'clock and 10 minutes 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.

DIGITAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2014

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 994) to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 994

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 ''Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014'' or the ''DATA Act''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) by disclosing direct Federal agency expenditures and linking Federal contract, loan, and grant spending information to programs of Federal agencies to enable taxpayers and policy makers to track Federal spending more effectively;

(2) establish Government-wide data standards for financial data and provide consistent, reliable, and searchable Government-wide spending data that is displayed accurately for taxpayers and policy makers on USASpending.gov (or a successor system that displays the data);

(3) simplify reporting for entities receiving Federal funds by streamlining reporting requirements and reducing compliance costs while improving transparency;

(4) improve the quality of data submitted to USASpending.gov by holding Federal agencies accountable for the completeness and accuracy of the data submitted; and

(5) apply approaches developed by the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board to spending across the Federal Government.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL FUNDING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2006.

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended—

(1) in section 2—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''this Act'';

(ii) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as paragraphs (2), (4), and (7), respectively;

(iii) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

''(1) DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.'';

(iv) by inserting after paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

''(3) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term 'Federal agency' has the meaning given the term 'Executive agency' under section 105 of title 5, United States Code.'';

(v) by inserting after paragraph (4), as so redesignated, the following:

''(5) OBJECT CLASS.—The term 'object class' means the category assigned for purposes of the annual budget of the President submitted under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, to the type of property or services purchased by the Federal Government.

''(6) PROGRAM ACTIVITY.—The term 'program activity' has the meaning given that term under section 1115(h) of title 31, United States Code.''; and

(vi) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Treasury.'';

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (3), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(ii) in paragraph (4), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget'';

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (4), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) shall have the ability to aggregate data for the categories described in paragraphs (1) through (5) without double-counting data; and

''(7) shall ensure that all information published under this section is available—

''(A) in machine-readable and open formats;

''(B) to be downloaded in bulk; and

''(C) to the extent practicable, for automated processing.'';

(D) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget'';

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(II) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget'';

(E) in subsection (e), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(F) in subsection (g)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking ''of the Office of Management and Budget''; and

(2) by striking sections 3 and 4 and inserting the following:

''SEC. 3. FULL DISCLOSURE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, and monthly when practicable but not less than quarterly thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall ensure that the information in subsection (b) is posted on the website established under section 2.

''(b) INFORMATION TO BE POSTED.—For any funds made available to or expended by a Federal agency or component of a Federal agency, the information to be posted shall include—

''(1) for each appropriations account, including an expired or unexpired appropriations account, the amount—

''(A) of budget authority appropriated;

''(B) that is obligated;

''(C) of unobligated balances; and

''(D) of any other budgetary resources;

''(2) from which accounts and in what amount—

''(A) appropriations are obligated for each program activity; and

''(B) outlays are made for each program activity;

''(3) from which accounts and in what amount—

''(A) appropriations are obligated for each object class; and

''(B) outlays are made for each object class; and

''(4) for each program activity, the amount—

''(A) obligated for each object class; and

''(B) of outlays made for each object class.

''SEC. 4. DATA STANDARDS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS.—The Secretary and the Director, in consultation with the heads of Federal agencies, shall establish Government-wide financial data standards for any Federal funds made available to or expended by Federal agencies and entities receiving Federal funds.

''(2) DATA ELEMENTS.—The financial data standards established under paragraph (1) shall include common data elements for financial and payment information required to be reported by Federal agencies and entities receiving Federal funds.

''(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The data standards established under subsection (a) shall, to the extent reasonable and practicable—

''(1) incorporate widely accepted common data elements, such as those developed and maintained by—

''(A) an international voluntary consensus standards body;

''(B) Federal agencies with authority over contracting and financial assistance; and

''(C) accounting standards organizations;

''(2) incorporate a widely accepted, nonproprietary, searchable, platform-independent computer-readable format;

''(3) include unique identifiers for Federal awards and entities receiving Federal awards that can be consistently applied Government-wide;

''(4) be consistent with and implement applicable accounting principles;

''(5) be capable of being continually upgraded as necessary;

''(6) produce consistent and comparable data, including across program activities; and

''(7) establish a standard method of conveying the reporting period, reporting entity, unit of measure, and other associated attributes.

''(c) DEADLINES.—

''(1) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, the Director and the Secretary shall issue guidance to Federal agencies on the data standards established under subsection (a).

''(2) AGENCIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), not later than 2 years after the date on which the guidance under paragraph (1) is issued, each Federal agency shall report financial and payment information data in accordance with the data standards established under subsection (a).

''(B) NONINTERFERENCE WITH AUDITABILITY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by the Secretary of Defense, the Director may grant an extension of the deadline under subparagraph (A) to the Department of Defense for a period of not more than 6 months to report financial and payment information data in accordance with the data standards established under subsection (a).

''(ii) LIMITATION.—The Director may not grant more than 3 extensions to the Secretary of Defense under clause (i).

''(iii) NOTIFICATION.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives of—

''(I) each grant of an extension under clause (i); and

''(II) the reasons for granting such an extension.

''(3) WEBSITE.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the guidance under paragraph (1) is issued, the Director and the Secretary shall ensure that the data standards established under subsection (a) are applied to the data made available on the website established under section 2.

''(d) CONSULTATION.—The Director and the Secretary shall consult with public and private stakeholders in establishing data standards under this section.

''SEC. 5. SIMPLIFYING FEDERAL AWARD REPORTING.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in consultation with relevant Federal agencies, recipients of Federal awards, including State and local governments, and institutions of higher education (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)), shall review the information required to be reported by recipients of Federal awards to identify—

''(1) common reporting elements across the Federal Government;

''(2) unnecessary duplication in financial reporting; and

''(3) unnecessarily burdensome reporting requirements for recipients of Federal awards.

''(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, the Director, or a Federal agency designated by the Director, shall establish a pilot program (in this section referred to as the 'pilot program') with the participation of appropriate Federal agencies to facilitate the development of recommendations for—

''(A) standardized reporting elements across the Federal Government;

''(B) the elimination of unnecessary duplication in financial reporting; and

''(C) the reduction of compliance costs for recipients of Federal awards.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The pilot program shall—

''(A) include a combination of Federal contracts, grants, and subawards, the aggregate value of which is not less than $1,000,000,000 and not more than $2,000,000,000;

''(B) include a diverse group of recipients of Federal awards; and

''(C) to the extent practicable, include recipients who receive Federal awards from multiple programs across multiple agencies.

''(3) DATA COLLECTION.—The pilot program shall include data collected during a 12-month reporting cycle.

''(4) REPORTING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS.—Each recipient of a Federal award participating in the pilot program shall submit to the Office of Management and Budget or the Federal agency designated under paragraph (1), as appropriate, any requested reports of the selected Federal awards.

''(5) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall terminate on the date that is 2 years after the date on which the pilot program is established.

''(6) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the pilot program terminates under paragraph (5), the Director shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Budget of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program, which shall include—

''(A) a description of the data collected under the pilot program, the usefulness of the data provided, and the cost to collect the data from recipients; and

''(B) a discussion of any legislative action required and recommendations for—

''(i) consolidating aspects of Federal financial reporting to reduce the costs to recipients of Federal awards;

''(ii) automating aspects of Federal financial reporting to increase efficiency and reduce the costs to recipients of Federal awards;

''(iii) simplifying the reporting requirements for recipients of Federal awards; and

''(iv) improving financial transparency.

''(7) GOVERNMENT-WIDE IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Director submits the report under paragraph (6), the Director shall issue guidance to the heads of Federal agencies as to how the Government-wide financial data standards established under section 4(a) shall be applied to the information required to be reported by entities receiving Federal awards to—

''(A) reduce the burden of complying with reporting requirements; and

''(B) simplify the reporting process, including by reducing duplicative reports.

''SEC. 6. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FEDERAL FUNDING.

''(a) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with paragraph (2), the Inspector General of each Federal agency, in consultation with the Comptroller General of the United States, shall—

''(A) review a statistically valid sampling of the spending data submitted under this Act by the Federal agency; and

''(B) submit to Congress and make publically available a report assessing the completeness, timeliness, quality, and accuracy of the data sampled and the implementation and use of data standards by the Federal agency.

''(2) DEADLINES.—

''(A) FIRST REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which the Director and the Secretary issue guidance to Federal agencies under section 4(c)(1), the Inspector General of each Federal agency shall submit and make publically available a report as described in paragraph (1).

''(B) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—On the same date as the Inspector General of each Federal agency submits the second and fourth reports under sections 3521(f) and 9105(a)(3) of title 31, United States Code, that are submitted after the report under subparagraph (A), the Inspector General shall submit and make publically available a report as described in paragraph (1). The report submitted under this subparagraph may be submitted as a part of the report submitted under section 3521(f) or 9105(a)(3) of title 31, United States Code.

''(b) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with paragraph (2) and after a review of the reports submitted under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress and make publically available a report assessing and comparing the data completeness, timeliness, quality, and accuracy of the data submitted under this Act by Federal agencies and the implementation and use of data standards by Federal agencies.

''(2) DEADLINES.—Not later than 30 months after the date on which the Director and the Secretary issue guidance to Federal agencies under section 4(c)(1), and every 2 years thereafter until the date that is 4 years after the date on which the first report is submitted under this subsection, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit and make publically available a report as described in paragraph (1).

''(c) RECOVERY ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY BOARD DATA ANALYSIS CENTER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may establish a data analysis center or expand an existing service to provide data, analytic tools, and data management techniques to support—

''(A) the prevention and reduction of improper payments by Federal agencies; and

''(B) improving efficiency and transparency in Federal spending.

''(2) DATA AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall enter into memoranda of understanding with Federal agencies, including Inspectors General and Federal law enforcement agencies—

''(A) under which the Secretary may provide data from the data analysis center for—

''(i) the purposes set forth under paragraph (1);

''(ii) the identification, prevention, and reduction of waste, fraud, and abuse relating to Federal spending; and

''(iii) use in the conduct of criminal and other investigations; and

''(B) which may require the Federal agency, Inspector General, or Federal law enforcement agency to provide reimbursement to the Secretary for the reasonable cost of carrying out the agreement.

''(3) TRANSFER.—Upon the establishment of a data analysis center or the expansion of a service under paragraph (1), and on or before the date on which the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board terminates, and in addition to any other transfer that the Director determines is necessary under section 1531 of title 31, United States Code, there are transferred to the Department of the Treasury all assets identified by the Secretary that support the operations and activities of the Recovery Operations Center of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board relating to the detection of waste, fraud, and abuse in the use of Federal funds that are in existence on the day before the transfer.

''SEC. 7. CLASSIFIED AND PROTECTED INFORMATION.

''Nothing in this Act shall require the disclosure to the public of—

''(1) information that would be exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5,

United States Code (commonly known as the 'Freedom of Information Act'); or

''(2) information protected under section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Privacy Act of 1974'), or section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''SEC. 8. NO PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.

''Nothing in this Act shall be construed to create a private right of action for enforcement of any provision of this Act.''.

SEC. 4. EXECUTIVE AGENCY ACCOUNTING AND OTHER FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORTS AND PLANS.

Section 3512(a)(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''and make available on the website described under section 1122'' after ''appropriate committees of Congress''.

SEC. 5. DEBT COLLECTION IMPROVEMENT.

Section 3716(c)(6) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(A)'' before ''Any Federal agency'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), as so designated, by striking ''180 days'' and inserting ''120 days''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) The Secretary of the Treasury shall notify Congress of any instance in which an agency fails to notify the Secretary as required under subparagraph (A).''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. 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 materials on the bill under consideration.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of S. 994, the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act, or DATA Act.

As chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I have looked to tackle major problems pervasive in the Federal Government.

Over the past 4 years, our committee, the majority and the minority, has taken up and moved several bills designed to reform the Federal Government.

Majority Leader CANTOR has worked with leaders on both sides of the aisle to take most of those reforms and advance them through the full House, often on a unanimous basis.

All Members of the House can be proud of the work we have done to improve the Federal Government. Without a doubt, the most important transparency reform we have pushed over the last 4 years has been the DATA Act. The DATA Act is but a first shot of a technological revolution that will transform the way we govern.

Just 3 weeks ago, the GAO's Comptroller General Gene Dodaro came before our committee and testified that the status of the Federal data programs is abysmal. Agencies have no standardized performance metrics for their programs. Agencies cannot tell us how many programs they have. But most importantly, agencies do not and usually cannot tell us how much taxpayer money has been spent on any given program.

The spending information that is provided is often incomplete, out-of-date, and very often inaccurate. The American people deserve to know if their taxpayer dollars are being wasted or whether they are being spent wisely. Even the meager amount of performance information collected today is useless if it cannot determine how much resources any given program truly consumes.

This information disadvantages not only Congress, but in fact the President's administration. Presidential administrations one after another consist of but a few thousand officials to oversee a workforce of nearly 2 million people and trillions of dollars.

Regardless of political party affiliation, each Congress and every President is frustrated by this large, permanent, unaccountable class of bureaucrats.

□ 1615

Some scholars have even deemed the permanent bureaucracy as the ''fourth branch'' of the Federal Government.

In order to better oversee the Federal Government, Congress, and even the President and his appointees, must better leverage the technology available today. The DATA Act will allow us to do just that.

I introduced the first version of the DATA Act in 2011. Its inspiration came from a relatively small expense in the Obama administration's 2009 stimulus spending bill, a bill that I overall did not approve of but which did have this important accountability standard.

The stimulus temporarily established an entity called the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board. The Board was chaired by a respected inspector general, Earl Devaney. Under Chairman Devaney's leadership, the Board established direct reporting requirements for stimulus projects and standardized Federal agency reporting. This allowed inspector generals and other law enforcement agencies to more effectively prosecute fraud and prevent improper payments.

Furthermore, this information was made available to the public online in an easy-to-download, easy-to-manipulate format so that journalists, academics, and government watchdogs could more easily analyze stimulus spending.

I met with Vice President JOE BIDEN in November of 2010, prior to even becoming the chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Despite possible disagreements on some aspects of the stimulus, we found ourselves very much in support of the Recovery Board's successes and knew that it could be replicated across the entire Federal Government.

I want to thank Vice President BIDEN for his continued public and private support for the kinds of reforms embedded in this legislation today, and particularly for continuing to be a champion of the Recovery Board's work and the transparency it brought.

In order to do what we agreed to back in 2010, the Federal Government would need standardized data and reporting by all Federal agencies and improved recipient reporting. That is the only way that you could accomplish this, and legislative action was needed.

After months of working with leading experts in the field of standardized reporting, I introduced in July of 2011 the first version of the DATA Act, H.R. 2146. Later that year, I joined with Ranking Member ELIJAH CUMMINGS to refine the legislation and mark it up through our committee.

I want to thank Representatives on both sides of the aisle here today for the bipartisan nature in which we worked on this kind of transparency work. It is technical. It is sometimes hard. Of course, it is a pushback from bureaucrats, but it is what Congress is supposed to do: make the institutional changes that make government more accountable.

In April 2012 we brought it to the floor on a bipartisan basis and passed the first version of the DATA Act unanimously. While a companion version, S. 3600, was introduced by Senator MARK WARNER of Virginia and Senator ROB PORTMAN of Ohio that year, the Senate did not act on either it or the House-passed bill.

Last year we reintroduced the DATA Act as H.R. 2061 and approved it unanimously out of our committee. We made significant changes to streamline the bill, but we maintained the focus on its core elements. Simultaneously, Senator WARNER and Senator PORTMAN introduced a new Senate companion, S. 994, the bill before us today. The House acted quickly again and approved H.R. 2061 by a vote of 388–1.

Knowing that the legislative calendar was short, House and Senate sponsors worked with Senator CARPER and Senator COBURN in a preconference process that ensured the bill would be taken up by the full Senate and which anticipates our passage here today.

We also were able to bring to the table those reformers in the administration—both political appointees and career civil servants—to offer technical improvements to the bill, and they are incorporated in this legislation.

While the bill does not contain all reforms the House advanced in its two previous votes on the DATA Act, the bill before us today does contain the core elements of the two prior versions of the bill and maintains the most important step: common data standards and recipient reporting.

The DATA Act is more than just better tools to fight waste and fraud. It requires agencies to report their financial information in standard formats program by program. The DATA Act also gives policymakers in Congress and in the executive branch better information to make better decisions. More importantly, we give the American people better information to evaluate our performance.

In addition to the strong data standards and requirements for agencies to produce program-by-program information, the House-Senate agreement contains two key provisions from previous versions of the DATA Act.

First, the bill authorizes the Treasury Department to establish a cutting-edge data analysis center modeled specifically after the successful Recovery Operations Center, also known as the ROC. This is the center I spoke earlier about that was established by now-retired but still-distinguished friend of government Earl Devaney as part of the Recovery Board's stimulus transparency efforts.

This new center will build on the innovative technology and ideas of the ROC and expand their use throughout the Federal Government. The DATA Act specifically provides for the transfer of that technology still in place at the ROC.

This new Treasury Department data analysis center will be a vital tool for law enforcement agencies and the IGs in their criminal and other investigations. The new center will also serve agencies who strive to prevent improper payments.

Second, the DATA Act agreement before you today establishes a pilot program to develop consolidated reporting for recipients of Federal funds. And I want to emphasize that, Madam Speaker. Federal recipients, people who get taxpayer money, will now have a transparent and consolidated way to send the information as to how they are spending it so you and the public will know.

Hundreds of billions of Federal taxpayer dollars are spent every year by State, local, tribal governments, universities, and private institutions. These institutions end up inevitably wasting millions of taxpayer dollars complying with duplicative and complicated reporting requirements.

At the end of a 2-year pilot program where some recipients will report to a single entity in a standardized manner, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget will issue guidance to all Federal agencies on how to streamline and consolidate reporting requirements. Just like with stimulus funds, the same data standards that apply to Federal agency reporting will apply to recipient reporting.

The DATA Act will give the American people the ability to track how we spend their tax dollars. Instead of sifting through PDFs—a form of visual, nondata-based standard—posted online that only let's you see a picture of the spending—and many different formats—you now will in fact have all Federal spending information available for bulk download in a single, machine-readable format.

That is a big mouthful, Madam Speaker, but what it really means is that both individuals and entities, large and small, will be able to create tools where, on your iPhone or Android, you will be able to ask a question and get back an answer as successfully as the programs that have previously been made available.

The DATA Act will give lawmakers and public watchdogs powerful tools to identify and root out fraud, waste, and excess spending in the government. It will put at the American people's fingertips today the kind of information that only long and arduous research could unveil.

More importantly, by simply opening up this information, we will enable journalists, academics, and even private sector businesses to use the data to create products that will deliver real value to the American people.

This is just one example:

The National Weather Service some years ago did just what we are proposing by opening up their data, making it freely available to the public some years ago. Today it supports a multibillion-dollar weather analysis industry, and every American with a smartphone or a computer can find out what the weather is and what it is forecasted to be at any location in America. That wouldn't be possible without that open data standard.

I am very proud that it was a start, but there is more to do.

The DATA Act will have the same ability to create jobs, which is why this bill is so important. It is endorsed by dozens of private sector technology companies.

New York University Business School Professor Joel Gurin wrote in a recent book that "the value of government open data is that it's a long-term, permanent resource that innovators can use for decades, developing new ideas and new companies as technology makes them possible."

That is a mouthful, but it says what we need to say, which is that this is going to create new industries that are able to leverage the information that today is not available to the American people and not available to the innovators in Silicon Valley and around America.

I ask that my colleagues join with me today in sending this bill to the President for his signature, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to rise in support of S. 994, the DATA Act. This is a landmark piece of bipartisan and bicameral legislation that will change the way the government operates.

I applaud the sponsor of S. 994, Senator MARK WARNER, who put a lot of passion and hard work into this legislation; as did the principal sponsor here, whom you have just heard from, House Oversight Committee Chairman DARRELL ISSA, who put considerable energy into this bill over more than one session; as well as Senate Chairman TOM CARPER of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee; and House Oversight Committee Ranking Member ELIJAH CUMMINGS, who worked very diligently to get us to the House floor today.

The DATA Act will provide the public with information about how the government is spending money, pure and simple. This will hold agencies accountable for their spending, and it will result in a more effective government.

On April 8, 2014, the Comptroller General of the United States, Gene Dodaro, testified in support of this legislation. Here is what he said: "I think the DATA Act is one of the biggest single things that could be done in order to provide more transparency on the costs of these program activities."

The Comptroller General went on to say that the DATA Act would "standardize the data"—and that is the operative word, "standardize the data"—"so that you would be able to compare data across agencies, which you can't do right now. It would also provide more consistent information and at a lower program spending level that we found to be a big obstacle in us identifying additional savings opportunities."

The DATA Act will require the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to establish government-wide data standards. This will improve the quality of the data that agencies make available about their spending.

Under this bill, spending data will be available through a single Web site. The bill will require that spending data be available for each agency and each program activity in a searchable, downloadable format.

The DATA Act is a bipartisan bill across both Chambers that will improve transparency and, in turn, make government work better. I urge every Member to support this legislation.

□ 1630

I would like, again, to express my strong support for this bill and to thank Chairman ISSA for his many efforts to get it passed and through committee more than once.

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

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, in closing, this last weekend, the Associated Press talked about the waning days of this Congress and expected to have a do-nothing Congress.

That is easy to say, but in this case, today, we are showing, on a bipartisan, bicameral basis, with our friends in the Senate, that there are major pieces of legislation that will save countless billions of dollars and provide better information to the American people and

to the watchdogs who want to root out waste, fraud, and abuse in our government.

So this is not a controversial bill because it has taken years of hard work to get it right. But, in fact, this is a major piece of legislation.

I want to close by thanking Senator CARPER, Senator COBURN, Senator PORTMAN, and Senator WARNER, the author of the bill today, in addition to Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, and of course, my ranking member, Congressman CUMMINGS.

This has been bipartisan. It is one of the many pieces of bipartisan legislation that take a long time, they hold a lot of hearings, but at the end of the day, the American people can trust that the American people's work does get done, in spite of some of the things we are unable to do. This is a major piece of legislation.

I want to thank, lastly, leadership for bringing this to the floor today in a timely fashion so that we can get it to the President's desk for signing next week.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 994.

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.

CLARIFICATION OF RULES APPLYING TO HUMAN OCCUPANCY OF PENTHOUSES IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUILDINGS

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4192) to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia'' to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4192

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

SECTION 1. CLARIFICATION OF RULES APPLYING TO HUMAN OCCUPANCY OF PENTHOUSES IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUILDINGS.

(a) PERMITTING HUMAN OCCUPANCY OF PENTHOUSES WITHIN CERTAIN HEIGHT LIMIT.—The eighth paragraph of section 5 of the Act entitled ''An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia'', approved June 1, 1910 (sec. 6–601.05(h), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) by striking ''penthouses over elevator shafts,'' and inserting ''penthouses,''; and

(2) by striking ''and no floor or compartment thereof shall be constructed or used for human occupancy above the top story of the building upon which such structures are placed'' and inserting ''and, except in the case of a penthouse which is erected to a height of one story of 20 feet or less above the level of the roof, no floor or compartment thereof shall be constructed or used for human occupancy above the top story of the building upon which such structures are placed''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, in 1910, the Height of Buildings Act was signed into Federal law. That bill, in fact, envisioned a prevention of New York-style skyscrapers from being erected here in the Nation's Capital. That bill is every bit as important today as it was in 1910.

The District of Columbia has a unique visual requirement. We should not, cannot, and will not obstruct the Mall and the major parts of this historic city.

It is important that we maintain the skyline and the access, and we do so in every single consideration in this city. The memorials and monuments and public safety must be considered.

However, over the last two Congresses, the committee has been working on several small modifications that, really, time has said its time has come. After 100 years, the current legislation makes a small but meaningful change. Let me put it in words the American people can easily understand.

One hundred years ago, they put a limit on the height of these buildings, and then they put 20 feet beyond that limit of occupancy for water towers, coal stacks for the chimneys, and, of course, the tops of elevators. Those water towers, elevator shafts, chimneys, they were certainly pretty hideous, but they were necessary.

It is now 100 years later, and, in fact, the absence of other uses for these buildings often means that these tops of these buildings are not considered to be an aesthetically important part, and there is no funding and no source of revenue to make them better.

Under this modification to the Height Act, we allow for what have been called penthouses but, in fact, are simply industrial rooftop air conditioners and the like to be covered, wrapped, if you will, by architecturally pleasing structures.

These structures may be occupied. They may be offices, cafeterias, or, in the case of a residential apartment complex, it could be a top apartment.

Under the legislation, they have to have a setback. The setback is roughly 1 foot per foot of height, or 20 feet of setback if they go to the full 20 feet. So these are not a monolithic increase and, in fact, a setback consistent with that 100-year-old law.

Last Congress, the committee held numerous hearings on the Height Act and listened to countless witnesses. I subsequently wrote to the National Capital Planning Commission, often called the NCPC, and the mayor's office, asking them to jointly study modifications to the Height Act and recommend any changes they saw appropriate. For those who are unaware, NCPC is the regional planning commission that includes representatives of both the Federal interests and local interests.

The Height Act study is impressive. Aside from the research work, a series of meetings were held featuring considerable input from experts and the general public alike. Afterward, the mayor's office and NCPC provided separate recommendations.

The mayor's specific recommendation: increase the height limits in downtown. The mayor also recommended that the city and NCPC work together to be able to use the city comprehensive plan as a tool to adjust height limits outside the L'Enfant city region.

This is not in today's proposal. Ultimately, only after considering these broader changes, NCPC's only recommendation from the overall plan submitted by the mayor is, in fact, the modest proposal before you today.

Let's understand: the height of buildings in this city will not change by 1 foot under this act, but the beauty of the tops of buildings and the usability will.

The revenue to the city can increase because of the value of these top floors, and, yet, we will cover up mechanical penthouses that, today, are simply elevator shafts, rooftop air conditioners, water towers and the like.

So long as that ratio of setback and the other provisions of the 100-year-old act are maintained, the city will have the ability to approve structures.

But let's understand: those structures will still go through a rigorous program before they can be approved, and they will continue to be consistent with the 1910 Height Act.

NCPC itself recommended that human occupancy be allowed in such rooftop penthouses, so long as the setback ratio was maintained and that the penthouse does not exceed one story and that no more than 20 feet of height be maintained.

Our bill does everything in the NCPC recommendation. So this bill simply gives the city a little more latitude in

allowing human occupancy in penthouses where ugly mechanical penthouses already exist and are allowed.

I would like to have gone a little further on this bill, and I am very candid. There are areas well outside the city, as most people interpret it, far up in Northeast, where there are railroad tracks and industrial buildings, and down in Southeast, an area that ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON has worked tirelessly to improve, that could have been given additional options for higher buildings because they are outside of the area of concern for the Mall and monuments.

The city is not prepared to take that authority yet, and Congress is not prepared to give authority that, in fact, its city council is not prepared to handle. That is the consensus that came from the city council in their own resolution, and we respect that if the city does not want an authority, we are not going to thrust an authority on them.

So, with respect to the Height Act, let me close by saying there will always be somebody who doesn't want a law changed, who, in fact, wants the buildings shorter. There are people who want their private home to be able to see all the way to the Mall. I would love to own one of those homes, quite frankly.

A few feet away from here I would like to be able to walk out onto the Speaker's deck, his balcony. I would like to be able to see the White House, but I can't because the Treasury building was built in front of it and others.

This legislation will not cause any of those shortcomings that have occurred in the past; just the opposite. It will beautify the tops of buildings if the city approves those specific projects, while maintaining the absolute limit that has been on these buildings since 1910.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4192, and I appreciate the initiative of the chairman, Chairman ISSA, who has just spoken, who has always observed the self-government rights of the District of Columbia, and puts forward this bill in the same spirit of home rule.

This legislation will amend the Height Act of 1910, which limits the height of all building in the District of Columbia. The District is prohibited, under the Home Rule Act, from permitting any structure anywhere in the city in excess of the height limitations contained in the Height Act.

The current law permits structures above the top story of buildings, including so-called penthouses, to exceed the height limitations, but no human occupancy is permitted in mechanical penthouses, and it gives the District the authority to set the maximum height for such structures.

Currently, the structures have a height limit of 18.6 feet. The legislation will allow human occupancy of these penthouses. In addition, the legislation will mandate a 20-foot maximum height, one story, and a 1 to 1 setback for penthouses. The absolute height of any penthouse used for human occupancy will be 20 feet.

I thank Chairman ISSA for examining the Height Act when he saw that it had received little congressional oversight in the century of its existence.

I supported Chairman ISSA's request that the District of Columbia and the National Capital Planning Commission conduct a joint study of the Height Act because more than 100 years had passed since the heights of D.C. buildings were systematically discussed in the Halls of Congress.

The District and the NCPC came to different conclusions as to whether or how the Height Act should be amended, but agreed with respect to removing the prohibition on human occupancy of penthouses, and setting a maximum height of 20 feet, or one story, for penthouses.

The mayor and D.C. Council expressed divergent views, but I encouraged them to work together to find common ground. I am pleased that the mayor and council chairman reached an agreement with regard to penthouses, and that agreement, in essence, is before the Congress today.

Under today's bill, the city, through its local zoning process, will have the home rule ability to permit human occupancy of penthouses if it would desire. However, this bill is not a mandate directing the city to make any changes to penthouses or to its existing comprehensive plan, or local zoning laws, more generally.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman ISSA for working to give the District of Columbia more authority. I also deeply appreciate the chairman's work in so many other ways, for budget autonomy, and his strong support on many occasions for home rule, which he has raised as a factor in connection with the Height Act as well.

I support the passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1645

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I thank both of my colleagues. I am extremely pleased with the sensitivity that is expressed for the people of Washington, D.C., because that is what we should have here.

This is an amendment to the bill regarding the height of Washington, D.C., buildings that passed in 1910, as changing the height restrictions that were put in place in 1899; and as my colleague from the District of Columbia had pointed out, this really hasn't been discussed in detail in over 100 years.

I recently had someone here in Washington tell me that: Gee, as property gets so valuable here in Washington, you are going to see, at first, exceptions made to the height restrictions, then soon followed by a lifting of those restrictions because the money will be just too much for either party to turn down.

I am so grateful that the height is not being changed, as the chairman said, by one inch; but I am very concerned about beginning to make these exceptions for residence levels, even though ''residence'' is the change, basically, in essence, and I have looked at the change. I have reviewed the prior law.

But, Madam Speaker, I am concerned that this is the camel's nose going under the tent. You are beginning to put residences above the height that was previously allowed. It may dress some up, it may change some in ways that we are not crazy about, but I am just concerned about changing the height restrictions, even with these exceptions, after 114 years of being in existence.

So as a result, I thank the chairman and my friend from the District of Columbia, like I say, for their sensitivity, but I like the height restriction because of the emphasis that continues to be pushed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ISSA. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank the gentleman from California.

Madam Speaker, I am concerned about beginning the exceptions that may move in a direction that we don't wish to have. The chairman mentioned that no one is granting that kind of authority, and nobody is seeking it, yet; and I want us to stop it before we have to get to that ''yet.''

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I just want to thank the gentleman for speaking in favor of the bill.

I understand his concern. I do want to indicate that no exception is really being made in this bill. The height can go no higher than it can go right now, and somebody in the District of Columbia can't make an exception because the Congress of the United States controls heights still under this bill.

Of course, we have our local zoning laws in the District, so there are many, many parts of the District where you can't begin to go as high as the Height Act.

I am a third-generation Washingtonian, and I must say that I adore the residential quality of this city, which is essentially built on the notion of private homes and not large-scale apartments. The city really did not want to dislodge that, and that has not occurred here.

There may still be some disagreement among residents, but I do know that when the council, which expressed some real disquiet at any change, has finally been able to come to an agreement, that there is not enough of a change here to warrant dissent within

the city and had come to an agreement that—and when, in addition, those who have been most adamant about maintaining the Height Act, including the organization which has been the real guardian of the Height Act, the Committee of 100, says it has no objection to this compromise, I think we have finally reached a compromise of the kind that we would like to see more often occur right here in the House of Representatives.

And with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

In closing, I want to urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 4192, and I want to close by reminding people that this is, in fact, the best vetted piece of legislation for Congress to pass in cooperation with the city in my tenure.

Thirteen D.C. city councilmen signed on to a sense of council-introduced resolution in November that stated: The Height Act should not be amended at this time.

All 13 now support this modest recommendation, and I understand the additional member also would. I am glad that the city council is seeing this modest reform as in their favor—their benefit to enhancing the beauty of those buildings, those few buildings that reach the maximum of the Height Act.

In closing, I think it is important that we echo what Delegate NORTON just said. The vast majority of homes and buildings in the District of Columbia are far lower than the Height Act. In fact, it is a relatively small part of what some people sometimes call K Street and some other corridors, where the infrastructure of the city has pressed to occupy more densely.

My hope is, by maintaining the height, the total occupancy, these penthouses will enhance that property, in many cases, with cafeteria or public access areas while still continuing to induce people to make reasonable changes in outlying areas if, in fact, additional capacity is needed either for residents of this city or, in fact, the thriving businesses of this city.

Madam Speaker, we seldom come to you with a 100-year-old bill that hasn't been dusted off. We come to you today with a 104-year-old bill, which has not been dusted off and not for a lack of a reason.

The water towers of 1910 are gone. It is time for us to use this space to maintain a view that is unmarred by highrises, but is, in fact, enhanced by the architectural creation, invention, and ingenuity of the architects who work and strive to make the buildings of Washington, D.C., pleasant and functional.

With that, I urge passage and 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. 4192, 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. GOHMERT. 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.

GOVERNMENT REPORTS ELIMINATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4194) to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4194

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 ''Government Reports Elimination Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Sec. 101. Reports eliminated.

TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Sec. 201. Reports eliminated.

TITLE III—CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sec. 301. Reports eliminated.

TITLE IV—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Sec. 401. Reports eliminated.

TITLE V—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Sec. 501. Report on Impact Aid construction justifying discretionary grant awards eliminated.

TITLE VI—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Sec. 601. Reports eliminated.

TITLE VII—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Sec. 701. Great Lakes management comprehensive report eliminated.

TITLE VIII—EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Sec. 801. Report relating to waiver of certain sanctions against North Korea eliminated.

TITLE IX—GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

Sec. 901. Reports eliminated.
Sec. 902. Reports modified.

TITLE X—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Sec. 1001. Reports eliminated.

TITLE XI—DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 1101. Reports eliminated.

TITLE XII—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Sec. 1201. Royalties In-Kind Report eliminated.

TITLE XIII—DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Sec. 1301. Reports eliminated.

TITLE XIV—OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Sec. 1401. Reports eliminated.

TITLE XV—DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Sec. 1501. Reports eliminated.

TITLE XVI—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Sec. 1601. Reports eliminated.
Sec. 1602. Reports modified.

TITLE XVII—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Sec. 1701. Reports eliminated.

TITLE XVIII—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Sec. 1801. Reports eliminated.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SEC. 101. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) INFORMATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES ON COMMODITY PROMOTION PROGRAMS.—Section 501 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7401) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively.

(b) UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES REPORT AND RELATED MEETING.—Section 108 of the Act of August 28, 1954 (commonly known as the Agricultural Act of 1954; 7 U.S.C. 1748) is repealed.

(c) FARMLAND PROTECTION POLICY ACT ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 1546 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4207) is repealed.

(d) PEANUT BASE ACRES DATA COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION.—Section 1302(d) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8752(d)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(e) OTHER BASE ACRES DATA COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION.—Section 1101(d) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8711(d)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(f) BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS PILOT PROGRAM REPORT.—Section 333B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983b) is amended by striking subsection (e) and redesignating subsections (f) through (h) as subsections (e) through (g), respectively.

(g) RURAL BROADBAND ACCESS PROGRAM REPORT.—Section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(1)(B), by striking ''(k)'' and inserting ''(j)''; and

(2) by striking subsection (j) and redesignating subsections (k) and (l) as subsections (j) and (k), respectively.

(h) REPORT ON EXPORT CREDIT GUARANTEES TO EMERGING MARKETS.—Section 1542(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–624; 7 U.S.C. 5622 note) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(1) EFFECT OF CREDITS.—''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2).

(i) COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION QUARTERLY REPORT.—Section 13 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714k) is amended by striking the second sentence.

(j) EVALUATION OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM FINANCING OF LOCALLY OR REGIONALLY PRODUCED FOOD PRODUCTS.—Section 310B(g)(9)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(9)(B)) is amended by striking clause (iv) and redesignating clause (v) as clause (iv).

(k) UNITED STATES GRAIN STANDARDS ACT REPORTS.—Section 17B of the United States

Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87f–2) is repealed.

(l) LISTING OF AREAS RURAL IN CHARACTER.—Section 6018 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (122 Stat. 1933; Public Law 110–246) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(a) RURAL AREA.—''; and

(2) by striking subsection (b).

(m) NOTIFICATIONS TO CONGRESS ON RELEASE OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PRODUCERS OPERATING UNDER MARKETING AGREEMENTS AND ORDERS.—Section 8d(2) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 608d(2)) is amended by striking ''The Secretary shall notify the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives not later than 10 legislative days before the contemplated release under law, of the names and addresses of producers participating in such marketing agreements and orders, and shall include in such notice a statement of reasons relied upon by the Secretary in making the determination to release such names and addresses.''.

(n) PLANT PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER PREVENTION ACTION PLANS REPORTS.—Section 420(c) of the Plant Protect Act (7 U.S.C. 7721(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(o) QUARTERLY EXPORT ASSISTANCE REPORTS.—Section 603 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5713) is repealed.

(p) RURAL COLLABORATIVE INVESTMENT PROGRAM.—

(1) SECRETARIAL REPORT ON REGIONAL RURAL INVESTMENT BOARDS.—Section 385C(b)(7) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009dd–2(b)(7)) is amended—

(A) by adding ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (B);

(B) by striking ''; and'' at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (D).

(2) REPORT BY REGIONAL RURAL INVESTMENT BOARD TO NATIONAL RURAL INVESTMENT BOARD AND THE SECRETARY.—Section 385D(a)(7) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2009dd–3(a)(7)) is amended—

(A) by adding ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (C); and

(B) by striking subparagraph (D) and redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D).

(q) STATUS REPORT FOR FOOD FOR PROGRESS PROGRAM.—Subsection (j) of the Food for Progress Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1736o) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(r) STATUS REPORT FOR FOREIGN MARKET DEVELOPMENT.—Section 702 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5722) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(s) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIALTY CROPS STATUS REPORTS.—Section 3205 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 5680) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

(t) SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA TIMBER REPORTS.—Section 706 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act is repealed.

TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

SEC. 201. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) EFFORTS AND PROGRESS IN BECOMING DESIGNATED AS SEA GRANT COLLEGE OR INSTITUTE.—Section 207 of the National Sea Grant Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1126) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) ENTERPRISE INTEGRATION STANDARDIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 3(c) of the Enterprise Integration Act of 2001 (15 U.S.C. 278g–5 note) is repealed.

(c) ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS TO SEA GRANT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—Section 208(a) of the National Sea Grant Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1127(a)) is amended by striking the fourth sentence.

(d) TIP ACTIVITIES.—Section 28(g) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278n(g)) is repealed.

(e) TIP ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 28(k)(5) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278n(k)(5)) is repealed.

(f) NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ACTIVITIES.—Section 212 of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 (16 U.S.C. 5611) is repealed.

TITLE III—CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

SEC. 301. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) REPORTS BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES TO THE CORPORATION.—Section 182 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12642) is amended by striking subsection (b).

(b) SERVICE-LEARNING IMPACT STUDY.—The National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12565) is amended by repealing part IV of subtitle B of title I.

TITLE IV—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SEC. 401. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACTS.—

(1) DISPLAY OF ANNUAL BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR SOVEREIGNTY ALERT MISSION.—Section 354 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 10 U.S.C. 221 note) is hereby repealed.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT ON RELIABILITY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.—Section 1008 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107–107; 10 U.S.C. 113 note) is amended—

(A) by striking subsections (a) and (b); and

(B) in subsection (d)(1), by striking ''(b) or''.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 10.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORT ON EMERGENCY AND EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES.—Section 127 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (d).

(2) REPORT ON ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO FOREIGN NATIONS TO ACCOUNT FOR MISSING U.S. PERSONNEL.—Section 408 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (f).

(3) INCLUSION OF NET FLOOR AREA IN REQUESTS TO BUILD MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING.—Section 2826 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''(a) LOCAL COMPARABILITY.—''; and

(B) by striking subsection (b).

(c) AMENDMENT TO SMALL BUSINESS ACT COMMERCIALIZATION READINESS PROGRAM.—Section 9(y)(5) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(y)(5)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (B);

(2) by striking ''authorized to—'' through ''establish goals'' and inserting ''authorized to establish goals''; and

(3) by striking ''; and'' at the end and inserting a period.

TITLE V—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SEC. 501. REPORT ON IMPACT AID CONSTRUCTION JUSTIFYING DISCRETIONARY GRANT AWARDS ELIMINATED.

Section 8007(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7707) is amended by striking paragraph (7).

TITLE VI—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SEC. 601. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 983(d) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16323(d)) is repealed.

(b) STRATEGIC UNCONVENTIONAL FUELS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—Section 369(i)(3) of Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15927(i)(3)) is repealed.

(c) ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT.—Section 342(a)(6)(C)(v) of Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6313(a)(6)(C)(v)) is repealed.

TITLE VII—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

SEC. 701. GREAT LAKES MANAGEMENT COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ELIMINATED.

Section 118(c)(10) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)(10)) is repealed.

TITLE VIII—EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SEC. 801. REPORT RELATING TO WAIVER OF CERTAIN SANCTIONS AGAINST NORTH KOREA ELIMINATED.

Section 1405 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2799aa–1 note) is amended by striking subsection (c).

TITLE IX—GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

SEC. 901. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) EXPENDITURES OF LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Section 1904 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6574) is repealed.

(b) USE OF RECOVERY ACT FUNDS BY STATES AND LOCALITIES REPORT.—Section 901 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5; 123 Stat. 191) is repealed.

(c) HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT FUNDS AUDIT.—

(1) ELIMINATION OF AUDIT.—Section 902(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15542(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (3); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (6) as paragraphs (3) through (5).

(2) PRESERVATION OF AUTHORITY TO RECOUP FUNDS RESULTING FROM PRIOR AUDITS.—Section 902(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15542(c)) is amended by inserting after ''subsection (b)'' the following: ''prior to the date of the enactment of the Government Reports Elimination Act of 2014''.

(d) STATE SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT INITIATIVE AUDIT AND REPORT.—Section 3011 of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5710) is amended by striking subsection (b).

(e) SMALL BUSINESS LENDING FUND PROGRAM AUDIT AND REPORT.—Section 4107 of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 4741 note) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(f) HOUSING ASSISTANCE COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT REPORT.—Section 6303(a) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1490e note) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

SEC. 902. REPORTS MODIFIED.

(a) NATIONAL PREVENTION, HEALTH PROMOTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL.—Subsection (i) of section 4001 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–1) is amended by striking ''The Secretary and the Comptroller General of the United States shall jointly conduct periodic reviews'' and inserting ''The Secretary shall conduct periodic reviews''.

(b) POSTCARD MANDATE.—Section 719(g)(2) of title 31, United States Code is amended—

(1) by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: ''The Comptroller General shall make each list available through the public website of the Government Accountability Office.''; and

(2) in the second sentence, by inserting ''of Congress'' after ''committee or member''.

(c) ANNUAL AUDIT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD FOUNDATION.—

(1) USE OF PRIVATE AUDITOR.—Section 107 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 807) is amended to read as follows:

''AUDITS

''SEC. 107. (a) CONTRACTS WITH PRIVATE AUDITOR.—The Board shall enter into a contract with an accredited private auditor to conduct an annual audit of the financial records of the Board and of any corporation established under section 106(i), and shall ensure that the auditor has access for the purpose of the audit to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Board or such corporation (or any agent of the Board or such corporation) which the auditor reasonably determines to be pertinent to the Congressional Award Program.

''(b) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON AUDIT RESULTS.—Not later than May 15 of each calendar year, the Board shall submit to appropriate officers, committees, and subcommittees of Congress a report on the results of the most recent audit conducted pursuant to this section, and shall include in the report information on any such additional areas as the auditor who conducted the audit determines deserve or require evaluation.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO COMPLIANCE WITH FISCAL CONTROL AND FUND ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES.—Section 104(c)(2)(A) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 804(c)(2)(A)) is amended—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking ''The Comptroller General of the United States'' and inserting ''The accredited private auditor conducting the annual audit of the financial records of the Board pursuant to section 107(a)''; and

(B) in the second sentence, by striking ''the Comptroller General'' and inserting ''the auditor''.

(d) ANNUAL GAO REVIEW OF PROPOSED HHS RECOVERY THRESHOLD.—The third sentence of section 1862(b)(9)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(b)(9)(B)(i)) is amended by striking ''for a year'' and inserting ''for 2014''.

TITLE X—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

SEC. 1001. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) PROHIBITION ON IMPORTATION OF PRODUCTS MADE WITH DOG OR CAT FUR.—Section 308 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1308) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) PORT OF ENTRY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT STUDY AND NATIONAL LAND BORDER SECURITY PLAN.—The Border Infrastructure and Technology Modernization Act of 2007 (title VI of division E of Public Law 110–161; 6 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) is amended by striking sections 603 and 604.

(c) FEES FOR CERTAIN CUSTOMS SERVICES.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 13031 of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–272; 19 U.S.C. 58c) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(9), by striking subparagraph (C) and redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C); and

(B) in subsection (f)—

(i) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by striking subparagraph (D); and

(II) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D);

(ii) by striking paragraph (4); and

(iii) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (f) of such section is further amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking ''paragraph (5)'' and inserting ''paragraph (4)''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''paragraph (5)'' and inserting ''paragraph (4)''.

(d) MODERNIZATION OF NATIONAL DISTRESS AND RESPONSE SYSTEM.—Section 346 of the (Public Law 107–295) Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (14 U.S.C. 88 note), and the item relating to such section in the table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act, are repealed.

TITLE XI—DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 1101. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPENDING PLAN FOR TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE.—The first sentence of the second paragraph under the heading ''Department of Housing and Urban Development—Management and Administration—Transformation Initiative'' in title II of division A of Public Law 111–117 (123 Stat. 3093), as amended by section 2259 of title XII of division B of Public Law 112–10 (125 Stat. 197), is amended by striking '': *Provided*, That'' and all that follows through ''Government Accountability Office''.

(b) SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS REPORT.—Section 218 of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (division C of Public Law 112–55; 125 Stat. 699) is repealed.

TITLE XII—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEC. 1201. ROYALTIES IN-KIND REPORT ELIMINATED.

Section 342(e) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15902(e)) is amended by striking subsection (e).

TITLE XIII—DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

SEC. 1301. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) OLDER AMERICANS ACT.—Section 515 of the Older Americans Act (42 U.S.C. 3056m) is repealed.

(b) ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE ACT.—Section 207 of the Andean Trade Preference Act (19 U.S.C. 3205) is repealed.

TITLE XIV—OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

SEC. 1401. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE.—Section 2(5)(E) of the Senate resolution advising and consenting to ratification of the Document Agreed Among the States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) of November 19, 1990, adopted at Vienna May 31, 1996 (Treaty Doc. 105–5) (commonly referred to as the ''CFE Flank Document''), 105th Congress, agreed to May 14, 1997, is repealed.

(b) REPORTS ON COMMERCE WITH, AND ASSISTANCE TO, CUBA FROM OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 108 of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6038) is repealed.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 108.

(c) IDENTIFICATION OF COUNTRIES OF CONCERN WITH RESPECT TO THE DIVERSION OF CERTAIN GOODS, SERVICES, AND TECHNOLOGIES TO OR THROUGH IRAN.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 302 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8542) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 303(b) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 8543(b)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''a report—'' and inserting ''a report notifying those committees of the designation of the country.''; and

(B) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2).

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 302.

TITLE XV—DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SEC. 1501. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) REPORT ON PROGRESS TOWARD REGIONAL NON-PROLIFERATION IN SOUTH ASIA.—Section 620F of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2376) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(b) REPORT ON TIBET NEGOTIATIONS.—Section 613 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 613. TIBET NEGOTIATIONS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The President and the Secretary should encourage the Government of the People's Republic of China to enter into a dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives leading to a negotiated agreement on Tibet.

''(b) COMPLIANCE.—After such an agreement is reached, the President and the Secretary should work to ensure compliance with the agreement.''.

TITLE XVI—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 1601. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) REPORTS OF AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES COMMITTEE.—Section 106(p)(7) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (H); and

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (I) as subparagraph (H).

(b) ANNUAL SUMMARIES OF AIRPORT FINANCIAL REPORTS.—Section 47107(k) of title 49, United States Code, is repealed.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON PIPELINE SAFETY INFORMATION GRANTS TO COMMUNITIES.—Section 60130 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(d) ANNUAL REPORT ON PILOT PROGRAM FOR INNOVATIVE FINANCING OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL EQUIPMENT.—Section 182 of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (117 Stat. 2515; 49 U.S.C. 44502 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (e); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e).

(e) REPORTS ON JUSTIFICATIONS FOR AIR DEFENSE IDENTIFICATION ZONES.—Section 602 of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (117 Stat. 2563), and the item relating to that section in the table of contents contained in section 1(b) of that Act, are repealed.

(f) ANNUAL REPORT ON STANDARDS FOR AIRCRAFT AND AIRCRAFT ENGINES TO REDUCE NOISE LEVELS.—Section 726 of the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (114 Stat. 167; 49 U.S.C. 47508 note) is amended by striking subsection (c).

SEC. 1602. REPORTS MODIFIED.

Section 1138(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''at least annually, but may be conducted''.

TITLE XVII—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

SEC. 1701. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT ON THE NORTH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.—Section 2 of Public Law 108–215 is repealed.

(b) REPORT ON VOTING ON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS LOAN PROPOSALS.—Section 701 of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262d) is amended by striking subsection (c) and redesignating subsection (d) through subsection (g) (as added by section 501(g) of Public Law 96–259) as subsections (c) through (f), respectively.

(c) REPORT ON NEW IMF ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING RATES AND MATURITIES.—Section 605 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1999 (112 Stat. 2681–223), as enacted into law by section 101(d) of division A of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999 (Public Law 105–277), is amended by striking subsection (d).

(d) REPORT ON SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATIONS.—The Government Securities Act

Amendments of 1993 (Public Law 103–202) is amended—

(1) by striking section 203; and

(2) in the table of contents for such Act, by striking the item relating to section 203.

TITLE XVIII—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SEC. 1801. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES AND PROPOSALS INVOLVING CONTRACTING FOR PERFORMANCE BY CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL OF WORK PREVIOUSLY PERFORMED BY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES.—Section 8110 of such title is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and (f) as subsections (c), (d), and (e), respectively.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT ON PROCUREMENT OF HEALTH-CARE ITEMS.—Section 8125 of such title is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON STAFFING FOR NURSES AND NURSE ANAESTHETISTS AT DEPARTMENT FACILITIES.—Section 7451(e) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (5); and

(2) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (5).

(d) ANNUAL REPORT ON USE OF AUTHORITIES TO ENHANCE RETENTION OF EXPERIENCED NURSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of such title is amended by striking section 7324.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by striking the item relating to section 7324.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. 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 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. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4194, the Government Reports Elimination Act of 2014. The Government Reports Elimination Act is part of the committee's efforts to reduce waste and duplication in the Federal Government.

It eliminates 69 unnecessary agency reports to Congress and eliminates or streamlines 10 required GAO, Government Accountability Office, mandates.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that H.R. 4194 will save several million dollars. That doesn't sound like a lot in the Federal budget, but think of the key people who have to prepare those reports. The people that are most knowledgeable of what is going on are often the people taken away for these reports.

These reports were vetted by sending out a questionnaire to every chairman and every ranking member in the House, asking them do they still need these reports. After going through multiple rounds, we determined that these were the reports that no Member of Congress or no committee any longer needed.

This is a modest reform. I would have liked to have done a few more. In fact, I would like to make sure that, in every Congress, every 2 years, a similar bill be brought, asking are those reports still needed and eliminating the ones that are not.

I am assured that if we do so, as we create 69 new reports every year, we can eliminate 69 old reports, saving millions of dollars, but more importantly, freeing up the most valuable people often in the executive branch that must participate in the preparation of these.

The GPRA Modernization Act of 2010 directs agencies and the OMB to work together to identify duplicative and outdated reports to Congress. In January of 2013, the Office of Management and Budget posted that list on their Web site, www.performance.gov, and these reports come from that list.

Madam Speaker, I think enough has been said. The American people want us not to waste their money. Congress is determined that we should eliminate unnecessary reports. The Office of Management and Budget has produced a list. We have culled through that list, worked with all the chairmen, and today give you this list of savings.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I rise in support of this important legislation. I am pleased to join my colleagues and Chairman ISSA today in support of H.R. 4194, the Government Reports Elimination Act, as amended.

Congress often requires reports from executive branch agencies, and these reports can be a valuable tool to scrutinize performance and assess agency goals. However, with the passage of time, reporting requirements can become outdated and unnecessary.

Congress and the executive branch recognized in the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010 that improved coordination across the Federal Government benefits the taxpayer and government alike.

Pursuant to that act, the Office of Management and Budget publishes a list of plans or reports that are produced by the executive branch pursuant to congressional mandate. The act requires the administration to identify potentially outdated or duplicative plans and reports and provide views for their elimination.

In January 2013, the Office of Management and Budget produced a list that identified over 300 congressionally-mandated plans and reports as potentially outdated or duplicative. Majority and minority staffs of our committee worked together to identify specific reports that are currently produced, but should be eliminated.

H.R. 4194 would eliminate the statutory requirements to prepare reports that are produced by 18 Federal agencies. Implementing H.R. 4194 would reduce the administrative costs to these agencies by reducing the number of reports that must be prepared and printed.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing the bill reduces the costs that are subject to appropriation by about $1 million over the next 5 years. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private sector mandates and would impose no costs on State, local, and tribal governments.

H.R. 4194 provides for greater efficiency for a more effective Federal Government with the elimination of duplicative or unnecessary reports.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I am pleased to yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1700

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 4194, and 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. 4194, 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.

BATTLE OF MILL SPRINGS STUDY

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 298) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate the significance of the Mill Springs Battlefield located in Pulaski and Wayne Counties, Kentucky, and the feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 298

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

SECTION 1. BATTLE OF MILL SPRINGS STUDY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:

(1) In 1994, the Mills Springs Battlefield in Pulaski and Wayne Counties in Kentucky was designated as a National Historic Landmark by the Department of the Interior.

(2) The Battle of Mill Springs was the first significant Union victory in the western theater of the Civil War.

(3) The outcome of the Battle of Mill Springs, along with Union victories at Fort Henry and

Fort Donelson paved the way for a major battle at Shiloh, Tennessee.

(4) In 1991, the National Park Service placed the Mill Springs Battlefield on a list of endangered battlefields, noting the impact of this battle to the course of the Civil War.

(5) In 1992, the Mill Springs Battlefield Association formed, and utilizing Federal, State, and local support has managed to preserve important tracts of the battlefield, construct an interactive visitor center, and educate the public about this historic event.

(6) There is strong community interest in incorporating the Mill Springs Battlefield into the National Park Service.

(7) The Mill Springs Battlefield Association has expressed its desire to give the preserved battlefield as a gift to the United States.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act:

(1) MILL SPRINGS BATTLEFIELD.—The term ''Mill Springs Battlefield'' means the area encompassed by the National Historic Landmark designations relating to the 1862 Battle of Mill Springs located in the counties of Pulaski and Wayne in Kentucky.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(c) STUDY.—Not later than 3 years from the date funds are made available, the Secretary shall conduct a special resource study to evaluate the significance of the Mill Springs Battlefield in Kentucky, and the feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System.

(d) CRITERIA FOR STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct the study authorized by this Act in accordance with 8(b) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5(b)).

(e) CONTENT OF STUDY.—The study shall include an analysis of the following:

(1) The significance of the Battle of Mill Springs to the outcome of the Civil War.

(2) Opportunities for public education about the Civil War in Kentucky.

(3) Operational issues that should be considered if the National Park System were to incorporate the Mill Springs Battlefield.

(4) The feasibility of administering the Mill Springs Battlefield considering its size, configuration, and other factors, to include an annual cost estimate.

(5) The economic, educational, and other impacts the inclusion of Mill Springs Battlefield into the National Park System would have on the surrounding communities in Pulaski and Wayne Counties.

(6) The effect of the designation of the Mill Springs Battlefield as a unit of the National Park System on—

(A) existing commercial and recreational activities, including by not limited to hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting, and on the authorization, construction, operation, maintenance, or improvement of energy production and transmission infrastructure; and

(B) the authority of State and local governments to manage those activities.

(7) The identification of any authorities, including condemnation, that will compel or permit the Secretary to influence or participate in local land use decisions (such as zoning) or place restrictions on non-Federal lands if the Mill Springs Battlefield is designated a unit of the National Park System.

(f) NOTIFICATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS.—Upon commencement of the study, owners of private property adjacent to the battlefield will be notified of the study's commencement and scope.

(g) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Upon completion of the study, the Secretary shall submit a report on the findings of the study to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days 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 Alaska?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. At this time, I yield whatever time he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky, Mr. HAL ROGERS.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, we have dozens of historic sites and landmarks that demonstrate our Nation's proud history to thousands of visitors every year. I am pleased that one of these sites is the Mill Springs Battlefield, which sits in my home county of Pulaski and my birth home county of Wayne, Kentucky. The bill we have before us would give the National Park Service 3 years to complete a study on including this historic battlefield into the National Park System.

The Battle of Mill Springs is a source of great pride and interest to my constituents especially. In late 1861, Confederate forces had advanced into Kentucky on its southern border, and on January 19, 1862, they launched an attack on the Union Army camp that was stationed at Logan's Crossroads, later to be called Mill Springs. After a heavy night of marching, the Confederate troops attacked but were driven back, with their commander, Brigadier General Felix Zollicoffer, being killed in the fighting. In the confusion, the Union troops received reinforcements and were able to repel another Confederate attack, this time driving them back into Tennessee.

Although this battle did not generate the number of casualties seen at such battles as Antietam or Gettysburg, it was a critically important battle and one of the first major Union victories in the Civil War. As a border State in the conflict between the North and South, Kentucky sat at a dangerous and strategically critical crossroads, with both sides vying for control of its territory. In fact, President Lincoln has been quoted as saying, ''I hope to have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky.'' Victory in the Battle of Mill Springs held off the Confederate advance into Kentucky and laid the groundwork for later Union successes at Fort Donelson, in now Nashville, Tennessee, in February 1862, and at Shiloh, in April, under General Ulysses S. Grant.

Despite the importance of this battle, like many battlefields throughout the country, the site of the Battle of Mill Springs became threatened over the years by disrepair and development. In the early 1990s, the U.S. Department of the Interior classified the site of the Battle of Mill Springs as one of the most endangered battlefields in Kentucky. It might have slipped into the pages of history with no living monument to it had it not been for a group of concerned citizens in the community who came together in 1992 out of concern that the site would be lost forever.

Today, thanks to the Mill Springs Battlefield Association, along with determination from State and local officials and the Civil War Trust and the National Parks Conservation Association, hundreds of acres of battlefield land have been diligently preserved. Through a partnership of public and private funds, the association has constructed a fantastic 10,000-square-foot Mill Springs Battlefield Visitor Center and Museum, established interpretive signage, and led driving and walking tours of the battle. Above all, they have created a vibrant tourist attraction which hosts thousands of visitors and students each year, preserving the memory of this historic battle for generations to come. Periodically, Madam Speaker, there is a reenactment of the Battle of Mill Springs with thousands of participants from all across the country.

After years of work preserving this precious historic site, the Mill Springs Battlefield Association has expressed its desire to turn the site over to the National Park Service and the people of the United States so that the joy of learning and history will be enjoyed by many more people through the years. This bill, H.R. 298, will start this process by evaluating the feasibility of adopting this important site into the Park Service. I am proud to associate myself with this effort and to have this battlefield and generous group of citizens in my district.

Madam Speaker, our Nation has been truly blessed. We have a remarkable array of natural beauty which people from all over this country and the world flock to see. Additionally, we have a great number of historical sites which have been dutifully and faithfully preserved so that new generations can appreciate what this country has been through and what their forefathers cared for. The Mill Springs Battlefield is a jewel of this group and will be an excellent addition to the National Park Service.

I am proud of the work that they have done, and I look forward to many years of this site being an inspiring and educational attraction for our Nation. So I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

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

I would congratulate the gentleman from Kentucky on his eloquent description of Mill Springs and its significance in our history in the Civil War. It was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1993, but the gentleman

makes an eloquent case that it should be upgraded from a National Historic Landmark to look at as a part of the National Park System.

This bill would allow the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study in anticipation of making this a part of the National Park System. And I want to congratulate the gentleman on his advocacy and thank him for his dedication to protecting and promoting this resource.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. At this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, and I would like to thank the gentleman from my home State, Mr. ROGERS, for his advocacy of this important issue, and I appreciate Mr. YOUNG yielding me some time to talk about this legislation that I am proud to cosponsor, which would study the feasibility of including the historic Mill Springs Battlefield within the National Park System.

Perhaps nowhere more than the Commonwealth of Kentucky does the maxim that the Civil War ''pit brother against brother'' ring truer. While it never seceded, a slaveholding Kentucky had rival Union and Confederate governments and was represented by the central star of the Stars and Bars. It is no exaggeration to say that Kentucky families and communities were often split along blue and gray lines.

A border State at the nexus of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, Kentucky was of vital strategic importance to both the Union and Confederate causes. As Chairman ROGERS pointed out, President Abraham Lincoln noted, ''I hope to have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky.'' The loss of the Commonwealth would have been a significant blow to the cause of keeping the Union intact.

Both sides recognized this, and so in the first 2 years of the war, some of the bloodiest fighting occurred in the Commonwealth. Major hostilities in the Bluegrass State were bookended by the Union victories at Mill Springs in January 1862, which largely ended the Confederacy's eastern Kentucky offensive, and the Battle of Perryville in October of that year, which ended the Confederacy's hope of victory in the Kentucky Campaign.

The Battle of Mill Springs is notable not only as the first major battle and Union victory in Kentucky, but also the first battle of the Western Theater in which a Confederate general—Brigadier General Felix Kirk Zollicoffer—would be killed in action.

Inclement weather the night before the battle had slowed the Confederate infiltration of the area costing them the benefit of a surprise attack. Despite early success by Confederate troops, a Union rally in the fog and gun smoke that clouded the dense woods sowed confusion and disarray among the rebels.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. BARR. I thank the gentleman.

As the Confederate lines fell back, Brigadier General Zollicoffer was separated and mistakenly approached the 4th Kentucky Infantry and, believing them to be his own troops, was cut down.

The result of the battle of Mill Springs was a hasty retreat by Confederate forces across the Cumberland River back into Tennessee. In hindsight, it was the last opportunity for the Confederacy to gain a foothold in eastern Kentucky. For the Union Army, which had been humiliated at the Battle of First Manassas in the summer of 1861, the battle was its first major victory of the war and a needed boost to morale.

In 1991, the National Park System placed Mill Springs Battlefield on its list of the Most Endangered Battlefields. Today, thanks to the coordinated efforts of the Mill Springs Battlefield Association and several other public and private organizations, the battlefield has been largely restored and now offers walking and driving tours, as well as a 10,000-square-foot visitor center and museum.

H.R. 298 is an important step to recognize and build upon the good work of these organizations and passionate Civil War history enthusiasts from eastern Kentucky and throughout the country. While the feasibility study would only be a first step in the process, inclusion in the National Park System would help ensure that the story of Mill Springs and the battlefield itself are preserved and maintained for future generations and that the memories and sacrifices of the fallen are never forgotten.

Again, I commend Chairman ROGERS on his efforts to preserve this piece of American and Kentucky history, and I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 298.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I have no requests for further speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 298, 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

NEW PHILADELPHIA, ILLINOIS, STUDY ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 930) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the archeological site and surrounding land of the New Philadelphia town site in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 930

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 ''New Philadelphia, Illinois, Study Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Frank McWorter, an enslaved man, bought his freedom and the freedom of 15 family members by mining for crude niter in Kentucky caves and processing the mined material into saltpeter;

(2) New Philadelphia, founded in 1836 by Frank McWorter, was the first town planned and legally registered by a free African-American before the Civil War;

(3) the first railroad constructed in the area of New Philadelphia bypassed New Philadelphia, which led to the decline of New Philadelphia; and

(4) the New Philadelphia site—

(A) is a registered National Historic Landmark;

(B) is covered by farmland; and

(C) does not contain any original buildings of the town or the McWorter farm and home that are visible above ground.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term ''Study Area'' means the New Philadelphia archeological site and the surrounding land in the State of Illinois.

SEC. 4. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a special resource study of the Study Area.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) evaluate the national significance of the Study Area;

(2) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Study Area as a unit of the National Park System;

(3) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the Study Area by—

(A) Federal, State, or local governmental entities; or

(B) private and nonprofit organizations;

(4) consult with—

(A) interested Federal, State, or local governmental entities;

(B) private and nonprofit organizations; or

(C) any other interested individuals;

(5) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives considered under paragraph (3); and

(6) determine the effect of the designation of the Study Area as a unit of the National Park System on—

(A) existing commercial and recreational activities, including but not limited to hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, and on the authorization, construction, operation, maintenance or improvement of energy production and transmission infrastructure; and

(B) the effect of the authority of State and local governments to manage those activities; and

(7) identify any authorities, including condemnation, that will compel or permit the Secretary to influence or participate in local land use decisions (such as zoning) or place restrictions on nonfederal land if the Study Area is designated a unit of the National Park System.

(c) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with section 8 of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5).

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available for the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. 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 bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK) who authored this bill.

Mr. SCHOCK. I want to thank the gentleman from Alaska for yielding me this time, and for his leadership on the committee to make these bills law.

Mr. Speaker, New Philadelphia, Illinois, was the first town founded and built by a freed slave, and it happened before the Civil War.

Today, this historic town in my district deserves designation as a national park, and H.R. 930 will pave the way for official recognition.

The man who founded New Philadelphia was Frank McWorter, a Kentucky slave who worked to buy his own freedom and that of his wife and 15 family members. At a time of immense cultural and political hostilities over the issue of slavery, the McWorter family and other citizens of New Philadelphia built a town where free African Americans and European settlers lived and worked side by side.

Due to their hard work and strong faith, the scourge of racial violence never gained a foothold in the town, despite the upheaval around them. Think of the significance of that. The people of New Philadelphia built the dream of Martin Luther King a full 127 years before his immortal words were spoken on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Long before the Supreme Court ordered the desegregation of American schools, these Illinoisans were teaching their children in the same classrooms, letting them play in the same parks, and drawing water from the same wells. The story of New Philadelphia is a proud heritage for central Illinois, and it deserves to be shared with all Americans.

Today, we are honored to have a direct descendant of Frank McWorter here in the gallery, Sheena Franklin. This family, this town, are examples of the best of America, and they accomplished it during the worst of our times.

I also want to especially thank members of the New Philadelphia Association, especially Charlotte King, who have worked for more than a decade to document, preserve, and restore the extraordinary history of the town. It is through their efforts that this unique chapter in our history can be preserved for generations as a national park, and I look forward to continuing to work with them toward that goal.

This legislation is another step in the direction of racial justice. It is another sure stitch in the healing process for a Nation once divided so bitterly and tragically over the issue of slavery. I urge passage of H.R. 930.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from referring to occupants in the gallery.

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

This bill by the gentleman from Illinois, he has already eloquently described the history and the purpose. It is an extraordinary history in New Philadelphia, and it certainly deserves more national recognition. In this case, the gentleman's legislation, H.R. 930, would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the New Philadelphia archaeological site and the surrounding land. It would require the Secretary to evaluate the national significance of the study area and determine the feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the national park system. Therefore, we support this legislation.

I thank the majority and the gentleman from Illinois for bringing this up, and urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 930, 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.

HUNA TLINGIT TRADITIONAL GULL EGG USE ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3110) to allow for the harvest of gull eggs by the Huna Tlingit people within Glacier Bay National Park in the State of Alaska, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3110

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 ''Huna Tlingit Traditional Gull Egg Use Act''.

SEC. 2. LIMITED AUTHORIZATION FOR COLLECTION OF GULL EGGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this Act as the ''Secretary'') may allow the collection by members of the Hoonah Indian Association of the eggs of glaucous-winged gulls (Laurus glaucescens) within Glacier Bay National Park (referred to in this Act as the ''Park'') not more frequently than twice each calendar year at up to 5 locations within the Park, subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(b) APPLICABLE LAW.—For the purposes of sections 203 and 816 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 410hh–2, 3126), the collection of eggs of glaucous-winged gulls within the Park in accordance with subsection (a) shall be considered to be a use specifically permitted by that Act.

(c) HARVEST PLAN.—The Secretary shall establish schedules, locations, and any additional terms and conditions that the Secretary determines to be necessary for the harvesting of eggs of glaucous-winged gulls in the Park, based on an annual harvest plan to be prepared by the Secretary and the Hoonah Indian Association.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. 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 bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3110 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to permit members of Hoonah Indian Association to harvest sea gull eggs in portions of Glacier Bay National Park, subject to terms and conditions the Secretary deems necessary.

This traditional Native subsistence harvest had been conducted long before the establishment by Congress of the national park, where the practice was subsequently forbidden by law.

In 1980, Congress passed the Alaska Lands Act, which, among other things, provided for the subsistence use of natural resources on public lands in Alaska by rural residents. The traditional harvest of sea gull eggs in Glacier Bay National Park, however, remained off limits.

A study conducted by the National Park Service determined the local Native people should be able to resume their harvest of sea gull eggs at specific locations in the park. Accordingly, I introduced H.R. 3110 to authorize the Hoonah Indian Association and

the Secretary of the Interior to develop a plan for the traditional Native collection of certain gull eggs.

Under H.R. 3110, the Hoonah Indians may harvest the eggs not more frequently than twice each calendar year at up to five locations within the park, subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary determines to be necessary.

On February 5, 2014, the Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs of the Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing on H.R. 3110 where the National Park Service testified in support of this bill. On February 27, the Natural Resources Committee ordered the bill reported by unanimous consent.

This bill allows a group of Natives in Alaska to resume an important cultural tradition and to pass it on to future generations. I urge the House to pass the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The collection and the consumption of gull eggs is an integral part of the culture of the Tlingit people of southeast Alaska. Eggs were gathered at rookeries long before Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve were ever established.

The provisions of this bill are in accord with the recommendations of a study mandated by Congress on the issue, and the bill is widely supported throughout the environmental and conservation communities, as well as the Alaska Native community. The harvesting of gull eggs would only have a minor impact on the gulls, but the cultural benefits that would be realized by the Native community would be great.

I applaud the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) for his leadership on this issue, and I ask my colleagues to stand with him in support of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no other requests for time, and so I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3110, 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.

NORTH TEXAS INVASIVE SPECIES BARRIER ACT OF 2014

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4032) to exempt from Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers by the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4032

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 ''North Texas Invasive Species Barrier Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. COMPLIANCE WITH LACEY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1981.

Section 5 of Public Law 112–237 (126 Stat. 1629) is amended by inserting after ''zebra mussels'' the following: ''and other fish, wildlife, and plants present in Lake Texoma that are prohibited under section 3 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 3372) or under section 42 of title 18, United States Code''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. 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 bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), the author of the bill.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4032, the North Texas Invasive Species Barrier Act of 2014. This bill is a prime example of how both sides of the aisle can work together for the good of our citizens.

As we know, water is our most vital resource and one of our primary needs, and I am grateful for Congressmen SAM JOHNSON and PETE SESSIONS for their sponsorship of this bill to enhance water resources for the people of north Texas. I also would like to thank Chairman HASTINGS of the Natural Resources Committee and committee staff for their work on this measure and for bringing this bill to the floor today, and I thank the gentleman from Alaska.

Many lakes across America have been infested with various invasive species. In the State of Texas, our lakes have been infested with zebra mussels. I am sure many of you have seen these in your States. They started in New York and have worked their way down to Texas lakes.

In December 2012, the House and Senate were successful in passing the North Texas Zebra Mussel Barrier Act, which became public law. This law permits the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority to pump water from Lake Texoma into the Wylie, Texas, water treatment plant, where the water will be cleaned of zebra mussels without being in violation of the Lacey Act.

It is safe to say that wherever zebra mussels are found, their partner in crime—quagga mussels—are more than likely to be found as well. Today's bill, H.R. 4032, expands the exemption from zebra mussels to all aquatic invasive species and plants, and will enable the North Texas Municipal Water District to do its job. It does not encourage extra pumping that would harm Lake Texoma's current low water levels. Such action will better serve more than 1.5 million north Texans in a manner that provides safe water and much-needed jobs.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation that provides safe and clean water to north Texans.

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

H.R. 4032, the North Texas Invasive Species Barrier Act, provides a very specific and necessary exemption to the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

The bill would allow the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority to transport water that contains potentially invasive species from the Oklahoma side of Lake Texoma into Texas. However, all water would be kept in closed conveyance systems and would be fully treated, with all zebra mussels, quagga mussels, and other potentially harmful aquatic life being fully removed before being released into any water body.

□ 1730

Two years ago, we passed legislation that allowed the water district to pump water containing zebra mussel larvae from Lake Texoma, but now, quagga mussels have emerged as a threat there as well.

These species are the bane of many a power plant and municipal water plant operator. Hundreds of millions will be spent in the near future to deal with these problems in intake and outflow pipes and other infrastructure.

They also harm our fisheries by crowding out native species and taking their food. They are driving out our native mussels toward extinction. The Lacey Act is vital to our Nation's interests because it prevents—or hopefully prevents the spread of undesirable, injurious species like zebra and quagga mussels. A strong Lacey Act is vital to our economy and our environment.

That said, Texas needs access to this water. The aforementioned entities have a comprehensive plan for ensuring that these water transfers do not cause invasive species to spread.

For those reasons, we will support H.R. 4032; but we need to remember that this bill, which was put forward as a remedy to a very difficult and a very unique situation, is not a precedent for broad-spread exemptions to the Lacey Act.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alaska, the former chairman of the committee.

I also want to thank the gentleman RALPH HALL and the gentleman SAM JOHNSON, also from north Texas, that joined with me in this important bill.

I want to thank my friends on the Democratic side, in particular Mr. DEFAZIO, for his not only effort and understanding, but an effort in making sure that water resources all across this country, the needs of the people, are understood.

Mr. Speaker, we are under increased problems all across this country, distressed because of the lack of water. We have lots of areas of the country that are undergoing tremendous changes, and that means that local people have to make accommodations; but that also means that, many times, they have to work with the Federal Government, in this case, through the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

I would like to also thank the U.S. Corps of Engineers and the North Texas Municipal Water District for their hard work on this important issue. The opportunity for us to resolve this issue means that 1.5 million north Texans who need to make sure that they have adequate, safe, and good water resources, that we can continue a plan in north Texas that we agreed to. We agree this is the right thing to do.

We also agree that we are after the good Lord to help us out with some rain; but in the meantime, the Lord also says those that help themselves, that that is the right way to do it.

We are trying to work together. Today, as Mr. HALL has said, it is an opportunity to see Republicans and Democrats, those people in Washington who have come to represent the American people, many of us just for our own district, but all of us working together can work to resolve differences and problems that sometimes occur back home for the benefit of so many other people.

Today, I want to thank the chairman of the committee, DOC HASTINGS, for carefully reviewing, understanding, looking at what we are trying to do, and making sure that, if we showed up with a bill that had been well vetted back home where we had agreement, where we knew what we were talking about and tried to make it as narrow as was necessary, but large enough to handle the issue, that we could move forward with this.

This is the kind of leadership in Washington, D.C., quite honestly, that we need, where we are challenged back home appropriately, where we have to bring our ideas to Washington, where we have to, in essence, think with each other, and then come up with a good plan. This is true of not just Republicans and Democrats in this instance, but also true of the Corps of Engineers.

I want to thank the administration for their help in this effort. Many times, people can jump in the way of a great idea to help people. In this case, it didn't happen.

I am in full support of H.R. 4032 as it stands tonight. Many people in north Texas will perhaps not even know what we are doing, but this will be a sigh of relief for those who do know what we are doing this week and head into the very, very difficult summer months. This way, people can plan forward and do the right thing.

I want to thank Mr. YOUNG for not only allowing me to be on the floor today, but for him scheduling time to have a bunch of Texans come and plead their case. It is my hope this Congress, this House of Representatives, will in fact support and agree to this.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. If the gentleman will listen for a moment, big brothers have to think of little brothers. Alaska is the big brother, and Texas is the little brother.

This is a good bill. I want to compliment the Texas delegation supporting Mr. HALL especially, Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. JOHNSON.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4032, 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.

EXTENSION OF NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM ACT TERMINATION DATE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4120) to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4120

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

SECTION 1. NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM ACT TERMINATION DATE EXTENDED.

Section 4(f) of the National Law Enforcement Museum Act (Public Law 106–492) is amended by striking ''13 years'' and inserting ''16 years''.

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The provisions of this Act shall take effect as if this Act were enacted on November 8, 2013.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 Alaska?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4120 provides a 3-year extension to allow the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund to begin construction of the National Law Enforcement Museum.

This fund has expended almost $30 million in private funds to complete the design, obtain approvals, and move all of the utilities on the site in preparation for construction.

However, the authority to begin construction has expired, and this extension will provide the time necessary to secure adequate private funds to complete construction of the National Law Enforcement Museum.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for his advocacy on this issue. It is critical that we recognize the sacrifice of law enforcement officers on an ongoing day-to-day basis here in the United States of America, those who have sacrificed and given their lives in the past and those who will continue to serve selflessly into the future.

In 1984, Congress authorized the Memorial Fund for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Nine years later, Congress passed the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to establish a National Law Enforcement Museum adjacent to the existing memorial in Judiciary Square.

Raising money, even for the most meritorious of causes, in developing a design acceptable to all of the affected parties, is laborious and time consuming. Tremendous effort has been expended on this. They are making great progress, but they need a little bit more time.

This legislation brought to us by the gentleman from Maryland would extend the deadline by 3 years, which most parties feel will be adequate to see the museum to completion.

With that, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), and my friend, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), for bringing this legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I have cosponsored this legislation with my dear friend FRANK WOLF, with whom I have served for 33 years. He will be leaving. His father was a policeman in Philadelphia, so he has a strong attachment to this bill as well.

Our bipartisan bill would enable the construction, as has been said, of the National Law Enforcement Museum to move forward.

In 2000, Congress passed the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to authorize the development of plans for

and the construction of a museum to honor the nearly 20,000 local, State, and Federal law enforcement officers who have fallen in the line of duty since 1791.

All of them, Mr. Speaker, put their lives in danger to serve their communities and their country, leaving us with an enduring example of service and sacrifice. They are a part of our domestic defense corps.

While we honor their memory each year at the National Law Enforcement Memorial in May and on the west front as well, Congress agreed that a museum would be a fitting way to tell their stories year-round, especially to the many school children who are expected to visit us every year and who will visit this museum as well.

We extended the original authorization, as has been said, in 2010, and now, after years of work to obtain permits, receive design approvals, and secure outside funding, the National Law Enforcement Officers Museum Fund is ready to break ground. The funds, of course, are private, but this is a public good and a public end.

But first it is up to Congress, therefore, to reauthorize this project through 2016, so we can see this magnificent museum completed.

In closing, let me congratulate Craig Floyd, who worked in the Congress, who has spearheaded this effort for a very long time. His leadership, his vision has made it possible for us to be on the cusp of realizing this museum's establishment.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to approve this legislation; and, again, I thank Mr. YOUNG and Mr. DEFAZIO for bringing it to the floor.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I would like to compliment Mr. HOYER for his work and Mr. WOLF. They testified before the committee. I asked the question about the extension as far as the length of time. They have assured me that it will be completed. I hope it will be completed. This is a memorial that should be open for the general public. Our police officers are sometimes overlooked.

I urge the passage of this legislation as quickly as possible, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4120.

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. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. 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.

PRISON SHIP MARTYRS' MONUMENT PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1501) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Park, in the New York City borough of Brooklyn, as a unit of the National Park System, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1501

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

SECTION 1. PRISON SHIP MARTYRS' MONUMENT STUDY; REPORT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument Preservation Act''.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall complete a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Park, in the New York City borough of Brooklyn, as a unit of the National Park System.

(2) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with section 8(c) of the National Park System General Authorities Act (16 U.S.C. 1a-5(c)).

(3) CONTENT OF STUDY.—The study shall include—

(A) an analysis of operational issues that should be considered if the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument were to be designated as a unit of the National Park System;

(B) an analysis of the feasibility of administering the Prison Ships Martyrs' Monument, considering its size, configuration, and other factors, including an annual cost estimate;

(C) an analysis of the economic, educational, and other impacts of the designation of the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument as a unit of the National Park System;

(D) an analysis of the effect of the designation of the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument as a unit of the National Park System on—

(i) existing commercial and recreational activities, and on the authorization, construction, operation, maintenance, or improvement of energy production and transmission infrastructure; and

(ii) the authority of State and local governments to manage those activities; and

(E) an identification of any authorities, including condemnation, that will compel or permit the Secretary of the Interior to influence or participate in local land use decisions (such as zoning) or place restrictions on non-Federal lands if the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument is designated as a unit of the National Park System.

(c) NOTIFICATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS.—Upon commencement of the study, owners of private property in or adjacent to the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument shall be notified of the study's commencement and scope.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall transmit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing the conclusions of the study required by subsection (b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 Alaska?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1501 authorizes the National Park Service to conduct a study of the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Brooklyn, New York, to determine its eligibility to become a unit in the National Park Service.

The Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Park is a memorial to the more than 11,500 American prisoners of war who died in captivity aboard 16 British prison ships during the American Revolutionary War.

The study authorized by this legislation will determine if the site meets the test of national significance and provide different Federal, local, and nongovernmental management proposals. The study is informational. Congress would still have to act on separate legislation to designate the monument as a park.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us brought by the gentleman from New York has tremendous merit. This is a chapter of history that many of us have forgotten or didn't learn in school, but the 11,500 lives that were lost aboard British prison ships while our country fought for its independence during the Revolutionary War is certainly a very, very important national and nationally significant site.

□ 1745

The site has been managed by the New York Department of Parks and Recreation, but the gentleman from New York has rightly pointed out in his advocacy that this should actually be a site that has national significance. He therefore has authored—and hopefully today we will successfully see passed—H.R. 1501, which would direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete a study within 1 year on the feasibility of designating the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Park in Brooklyn, New York, as a unit of the National Park System. I would hope that this legislation would be broadly supported.

With that, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES).

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Oregon for yielding, for his support, and for his leadership, as well as to Mr. YOUNG.

Mr. Speaker, the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument pays homage to American Revolutionary War heroes and patriots who lost their lives while fighting for our Nation's independence.

This structure was first erected in 1908 to memorialize and contain the remains of 11,500 patriots from the Revolutionary War who died while in British custody on ships anchored in the East River, immediately adjacent to Brooklyn, New York. The British maintained approximately 16 prison ships during the war, which became necessary after the limited land-based prison space reached capacity shortly after New York City fell to the British in August of 1776. These prisoners of war were housed in inhumane conditions; disease was rampant; and food and water were scarce. Each ship typically contained more than 1,000 men and boys.

More Americans died in British captivity than in all of the battles of the Revolutionary War combined. Many perished on these prison ships. The deceased represent patriots from all Thirteen Colonies and of more than a dozen nationalities. Accordingly, this is one of the only international war monuments in the world. The individuals housed on the prison ships could have obtained their freedom had they acceded to requests to join the British forces. However, very few opted to save their own lives, instead believing in the promise of America.

According to a written newspaper account of the situation:

> American prisoners suffered so egregiously, in part, because the British refused to recognize them as enemy soldiers, which would have, of course, amounted to legitimizing the colonial government, and therefore denied them the basic rights ordinarily accorded to prisoners of war.

It was not until 1908 that their remains were properly memorialized in a 149-foot-tall Doric column atop a 95-foot hill in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, beneath which is the crypt.

During the Great Depression, the monument as a whole fell into disrepair due to a shortage of funds, neglect, and a lack of public interest. The monument originally had four bronze eagles mounted to the corner granite posts. After repeatedly being vandalized, these eagles were removed, never to be returned to the park again. This is emblematic of the overall treatment of the monument, treatment that continued for much of the previous century.

In 2005, as part of a $3 million reconstruction project, which took 18 months, the condition of the monument improved somewhat. However, it is still under great threat as vandals continue to deface the property. This monument should be a place to memorialize forgotten martyrs and Revolutionary War heroes. Instead, it is now more frequently used as a skate park and as a casual recreation space.

To that end, the potential designation of the crypt and the monument as a unit of the NPS should be studied given its national significance and the ability of the NPS to protect our national treasures. The story of these brave heroes—with the atrocities they suffered—has been described as one of the least known accounts of the American Revolution. I respectfully urge my colleagues in the House to support H.R. 1501. Preserve the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument, and help illuminate the sacrifices made by these forgotten patriots and American Revolutionary War heroes.

Again, let me thank the distinguished gentleman, the ranking member, for his support and for his leadership as well as that of Mr. YOUNG's.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1501, 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 51 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. WEBSTER of Florida) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4414, EXPATRIATE HEALTH COVERAGE CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. BURGESS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–422) on the resolution (H. Res. 555) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4414) to clarify the treatment under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of health plans in which expatriates are the primary enrollees, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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. 4192, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 4120, 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.

CLARIFICATION OF RULES APPLYING TO HUMAN OCCUPANCY OF PENTHOUSES IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUILDINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4192) to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia'' to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed, 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 California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 367, nays 16, not voting 48, as follows:

[Roll No. 178]

YEAS—367

Aderholt	Coble	Forbes
Amodei	Coffman	Fortenberry
Bachmann	Cohen	Foster
Bachus	Cole	Foxx
Barber	Collins (GA)	Frankel (FL)
Barletta	Collins (NY)	Fudge
Barr	Conaway	Gabbard
Barrow (GA)	Connolly	Gallego
Barton	Conyers	Garamendi
Bass	Cook	Garcia
Beatty	Cooper	Gardner
Becerra	Costa	Garrett
Benishek	Cotton	Gerlach
Bentivolio	Courtney	Gibbs
Bera (CA)	Cramer	Gibson
Bilirakis	Crawford	Goodlatte
Bishop (NY)	Crenshaw	Gosar
Black	Crowley	Gowdy
Blackburn	Cuellar	Granger
Blumenauer	Culberson	Graves (GA)
Bonamici	Cummings	Graves (MO)
Boustany	Daines	Green, Al
Brady (PA)	Davis (CA)	Green, Gene
Brady (TX)	Davis, Danny	Guthrie
Braley (IA)	Davis, Rodney	Hahn
Bridenstine	DeFazio	Hall
Brooks (IN)	DeGette	Hanabusa
Broun (GA)	Delaney	Hanna
Brownley (CA)	DeLauro	Harper
Buchanan	DelBene	Harris
Bucshon	Denham	Hartzler
Burgess	Dent	Hastings (FL)
Bustos	DeSantis	Heck (NV)
Byrne	DesJarlais	Heck (WA)
Calvert	Diaz-Balart	Hensarling
Camp	Dingell	Herrera Beutler
Cantor	Doggett	Higgins
Capito	Doyle	Himes
Capps	Duckworth	Holt
Capuano	Duffy	Honda
Cárdenas	Duncan (SC)	Horsford
Carney	Duncan (TN)	Hoyer
Carson (IN)	Edwards	Huelskamp
Carter	Ellmers	Huffman
Cartwright	Engel	Huizenga (MI)
Cassidy	Enyart	Hultgren
Castor (FL)	Eshoo	Hunter
Castro (TX)	Esty	Hurt
Chabot	Farenthold	Israel
Chaffetz	Farr	Issa
Chu	Fattah	Jackson Lee
Cicilline	Fincher	Jeffries
Clark (MA)	Fitzpatrick	Johnson (GA)
Clarke (NY)	Fleischmann	Johnson (OH)
Cleaver	Fleming	Johnson, E. B.
Clyburn	Flores	Johnson, Sam

Jolly
Jones
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Polis
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—16

Amash
Brooks (AL)
Frelinghuysen
Gohmert
Griffith (VA)
Holding
Hudson
Poe (TX)
Posey
Rooney
Sanford
Schrader
Stutzman
Upton
Weber (TX)
Whitfield

NOT VOTING—48

Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Campbell
Clay
Deutch
Ellison
Franks (AZ)
Gingrey (GA)
Grayson
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hastings (WA)
Hinojosa
Jenkins
Jordan
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Labrador
Lankford
Lee (CA)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Marino
McCarthy (NY)
McClintock
McHenry
Miller, Gary
Owens
Pastor (AZ)
Peters (MI)
Pocan
Rahall
Richmond
Rogers (MI)
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Schwartz
Sires
Smith (TX)
Waters

□ 1857

Messrs. WHITFIELD, HUDSON, and FRELINGHUYSEN changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. FLEMING and Mrs. LUMMIS changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXTENSION OF NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM ACT TERMINATION DATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4120) to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date, 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 Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 384, nays 0, not voting 47, as follows:

[Roll No. 179]

YEAS—384

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
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
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
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)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
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Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
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Olson
Palazzo
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Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
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Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
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Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
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Renacci
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Rice (SC)
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Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
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
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Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
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Stockman
Stutzman
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Wagner
Walberg
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Walz
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Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—47

Bishop (UT)
Bridenstine
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Campbell
Clay
Deutch
Franks (AZ)
Gingrey (GA)
Grayson
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hastings (WA)
Hinojosa
Jenkins
Jordan
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Labrador
Lankford
Lee (CA)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Marino
McCarthy (NY)
McClintock
McHenry
Miller, Gary
Owens
Pastor (AZ)
Peters (MI)
Pocan
Rahall
Richmond
Rogers (MI)
Ruiz
Runyan

Ruppersberger Schwartz Smith (TX)
Rush Sires Waters

□ 1906

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.

RESIGNATION FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Financial Services:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 28, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In light of recent events, I am writing this letter to respectfully request to be removed from my position on the House Financial Services Committee. Upon a successful resolution of pending legal matters my intention is to resume said position as an active member of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL G. GRIMM,
Member of Congress, Eleventh District of New York.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, there were a number of votes that I missed because I was unavoidably detained for the memorial services at Fort Hood, Texas, on April 9, 2014, and for honoring President Lyndon Baines Johnson on April 10, 2014.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall vote No. 171, the substitute amendment of Mulvaney, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall vote No. 172, which involved the budget resolution on the Congressional Black Caucus budget, I would have voted ''yes.''

On rollcall vote No. 173 on the Progressive Caucus budget, I would have voted ''yes.''

On rollcall vote No. 174 on the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall vote No. 175 on the Woodall of Georgia substitute budget amendment, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall vote No. 176, the Democratic alternative for Mr. VAN HOLLEN, I would have voted ''yes.''

On rollcall vote No. 177, the Republican fiscal year 2015 budget resolution of Mr. RYAN, I would have voted ''no.''

This concludes the votes that I missed due to the memorial at Fort Hood and the honoring of President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FAITH, GRACE, AND ACHIEVEMENT OF SISTER FRANCESCA ONLEY

(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, my friend, Sister Francesca Onley, has served as president of Holy Family University for 32 years and is recognized as an outstanding and effective administrator. She led the expansion of the institution in Philadelphia while maintaining the integrity of its educational philosophy. Sister Francesca guided Holy Family to its university status. She expanded enrollment and grew the endowment fund substantially.

Sister Francesca also attained leadership positions in educational associations, including charter president of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Consortium for Higher Education, the prestigious International Association of University Presidents, and the United Nations Commission on Disarmament Education, Conflict Resolution and Peace.

She addressed the Commission's goal to nurture peace concepts through education by establishing outreach programs in Africa. Sister Francesca is being honored in Philadelphia for a life of faith, grace, and achievement. Her family, friends, and associates look forward to the future accomplishments of this most remarkable woman.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Safe Climate Caucus to highlight an important program for resiliency and preparedness.

America's PrepareAthon! is taking place this Wednesday as a reminder to communities across the country that while we hope for the best, we must prepare for the worst.

In California, 1,108 wildfires have been reported this year—well above the year-to-date average. In 2003 and 2007, wildfires devastated communities in the San Diego region, especially affecting the 52nd District communities of Scripps Ranch, Tierrasanta, Rancho Bernardo, and Poway and claiming 29 lives.

The PrepareAthon! is a national day to refocus our attention on emergency planning and resiliency, as well as exercises and drills that can save lives in a disaster. Last year, I introduced the bipartisan STRONG Act to equip communities, State and local governments with better information and data on preparedness so we don't reinvent the wheel with every disaster.

While there is debate in this Chamber about climate change, there isn't among scientists. We must prepare our communities, families, and businesses for the hurricanes, more powerful storms, and wildfires becoming more common and powerful every day.

MR. PUTIN: THE AGGRESSOR IN EASTERN EUROPE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week I traveled with a bipartisan delegation to see firsthand the situation on the ground in ''Putin's Ukraine.'' The Napoleon of Siberia has driven his tanks over the administration's ''reset'' button. He launched a blitzkrieg-style aggression, stole Crimea, and he doesn't appear to be through.

The West's timid response to Putin's aggression has failed to stop his crusade to restore the former Soviet empire. He does not fear the United States. With our response so far, why should he?

Instead of retreating, Putin has brought back his imperialistic tactics from the old Soviet playbook. The consensus on the ground is that the worst is yet to come. It is time for the administration to stand up against Putin.

We must implement sanctions that actually work where it will hurt Russia's economy the most—and start with the financial and energy sectors. We must expedite the approval of U.S. natural gas export permits so Ukraine and other European countries can buy American instead. And we can end Russia's monopoly and stranglehold over Europe when it comes to energy. We need to put the Russian bear back in the cage.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING YOM HASHOAH, HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. GARCIA. I rise today to recognize Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

All over the world, people like south Floridian David Mermelstein, who is currently in Poland on the March of the Living, are honoring the memories of all those who suffered and died.

We must also redouble our commitment to the survivors who are still with us. This past Sunday, I had the privilege of attending a Yom Hashoah ceremony at the Miami Beach Holocaust Memorial and hearing from the survivors.

It is unacceptable that billions are still owed to deserving survivors and that many insurers have made it nearly impossible for beneficiaries to collect their payments. These are men and women who suffered from unimaginable physical and emotional pain and who carry their injuries and scars with them to this day. We must do right by them.

I urge my colleagues to honor the dead as well as the living and take action to return what is due to the Holocaust survivors.

□ 1915

CONGRATULATING CLEMENTS RANGERS

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, 1 week ago, the Clements men's soccer team left our home Sugar Land, Texas, with a dream. A few days later, they came home living their dream. They were the Texas 5A State champions.

The Rangers were underdogs in the finals. But, behind a raucous crowd, and led by Coach Todd Ericson, the Rangers crushed defending champion Coppell by a score of 3–0.

The Rangers started a new tradition. They did something no Ranger team had done before: they won State. And they gave me a new tradition, because every time they win a championship in the future, I get to rearrange the Styrofoam cups in the chain link fence that surrounds Clements High School off Elkins Drive.

Ranger pride is alive and well in Sugar Land, Texas. They are the 2014 Texas 5A State soccer champions.

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, April 26 marked World Intellectual Property Day, and this year's theme, ''Movies: A Global Passion,'' truly represents the importance of innovation and creativity to my district and to our entire country.

Today, this industry extends beyond Hollywood studios to the millions who are involved in the filmmaking process. Whether it is working in the industry, or watching films on the big screen, people of all ages are captivated by movie magic.

Not only does the industry bring enjoyment across the globe, it is a huge economic engine for California and the entire United States. Intellectual property protections will ensure the film industry continues to fuel the economy and keep jobs right here in the United States of America.

Today, let's celebrate the ingenuity of the film industry and continue to defend the intellectual property rights that let us all experience a little magic.

COON RAPIDS LIONS CLUB CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Coon Rapids Lions Club for celebrating their 60th anniversary this year.

Since its inception, the Coon Rapids Lions Club has played an integral role in the community. Over the course of its history, more than 500 members have donated their time, money, and energy in supporting endeavors that benefit the local area and its residents. For instance, the Lions Club has helped youth in Coon Rapids by financially supporting school, scouting, athletic organizations, and by founding literacy programs that have provided over 110,000 books to students. They have also donated tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships to local high school and college students.

In addition, the Coon Rapids Lioness Club will also be marking their 45th anniversary of service this year as well.

Mr. Speaker, the Coon Rapids Lions and Lioness clubs are proof of how civic groups can absolutely make a difference in their community and make our community a better place. Their service deserves our thanks and praise.

SAD WEEK IN AMERICA

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, over the last week there was an unseemly, sad connection between a Supreme Court decision, the comments of Mr. Bundy, and the comments of the Los Angeles owner in the NBA. Justice Sonia Sotomayer had it right with respect to the affirmative action decision: the Court's decision perpetrated harm to African American, Hispanic, and Native American students, but it also provided a harm to Michigan's public schools when they were trying to ensure the next generation of diverse persons who could in fact be part of a new America.

Mr. Bundy's comments about government subsidies and wouldn't we be better off as slaves and picking cotton were outrageous, disgraceful, and disgusting.

Sadly, sports groups, the National Basketball Association that brings people together, the owner decided to talk about not putting Black people and others together in a public setting. America must move beyond that, and we as Members of Congress and others must stand against it and denounce it. This was a sad week. I hope we will move beyond it. I hope we will get better, and I hope we will denounce those ugly, racist, outrageous comments.

CELEBRATING SISTER JEANNE O'LAUGHLIN'S 85TH BIRTHDAY

(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 am delighted to wish a happy and healthy 85th birthday to Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin.

For 23 years, Sister Jeanne served as the fifth president at Barry University, and made it the fourth-largest private university in my home State of Florida. It is because of Sister Jeanne's vision and enthusiasm in taking on such a challenging responsibility that Barry University has now expanded from 16 to 55 buildings on its campus, and increased its enrollment to more than 9,000 while maintaining its goal of academic excellence.

Sister Jeanne has also been an active member of our community in civic and professional associations, and has been the recipient of several accolades related to her work. She became the first woman to be a member of both the Orange Bowl Committee and the Non-Group of Miami-Dade County. The south Florida community is truly blessed to have the benefit of Sister Jeanne's experience. Her tenacity is a beacon of hope to us all.

Happy birthday, Sister Jeanne, and many more.

CONGRATULATING UNION COLLEGE DUTCHMEN HOCKEY TEAM

(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 today to acknowledge the Union College Dutchmen hockey team and congratulate its players on winning their first NCAA Division I national championship.

The Dutchmen wrapped up a dream season on April 12, defeating Minnesota by a score of 7–4 in the finals of the Frozen Four. Union College, a school of just 2,200 students from Schenectady with a stress on academic excellence, a college that doesn't even give out athletic scholarships, overcame the Big 10 giant to become national champions.

The Union Dutchmen are a reminder that it does not matter how big you are or whether the average person can pronounce the city you represent; persistence, selflessness, and willpower can achieve great things.

From Schenectady, that lights and hauls the world, to the Union hockey team that lit up the scoreboard and hauled the campus into national attention, I thank the Union hockey program, its players, their parents, head coach Rick Bennett, President Ainlay, his administration, faculty, and staff for inspiring us all with an unforgettable season.

Go, Dutchmen.

SECRETARY KERRY SHOULD NOT BE SPEAKING FOR NATION

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, today Secretary of State Kerry accused the Jewish people of Israel of risking guilt for the crime of apartheid. He said that about Israeli Jews whom the U.N.

unanimously provided a nation after the worst genocide in history. Secretary Kerry is both ignorant of history and of the offense of apartheid. Our Secretary of State has effectively cursed Israel.

It is not Israel who sent suicide bombers against Palestinians, nor denied the right of Palestinians to work in Israel, nor advocated for completely wiping them off the map, nor taught their children in their textbooks to hate others like vermin or rats, nor named landmarks and holidays for murderers with suicide bombs, nor launched rockets every day, hoping to terrorize and kill innocent people. It is Israel that has fought against such racism and hatred.

Secretary Kerry stands for those who support the destruction of Israel. He should not be speaking for this Nation. He needs to stand down before he brings judgment upon us all.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the state of knowledge about climate change and the impact it will have on our Nation.

Secretary of State John Kerry called climate change ''the greatest challenge of our generation.'' Al Gore was the first to call us to action more than 30 years ago. Even with his courageous leadership, we still have not taken the necessary actions.

The number of Americans who do not believe in climate change has increased since last year, and this is unacceptable. Our citizens need to be informed about climate change and the very real consequences it holds for all of us. This is why I introduced the Climate Change Education Act of 2014.

The Climate Change Education Act will create formal and informal education opportunities for all age groups. It will ensure people understand the complexity and seriousness of the problems we are facing. It will also give them ways to start fighting climate change. Climate change impacts every ecosystem on Earth—our oceans, forests, rivers, lakes, and everything that lives in them.

IMPORTANCE OF TRADE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WENSTRUP). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, tonight Republicans from the Ways and Means Committee, from the Agriculture Committee, and from the Rules Committee intend to speak with the American people and to you, Mr. Speaker, about the importance of trade and trade policies, the implications of growing jobs in not just America, but also our world role where we work with other Nations to ensure that the benefits and the great things that we not only create here in the United States but also use as trading elements around the world, that each of these issues will be thoughtfully discussed and appropriately given an item of what I believe is encouragement as this United States Congress moves forward into its last few months of this second session.

We believe that trade is important. We believe that as the United States continues to grow in its respect for others, that we share intellectual property, but expect the same back from others. We trade with our partners around the globe with an expectation of not only a good product but also an even playing field as we deal with others around the world.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this important topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight because we want and need to understand more about the implications of trade, a pro-trade growth agenda, and the opportunities that lie before not just the American people but the United States House of Representatives to further understand this key and critical issue that is a part of job creation for the American people.

Expanding trade throughout the globe creates economic growth and good-paying jobs here at home. Trade works because it allows America to be globally efficient and to compete all around the globe trading our products for others. And when America competes, I believe America wins, and the world is a better place. History shows that allowing greater access to a global marketplace for American exports has always been a powerful engine for economic growth and job creation.

□ 1930

Trade provides new opportunities for businesses and spurs innovation and entrepreneurs.

Opening our market to world imports also helps increase the purchasing power of American consumers. I believe there is a balance here, and it is part of this balance and the miracle of having a pro-growth trade agreement which we Republicans wish to speak about tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to welcome a young man who sits on the Ways and Means Committee, a relatively new Member, a second term Member, from Indiana.

TODD YOUNG represents not only an opportunity for him to bring forth ideas from the heartland of America, but also his expertise as a member of the United States military, ideas about world affairs, and most of all about jobs in America. I would defer to the gentleman at this time, Mr. YOUNG.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the chairman from Texas, for his leadership on this and so many other issues.

I am a passionate proponent of free trade because we have the most productive workers in the world, the most productive businesses in the world. Frankly, we need to open up new markets for our commodities, for our manufactured items, for our services. That is what this initiative is all about.

Trade promotion authority, or TPA as it is popularly known, reflects decades of debate, cooperation, and compromise between Congress and the executive branch in finding a pragmatic accommodation to the exercise of each branch's respective constitutional authorities over trade policy.

I applaud our Ways and Means Committee Chairman CAMP, as well as Chairman SESSIONS and Chairman NUNES, for all of their hard work pushing renewal of trade promotion authority. In January, they together introduced the bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act, which updates and expands negotiation and consultation requirements.

For me, supporting trade is a no-brainer. It is important back home in Indiana, where over 8,000 companies exported from locations within the State in 2011. Eighty-five percent of these companies were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Indiana's export shipments of merchandise in 2013 totaled a whopping $34 billion. Fifty-four percent of Indiana's exports go to countries with whom the U.S. currently has a free-trade agreement.

Trade is important for the strength of our entire country's economy. Trade supports in total more than 38 million jobs across America. U.S. exports accounted for 14 percent of America's gross domestic product in 2012 alone.

TPA is the only way we can successfully bring international trade negotiations to a close and unlock job creating opportunities for these U.S. exports.

The administration has laid out a bold 2014 trade agenda and is currently negotiating a regional free-trade agreement, TPP, with 11 Asia-Pacific countries; another regional trade agreement, TTIP, with 28 member counties of the European Union; and TISA, a trade and services agreement with 22 other countries.

Combined, U.S. negotiations related to the Asia-Pacific and EU agreements would open markets with nearly 1 billion consumers, covering nearly two-thirds of the global economy and 65 percent of global trade. TISA covers about 50 percent of the global economy and over 70 percent of global services trade.

As a cochair of the House TTIP Caucus, the ongoing U.S.-EU negotiations

are a particular interest to me. The transatlantic economy is the largest and most integrated in the world, comprising 50 percent of global GDP and generating approximately $5 trillion in total commercial sales each year.

The EU and U.S. account for 30 percent of world trade, and $2.7 billion of goods and services are traded bilaterally each day. There are a lot of numbers, but all these things speak to the power of trade and its importance, not just to my home State of Indiana, but the United States of America.

I want to further emphasize that Europe is, by far, the largest market for U.S.-outbound investment, so I continue to work hard there in conjunction with my colleagues.

By one estimate, approximately 15 million workers are employed as a result of transatlantic trade. As for my home State of Indiana, in 2012, the EU purchased goods worth $9.1 billion or 25 percent of our overall Indiana exports.

In 2011, Hoosier services worth $2.4 billion went to the EU. That is 32 percent of Hoosier services exports. So successful implementation of TTIP is estimated to increase Indiana exports to the EU by roughly 33 percent and could boost net employment by up to 13,780 Hoosier jobs.

Currently, major Indiana exports to the EU include pharmaceuticals, aerospace products and parts, and medical equipment and supplies.

Again, I am a strong advocate of free trade, free markets. I think that trade agreements have the opportunity to strengthen our economy by creating new global markets and supporting existing ones.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support the bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act, so we can further and hopefully finalize many of these ongoing negotiations and bring final trade agreements before Congress for approval.

I once again thank the chairman.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for discussing not only the impact in Indiana, but with the knowledge that Indiana, in fact, is really a microcosm of what this country really looks like, where you come from a strong manufacturing base, you come from a strong base of agriculture, you come from a strong base of the heartland of this country that wants and needs to be economically viable; and by growing jobs, which means that you can continue to pay for your schools, you can continue to pay for your roads and bridges, but more importantly, I believe, an innovative opportunity where you are allowed to compete around the globe with your ideas, your products, and your services.

I applaud the gentleman not only for his service to the United States military, but I applaud you for your service to the people of Indiana, as you have served us so ably during your tenure here in Congress, and a hearty congratulations. I thank the gentleman very much.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to have Republicans who have not only a background in agriculture, in understanding the United States military, which is the world, the world we live in, how America has neighbors and partners all around the world; but also, we continue to have people who come, once again, from the heartland of this country who see firsthand how important trade is.

They come from agricultural areas, they come from areas that have strong natural resources and reserves that are, I am sure, God-given, but an opportunity for us as Americans to benefit by virtue of living in the greatest Nation in the world.

One of those people that sits on our trade team and is perhaps one of the most active and thoughtful members is a young woman from South Dakota.

Congresswoman KRISTI NOEM has just returned from a trip that she took representing the United States Congress. I would defer to the gentlewoman now for her discussion on not only TPP Japan, but also agriculture and the things which she represents so well.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding, and I want to thank him for the honor of being a part of this group today that is talking about TPP and the importance of trade in the region.

I did have a chance to get back this morning from a weeklong trip in Asia discussing trade and the importance of the TPP—Trans-Pacific Partnership—the European Union trade negotiations, and the ways that we can expand trade that would benefit our economy.

The first step to seeing these benefits in these agreements is renewing trade promotion authority, and then we set our goals and our priorities in these agreements. This was a big topic of conversation throughout the week as we met with leaders from Japan—including Prime Minister Abe—South Korea, and then also with the leaders in China and the People's Congress.

Time and time again, America has reaped the benefits of completed trade agreements in our country. For me, the profound impacts that we have seen in agriculture are particularly interesting.

We have seen an 18 percent increase in ag exports since we have signed the agreement with Panama. There has been a 68 percent increase in agriculture exports to Colombia since passing trade agreements with those countries.

We have also generated new business in other sectors of the economy, like manufacturing and the service industry. We have created jobs here at home, while benefiting those people across our country and economies abroad and built relationships with them that we certainly reap the benefits for when it comes to foreign policy and security issues as well.

In my home State of South Dakota, we have seen export support and create jobs and higher wages for our economy, including our State's number one industry: agriculture.

Currently, South Dakota agriculture exports total more than $3 billion annually, and they support over 20,000 jobs on and off the farm. It is estimated that more than one in five jobs in South Dakota depend on international trade.

Those plants that do export goods pay higher wages, they hire more people, and they do it a lot faster than those who don't. Soybeans, corn, wheat, feed grains, and livestock grown in South Dakota are already shipped to countries around the world. We can increase that by growing our access to markets through free-trade agreements.

As we are working towards trade promotion authority and negotiating the trade agreements, I think of the enormous benefits that it can have for our country. Especially as our economy struggles to recover, increasing exports in trade and markets across the Asia-Pacific and Europe is essential.

Japan is one of those countries that is included in the Trans-Pacific Partnership talks and is already one of the largest purchasers of U.S. corn and soybeans. With a good TPP agreement, we could see an increase in grain and livestock exports to Japan and the entire region. That would spark economic activity throughout our country as well.

Of course, we need to ensure that we get it right. I have asked for assurances from our U.S. trade representative that we won't close the TPP negotiations with Japan unless they agree to eliminate trade barriers to agriculture.

I appreciate that the bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act outlines trade negotiation objectives. It includes prioritizing agriculture. We need to ensure that food safety and animal and plant health measures are restrictions justified based on sound science. Ultimately, we need to ensure that we have an agreement that is fair to our agriculture producers.

When I had the opportunity to travel to Asia last week and discuss some of the ways that our country and Japan and China and others in the region can mutually benefit from trade agreements, I made it very clear how important the ag industry is in finalizing any final trade deal and some of my concerns that we already had with existing barriers.

We are making progress. We need to give those who are negotiating some of the agreements in the region the tools that they need to get this job done. This is one of the main topics I heard from leaders involved in these discussions. It is something these leaders see as key to coming to an agreement on these free-trade agreements, and it is key to agreeing on how a final deal will impact the agriculture sector.

I think a lot of folks don't realize that Japan has the number three economy in the world, behind the United

States and China. If we can finalize an agreement with them, it will set the table for TPP and also for the region on how our discussions go forward with China as well.

It will open up new opportunities in China where 1.3 billion people call home. There is no way that China can continue to feed its own people and will rely on outside sources for their proteins, for their grains, to make sure their people are well fed into the future.

In fact, some of the discussions I had with businesses and government officials was the difference between USDA beef and United States beef and South Dakota beef than what they are currently enjoying today.

As incomes have risen in China and people are making more money, they have a desire for more proteins in their diet. Today, their main source from that protein is from Australian beef; but yet, every day, they ask: When can we get USDA beef?

That is what these agreements would bring, not only open markets for us and increase our exports, but bring the Chinese people the kind of goods, food, and services that they want to enjoy as well. Fifty percent of the people in this world live in that region. It is a market that we can't ignore and that we need to prioritize into the future.

We need to take this first step, so that we can continue reaping the benefits of trade in South Dakota, in the United States, and across the world. It is imperative for job growth here at home and for prosperity for all of the countries involved.

Historically, when you have looked at free-trade agreements with other countries, the prosperity of all the countries involved have risen after those agreements have come forward and been done and completed.

I believe that as we focus on this issue, as we approve TPP, as we negotiate agreements that work for all of our countries involved and we finalize with TPA authority, we will certainly get an agreement that is good for all of our countries and beneficial to create jobs here in the United States.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this discussion tonight.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman NOEM very much for not only taking time to come here and speak with us, but in particular the references that you make to your home State, a State which you represent so proudly and which you not only carry the flag of South Dakota with you, but really on behalf of all Americans that live not just in rural areas, but who, every single day, get up and go to work to make this country stronger, to take our products and services and goods overseas to make sure that the agriculture products are clean and the very best products available.

I think one of the most interesting things that you said was really the point which we do understand, and that is the world thirsts for American-made products.

The world understands firsthand how important your industry—your agricultural industry is in South Dakota and throughout the Midwest, the very best of not only beef—I did include Texas in there, I hope—but the very best of agricultural products that go around the world and then, as you travel to see people, thirst for those products.

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Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Chairman, if I may, I would just like to expand on that a little bit because a lot of our discussions that we had with the Prime Minister of Japan and also with the leadership in China was the fact that, not only as we negotiate these trade agreements our economies are linked in creating jobs and prosperity for both of us, but then it helps our foreign policy as well. We recognize how much we need our allies in the region to come alongside us. We recognize that it sets the table for agreements that we have with China and for keeping peace throughout a region that, right now, the United States is very focused on, where we have had to be a leader of strength in order to keep peace and to keep presence. By having trade and interactions with their leadership and their people dependent upon us for their food and their protein sources, it certainly is going to be beneficial for us today, tomorrow, and long into the future if we can continue to do that and to make these trade agreements finalized.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the gentlewoman.

Perhaps more important than that is that you build a friendship between groups of people who really not only share cities, where we have sister cities that grow up and are born of each other, but it is a merging together of America to make us closer with the rest of the world and then our values of not only the rule of law, of intellectual property, but also, I think, of the thing of which we know most—trade policies. A tariff is a tax, and we are reducing taxes, or tariffs, and taxes—costs—on people for products, goods and services and food. That is where I believe agricultural products from America will be king around the world.

Mrs. NOEM. Very true. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SESSIONS. I want to thank the gentlewoman for taking the time to join us tonight.

We are also joined by a young man who, from the very beginning of his time here, was described by his Governor as one of the brightest young men in Minnesota. ERIK PAULSEN is a young man who came to the United States Congress as a seasoned and experienced thoughtmaker but also as a person who understood the global implications of Minnesota, whether it be with medical products and devices that are made or whether it be with other agricultural products.

I yield at this time to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN), the gentleman from the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. PAULSEN. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Let me just thank the chairman for his leadership not only on the Rules Committee but for leading the bipartisan free-trade caucus and leading that effort in knowing and understanding the value of trade and the value of exports.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very important issue to Members. It is good to take time on the floor to talk about this because international trade, I will tell you, is a vital part of my economy, to Minnesota's Third Congressional District. The chairman just alluded to that. Statewide in Minnesota, global trade supports almost 750,000 jobs. That is a pretty big number. It is all about exports. It is about selling where 95 percent of the world's consumers are living outside of the United States. Despite our successful economic relationships with a lot of countries around the world—we have good agreements with Korea and Colombia and Panama—there is no doubt that a lot more can be done now. It really begins with passing this bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act, which will renew and update Trade Promotion Authority.

Why is that important?

It is important so we can make headway and get forward momentum on the TPP and the TTIP negotiations. This ensures that we will accomplish several very, very important goals as a part of increasing transparency in trade negotiations and of empowering Congress, of empowering ourselves. This is why there is bipartisan support. It will specifically direct the administration to pursue congressional prerogatives through congressionally mandated negotiating objectives. It will establish very robust consultation and access to information requirements before, during, and after the negotiations so that we have a very open and transparent process with all Members of Congress and the public. More importantly, it also preserves the congressional prerogatives that are there, giving Congress the ability to vote and giving Congress the final approval to any trade agreements through procedures and providing an up-or-down vote, which is really critical. Our trading partners are certainly looking for that authority to move forward.

I want to commend the chairman, who has had a role in that legislation, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, as well as in the Senate, with bipartisan support in making sure the administration will be negotiating a deal that covers the issues that are most important in today's economy. The reason it is important, Mr. Speaker and others, is that this is not simply about focusing on tariffs. We always know that trade negotiations and agreements focus on tariffs. This is about import quotas and other nontraditional barriers to trade because the regular, traditional barriers are no

longer enough. This is about finding 21st century solutions to streamline trade and end these nontariff barriers so we can interconnect regulations across our borders and reduce foreign regulatory barriers to our exports.

You have got the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which, of course, my colleague from South Dakota spoke so eloquently on, in which we have got 11 countries participating with emerging markets. Yet the area of negotiation that I am most interested in right now is TTIP, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, with our Atlantic friends. This is one of those opportunities, I think, as cochair of the TTIP Caucus, along with Congressmen NEAL and KEATING and YOUNG, in which I want to make sure that the ongoing negotiations are going to move forward, because the transatlantic economy is our largest in the world. It is the most integrated in the world. It is 50 percent of the world's GDP. It is generating about $5 trillion in total commercial sales each year—30 percent of global trade. Mr. Speaker, those are big numbers as well, and we have known for years that a trade agreement between the United States and the European Union is the right thing to do.

I remember, back in the summer of 2012, I authored a bipartisan letter with 50 different Members of Congress bipartisanly supporting such an agreement. Then, last year, we had the launch of the Business Coalition for Transatlantic Trade. We had a chance to meet with our Ways and Means counterparts and introduce the resolution calling for swift action on TTIP. Then as I mentioned, earlier this month, we launched that TTIP Caucus, which is the chance to move forward, I think, significantly. I will tell you what it means to Minnesota: $4.5 billion in Minnesota goods are purchased by European countries right now; 42,200 Minnesota jobs are supported by European investment annually; if we pass TTIP, it is estimated that another 3,000 jobs are going to come on hand. This is about higher wages and a healthier economy, and that direct investment is absolutely going to be helping us right here at home.

These TTIP negotiations present a huge opportunity to tackle these nontariff barriers, as I mentioned earlier, such as regulations that will needlessly impact and increase the cost of trade between the U.S. and Europe right now. Yet everyone knows getting to this agreement is not going to be easy. There are some real differences between our economies and our continents, such as the way we approach regulation, but all indications are, it seems—and I think the chairman would agree—that the negotiators are moving full speed ahead. They want to continue to make progress towards a final agreement. The next round of negotiations is actually set to take place this next month, but we can't get there unless we pass the TPA.

Passing this Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act is going to make sure we are protecting intellectual property and that we are setting high standards. Other countries around the world are going to be forced to look at what the United States and the EU are doing, and then we can make sure that the bad actors are following our lead by setting those high standards.

So, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Chairman, I just want to commend you for hosting the time today, and I want to thank the chairman again for the opportunity to discuss trade and the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act as well as the importance of trade to both of our States and to the entire country. I know it is important to Minnesota and to my economy back home.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. PAULSEN, I want you to stick around for just another minute because I really want to engage you in speaking about exactly what you just said.

We know TPA is that process—Trade Promotion Authority—whereby Congress gives authority to the President of the United States. Then, once that is done, the President and the trade ambassador go to the world, and there are two different processes which have been started now: one in Asia and one, essentially, that is in Europe. These really offer America a chance to become a better and a bigger player in the world and to even get a better deal in working so that the consumers of the world get a better opportunity.

Is that really the way you see this working?

Mr. PAULSEN. Absolutely. I think you just pretty much laid it out. That is the way we do see this working. This is a win-win for the opportunities for our companies to engage in a healthier economy and to employ more people, but also for consumers to benefit on the other side.

I mean, I know that, without a doubt, South Korea, Panama, and Colombia were significant trade agreements and that they had been languishing on the sidelines for a long period of time, but with bipartisan support, we were able to pass them all. Now we have got a chance to show and prove that America is back on the playing field. We know the benefits of trade. I know, when I had a chance to visit South Korea, they spoke about the Costco in South Korea and about their interest in selling American goods and how that was the number one Costco in the world, essentially, after the free trade agreement because they want to buy American. This is about exporting. It creates more jobs at home; it keeps the innovation here at home; and it sells where the customers are.

We can't get to these agreements, though, unless we get this Trade Promotion Authority, which makes sure every Member of Congress is going to have a hand in seeing the negotiations process forward to the tune where we have not had that type of involvement among individual Members of Congress in the past. This is very important, I think, for Congress to exercise its congressional prerogative and, at the same time, to work in partnership with the administration in moving some very important initiatives forward.

Mr. SESSIONS. In continuing our dialogue here—and I appreciate the gentleman's taking time to do this—American-made products, whether they be manufacturing, whether they be medical instruments, whether they be pharmaceuticals, all have to go through a really pretty stringent viewpoint from a perspective of regulators, who look at things that we have in our marketplace and, certainly, that travel across State lines; but once these products and services are made available and become generally available in the United States and once people learn how to use them, we create a thirst for the rest of the world to be able to buy our products.

There is a figure that we deal with—and I know the gentleman is a strong, strong supporter of our trade working group. Essentially, 38 percent of what we manufacture and build—our output here in the United States—is something that gets into a trading partnership one way or another. Almost 40 percent of the output of the United States is based one way or another off trade, of our making sure the rest of the world gets a chance to get those products also, which lowers prices in our country on a per-unit basis. Perhaps more importantly, it keeps our jobs here in the United States. That has got to be good for somebody from Minnesota.

Mr. PAULSEN. Yes.

I should just mention here that the first trade agreement that really dealt with the opportunity to negotiate on medical devices specifically was the Korea free trade agreement, which recently passed. Medical devices is kind of near and dear to my heart because it is so prevalent in Minnesota. We have one of the strongest ecosystems in the medical device community in the country—in fact, in the world. These are high-valued manufactured products that are improving lives, that are saving lives, and there is a regulatory scheme that is often surrounding it, of course, making sure these devices are approved before they move forward.

We have the opportunity, I think, now, Mr. Chairman, with some of these trade agreements that are moving forward to not only negotiate the tariffs—making sure that these manufactured products are going to be available to others around the world and also lowering costs for our consumers—but also to know that the regulatory environment can be set up in a way that, if we have oversight committees—for instance, in the EU and in the United States and if we have got a device that is on track to be approved, say, by the FDA in the United States—we can make sure that, if our oversight committees agree on the other side of the continent, on the other side of the Atlantic, that they can sign off on it. So

you save a tremendous amount of time in moving forward and in having those goods be available pretty quickly to a lot of consumers around the world, which is going to help, again, the economy; it is going to grow jobs; and it is going to help patient care around the world. That is one area in particular that Minnesota will and has benefited.

Mr. SESSIONS. In continuing our dialogue, the gentleman sits on this awesome and the most powerful committee here, the Ways and Means Committee. The committee on a regular basis hears from people in the United States who do a lot of business overseas, and one of the things which they talk about is intellectual property—the rule of law and following contracts to make sure that what you agreed to is equally agreed to by the others.

Would you mind taking just a minute to talk with us tonight about the importance of intellectual property, how the world can capture this idea and how it can, in fact, increase not only the value of products but make sure that the product which is actually bought and sold is the real product as is the company that stands behind it.

Mr. PAULSEN. This is an area, I think, in which the United States really stands out and shines. If anything, we are known for our innovation. It is really part of our DNA in terms of having a patent system that protects intellectual property, the rule of law. There are many other countries around the world that don't have those same standards, and that is where the benefit of trade agreements can help bring in high-standard agreements. It is so that other countries can be forced to follow these agreements.

Intellectual property protects the ideas. That protects the innovation. That protects the invention and the dreamers who are coming up with all of these ideas, and that is critical. There are some countries that are lagging behind. We have had frustrations, I know recently, with China by which they have targeted U.S. information technology. They have targeted renewable energy, and they have targeted biopharmaceuticals and other products for the express purpose of creating local production opportunities for Indian companies, for instance, and that is a violation of intellectual property in many respects.

Having these trade negotiations is going to ensure that we can keep that conversation moving forward and having those high standards. It is going to protect our jobs here at home for the dreamers, the thinkers, and the folks who create and innovate these new ideas and these new products.

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And so, when you have unfair and you have harmful practices that are happening in other countries—maybe it is India, maybe it is China—that is ultimately going to damage the long-term health of the economic health of both of our economies when we are having that type of a situation.

Mr. SESSIONS. I guess, lastly, what I would like to do is engage the gentleman on really a broader perspective, and that really is the idea of American exceptionalism; how we have the greatest military in the world, our United States military; men and women, working together all around the globe to make sure that really there is fairness; and that our friends and neighbors and allies have an opportunity to live in a free world, as part of this process, American exceptionalism, where we are able to go and compete anywhere with our goods and products and services and to let the world have that advantage.

Would you mind taking just a second and speaking specifically about American exceptionalism?

Mr. PAULSEN. Well, Mr. Chairman, I think what you are alluding to is that fact that America can compete and win at any level if we are on a level playing field. If the rules are even, if the rules of the game are set the same, Americans can compete and win. That is, again, going to help improve our economy, help grow jobs here at home.

In terms of American exceptionalism, there is no doubt that, when you have got a free flow of goods going across borders, it is going to help our foreign policy, it is going to help us lead from a position of strength. There is someone who famously said at one time:

If goods are not crossing borders, guns will.

Having that trade connection is very, very important. It helps us have diplomatic conversations. It helps us, as America, lead the rest of the world, showing that we are strong, we are leading out front.

Again, if you have two pretty significant trade agreement opportunities being negotiated right now, coming close to conclusion, I think we can wrap those up within the year, if we pass Trade Promotion Authority, both in the Trans-Pacific Partnership and with the TTIP negotiations going on in Europe; and that will cover, by and large, two-thirds of the economy in the world, and all the other countries will follow our lead.

This is a huge opportunity, as the chairman knows, for our companies and our economy back home.

Mr. SESSIONS. Well, I am just most impressed with not only your thoughtful consideration and your hard work, but really the things which I see that you bring to the table are words and ideas on a regular basis; that is you talk about we need to make sure that we have a stable environment where good decisions can be made, instead of in a vacuum, they can be made on the fly and, secondly, growth.

One of the things which I read on a regular basis, a young man named Peter Roff, who is with U.S. News and World Report, and he talks about how growth is important. You have to grow your economy. You have to go and continue in the hunt, so to speak, to make sure that more and more people not only buy your products, but the next generation of those products come out also.

I want to thank the gentleman for his thoughtful leadership, where you come to the meetings and you have a real thoughtful handle on stability, making sure business knows what the rules are, making sure we build great neighbors and have good contracts and have great relationships, and then the generation and the next generation of goods and services where we can make things even better for the next generation.

I want to thank you very much for being here tonight. I know that you want to get back to the office and call your family and tell them the exciting Special Order that you were a part of tonight. I am sure your wife will be very, very excited about that, Congressman PAULSEN.

Mr. Speaker, we have had an opportunity tonight to speak, Members of Congress who come really from the heartland, we have had people come from Indiana, South Dakota, and Minnesota. Well, I am a Texan, so I guess I would call myself from the heartland of this great Nation also, at least from the center of the country.

As we talk about what we are attempting to do, I think that it is important for you to know, Mr. Speaker, that the things which you have led our Congress in trying to perform, the strong leadership of JOHN BOEHNER from the very top, in trying to say that we need to grow our economy, that part of that job creation comes as a result of trade agreement.

So that is why we are here tonight, to talk openly with Members of Congress and you, Mr. Speaker, about the need for America to understand why we must pass Trade Promotion Authority, TPA. TPA is a mechanism. That is all it is. It is a mechanism to begin the starting point whereby we give the administration, whether they be Republican or Democrat, but we give the President its marching orders in developing trade agreements.

We say to the President of the United States that we believe that growing our economy, we believe that having trade agreements, we believe that having agreements that make things so much easier and better for us not only to make sure that agricultural products, that other markets become available to us, but that we also understand that, as we engage in this, not only do we want to grow our own marketplace, but the world has an opportunity to reduce the taxes, the trade barriers that are on, many times, their products and services because American products weren't available.

Perhaps we could talk about receiving products that they have back into our country and the consumer being a winner. We have to worry about environmental protection. Here in the United States, we believe that we are trying to be responsible in what we do, not only in production manufacturing,

our day-to-day energy needs, but I think we also see where we could share many products that we have in the United States, notwithstanding we have seen many industries—energy industries selling our products and services overseas.

We talk about intellectual property. Intellectual property is not hard to understand. It is the opportunity to make sure that, if you have an agreement—and it might be because you have something that you have gotten as a patent, it could be a scientific citation that the world, when they are going to use that product, service, or that idea, that they give respect to not only making a payment, if that is required, or supporting the standard as required by rule of law.

Market access, market access is so important. It is important that we have an opportunity to make sure that the goods and services, which we present to another country as we enter their ports of entry or to their customs, that our products and services are to the highest standard that they would be, based upon a contract or an agreement as we enter those countries.

We would want to make sure that our products and services were not held at bay by that foreign nation because of some perception about our product or because they were trying to protect their home product, their home base. It opens up markets and gives us market access.

Physical goods, to make sure that we would be able to reduce tariffs on all sorts of products, whether it be clothing, whether it be manufacturing, whether it be pharmaceuticals, we need to make sure that the products which are passed are timely and fairly handled, not only in these two different types of trade agreements, but that it is a good deal for the American person who wishes to go sell, whether it be an agricultural good or a physical good that may be manufactured in this country.

Lastly, services, services which I think America has not only excelled at, but been able to make sure that we are able to promulgate effective ways of doing business, to where people can continue to have a great product and make that product even better—the second, third, and fourth generation of products that would be sold and available with the protections under intellectual property and rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, that is what we are talking about, the marketplace of the world becoming open to American goods and services and America and its consumers gaining that benefit also.

So TPA ensures that Congress promulgates itself more fully by incorporating ahead of time discussions with the administration. You heard the gentlewoman from South Dakota say that she had a discussion with the trade negotiators, and she negotiated with them and said: Here is my understanding about what I think is in America's best interest.

She didn't say what was in South Dakota's best interest. She didn't say what was in her own personal interest. She looked at a more global perspective and said: I think, in looking at this agreement, this is a piece, a part of what should be included.

And that, Mr. Speaker, is also why this administration, when they do consult with us—and Ambassador Froman does come up on the Hill on a regular basis, and we should remember that he is an active, intelligent, thoughtful man who is not just learning his job, but learning the nuances about how he protects America and goes across the world and negotiates what is in our best interest; what was a good deal for others, our trading partners, to make sure that they will want to take up the goods and services, the exchange, the ideas, the tough things that come from these trade negotiations.

So this topic is timely because these two major trade agreements are on the horizon. The world is speaking about TTIP, and it is speaking about TPP. The United States is currently negotiating TPP, the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

The discussions that take place in Asia are all about how we can form better, longer-lasting partnerships, whereby the people of their countries and the people of the United States of America better themselves, lowering taxes, getting new products and services, and having a chance to make sure that we become friends in the process.

TPP is comprehensive, and it is ambitious, and it covers really an active and growing Asia-Pacific region. As you think about it, Mr. Speaker, you will recall from your days in the United States Army and your service as a member of the military, where you went and were a part of other countries that desperately wanted and needed not only goods and services, but really the tranquility of America and what we would bring to them, the exceptionalism that we can pass on to these other people to make their life better.

It will bring together 12 countries on both sides of the Pacific Ocean in hopes of tracking and putting traditional trade barriers away and overcoming those and giving a chance to where we can make sure that the consumer becomes king.

The TPP would cover 40 percent of all global output. It would ensure that participating countries conduct business, really just as we do, in an open, thoughtful, transparent way; and we would make sure that we reduce tariffs, regulations, while respecting intellectual property.

Meanwhile—and we have heard more about this, the European Union, through TTIP, it would create a trade agreement that literally encompasses about half of the global wealth in the world.

In other words, we would be doing business with a region that is larger than the United States of America. We would be trying to ship our goods and services and do business with half of the world's wealth, open markets that would allow them an opportunity to have American-made products.

Currently, $2.7 billion is traded daily between the United States and the EU, which is about 30 percent of world trade. We think creating this historic opportunity would mean that we can grow that amount of trade, grow our ability here in the United States to not only have more output and employ more people, but to pay for the next generation of products and services to where they continue to meet the needs of others, not just here in the United States.

So combined, these two agreements would give American businesses and consumers, we believe, unprecedented access to global markets. That is why the Republican Party and its members are on the floor tonight, members of the Ways and Means Committee, members of the Agriculture Committee, and at least one member of the great Rules Committee.

I, as chairman, have an opportunity, as a result of the chance to have jurisdictional elements in this, to be firsthand at these discussions where we can push and talk about how important trade is and these basic agreements to empower and work with all parts of the United States government.

Obviously, our great young chairman of the Ways and Means Committee is very much up to this task, and DAVE CAMP has been leading not only America with an understanding about what is in our best interest, but how we have growth, how we move forward, and that is exactly what TPA is all about.

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So, Mr. Speaker, I will tell you that we have a plan. We have ideas which we not only well understand, but what we are trying to make sure is that we understand that 38 million jobs are supported by trade—38 million American workers—and that in 2012 our goods and services supported an extra 9.8 million jobs as a result of the growth.

These are all important ideas, Mr. Speaker. They are ideas that move our country, they move countries forward, but at the same time giving us new goods and services that on a per unit basis can drop because we are sharing them with the rest of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like for you to know that Members of this United States Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, support members of the United States military, as you served your country so ably. We give thanks and pause every single day to not only the freedoms that we have, but to know that young men like you who have served our military and come back home and married and have beautiful young babies and represent a future in this country to where we believe that there is no problem bigger than a solution, but that by working together, having stability under rule of

law, intellectual property, and growth, that we can continue to lead the world through American exceptionalism and the world can have an opportunity to have that little part of America, whether it be a great steak from Texas or South Dakota or perhaps jeans manufactured somewhere here in the United States or, if lucky enough, something from the great State of Ohio that said, ''Made in America.''

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

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS: WEALTH CREATION AND THE OPPORTUNITY GAP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to once again have this opportunity to stand on the House floor as part of the Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order hour.

For the next 60 minutes we will have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people about an issue of great significance: the growing wealth gap in America that is stratified along racial lines. It is a wealth gap that should concern all of us here in the House of Representatives, and certainly people who are concerned about the well-being of this country in its entirety should be alarmed by any segment of this country being left behind across any measure of economic status.

We will get into that throughout the duration of this CBC Special Order. Certainly, I am glad to be joined by the distinguished gentleman from Nevada, my good friend, the coanchor of this CBC Special Order, Representative HORSFORD.

I will just begin by making the observation that it has often been stated that when Wall Street catches a cold, communities of color get the flu.

We know that in 2008, when the economy collapsed and plunged us into the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, Wall Street had a high fever; and as a result, as one might expect, communities of color all across the country have been suffering from economic pneumonia. In fact, a study that was prepared by the Center for Global Policy Solutions illustrates the point that communities of color were hurt the worst by the Great Recession and have benefited the least as a result of our recovery.

And so the wealth gap, broadly defined across measures such as home ownership and access to good-paying jobs, retirement savings, has gotten worse, exacerbated by the shock of the Great Recession and the disproportionate lack of certain communities benefiting from the recovery that has taken place. So these are some of the topics that we are going to explore during this Special Order.

I am pleased that we have been joined by a very distinguished member of the freshman class, my good friend, the gentleman from New Jersey, one of the best-dressed Members of the House of Representatives. I am surprised today that I do not see him with his classic bow tie. He is the ranking member of the CBC freshman class, but I believe he arrived here a little bit earlier.

I am pleased to yield to my good friend, Representative PAYNE.

Mr. PAYNE. I would like to thank the gentleman from New York for that kind introduction.

I want to also say that we are here tonight on a very serious issue in tonight's Special Order. As so aptly put by the gentleman from New York, it feels like pneumonia in a lot of communities that we represent. I would dare to say that we might even need to call it an epidemic, because it has risen to epidemic proportions.

Mr. Speaker, this Nation is supposed to be the land of opportunity, the land of equality. We are a Nation that says that if you work hard and you do the things you are supposed to do and you do everything that we ask you to do, you too can be successful and provide a better life for you and yours. That is the promise of America.

Unfortunately, for too many in this country, this promise has been broken.

Generation after generation, millions continue to experience generational poverty in this country—and this is especially true for people of color.

Too many of the people in the district I represent in New Jersey have worked their entire lives. They have endured hard labor. They have worked two or three jobs. They have made minimum wage their entire lives. Yet they are still in poverty. The same is true for their parents before them and their grandparents and their great-grandparents.

Unfortunately, for too many people of color, the opportunities to succeed and move beyond circumstances of poverty are too little and far between. This leads to the wealth gap we see today. That wealth gap, Mr. Speaker, is unconscionable.

In the 21st century, African Americans own just 5 cents for every dollar of wealth Whites own. More than 62 percent of African American households do not have assets in a retirement account. The median income of an African American is just over $33,000, barely above the poverty line. And African Americans are less likely to own homes, with just 44 percent of African Americans owning homes compared to 74 percent of Whites.

In New Jersey alone, the poverty rate has grown to a staggering 28 percent. Many economists believe that this is an underestimate of the number of people falling into poverty in New Jersey.

How can those who are clawing just to get by even begin to think about creating wealth for their children or future generations? How can a single mother who works 40 or more hours a week still find herself in poverty? How does she begin to dream about saving for her children's college education or to save for a home or to plan for her retirement? The simple answer is they can't. And the racial wealth gap will continue to grow even wider.

Mr. Speaker, there is so much Congress can do to change the course of this country and to help those who are working hard and playing by the rules.

The priorities we place within our national budget determine whether we strengthen our economy and grow our middle class or whether we create a greater wealth gap between the haves and the have-nots.

This Nation has a clear choice, Mr. Speaker. The Ryan Republican budget cuts hundreds of millions of dollars in vital education investments, ends the Medicare guarantee for seniors, and it will cost this country more than 1 million jobs next year alone. And if that is not bad enough, the Ryan Republican budget asks working and middle-class Americans to pay for the thousands of dollars in tax breaks given to the wealthiest among us. That is why, in good conscience, I cannot support such a budget.

At a time when too many people are still desperately struggling to make ends meet, I know that the people in my home State of New Jersey deserve better. I believe that all Americans should demand better as well.

In contrast, the budgets that the Democrats and the Congressional Black Caucus have proposed recognize the dangerous course this country is on and work to move us forward rather than divide us deeper.

The Democratic budget builds ladders of opportunities to grow our middle class by investing in education, strengthening Social Security and Medicare, and protecting the 8 million people who, for the first time, now have access to affordable, lifesaving health care.

The proposals within the Democratic budget would restore the American promise that if you work hard, you can succeed. And not only can you succeed for yourself, but you can generate wealth and create a better life for your children and your grandchildren.

That is the choice that each Member in this Congress has to make, and it is a choice every American has to make. This choice will determine the direction of this country, not only for this generation, but for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is not a zero-sum game. We all can be winners with the right kind of focus and investment; and in doing so, we will strengthen this country for future generations.

As I stated and made clear, we are talking about people that have played by the rules and have worked hard, working 40 hours-plus, and yet still find themselves on the margins. We are not even talking about the hundreds of thousands of citizens that I represent that we don't even want to help with programs such as SNAP anymore.

I am not even talking about the needy in this country, Mr. Speaker. I am talking about the people that play by the rules and that are doing everything that they have been asked to do in this great Nation and still find themselves on the margin.

□ 2030

So we will continue to raise these issues. We will continue to talk to the American people and get them to understand that we cannot continue down the path that we are headed. It is bleak. It is grim. It is a total U-turn in where this country has gone.

I can only think of the statements that have been made by several individuals in this country that are distasteful and disgusting over the past several weeks. We need to keep the American Dream alive for everyone.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank my good friend and the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey for his very thoughtful and eloquent remarks and observations, and for pointing out that, while we can have disagreements, of course, here in this Chamber on matters of policy, we should all share the same objective as it relates to making sure that every American has got a robust, full, complete access to the opportunity to robustly pursue the American Dream.

As this report and the Color of Wealth Summit will illustrate later on this week, that is not necessarily the case right now in America, where you have such a disparate reality between the wealth in certain communities where the dividing line is race.

It is a wonderful thing that this great country is becoming increasingly diverse. I think our diversity is one of our great strengths.

But the reality of the situation is that if certain communities, the African American community, the Latino community, other communities of color, find themselves left behind, locked out, unable to advance economically in the numbers that they should because of barriers, institutional and historical, that have existed or been erected that we have yet to tear down, that is something that should alarm all of us because it relates to the ability of America to fulfill its promise as we move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we have been joined by a very distinguished Member of the Congress, someone who has been a champion on issues of fairness and equality and justice for all Americans, and certainly for the district that he represents in Baltimore and in Maryland.

Let me now yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

Mr. CUMMINGS. Thank you very much. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding. And I want to thank you and Mr. HORSFORD and the Congressional Black Caucus and certainly Mr. PAYNE for being here tonight.

We are, indeed, at a critical moment in our country's history. As I listened to my colleagues talk about the wealth gap, you know, a lot of times when we address these issues, people say the words, ''Here they go again,'' almost as if to say, let's dismiss this issue; this is an issue that is limited to a limited number of people.

But the problem is, as we listen to the things that have been said here tonight, this is not a Black problem, this is not a Hispanic problem; this is an American problem.

We have to keep in mind that when you have this kind of gap, these kind of gaps, what happens is the driving force that makes our economy run is placed in a position where they cannot make the purchases that are necessary. When I say purchases, I am not talking about purchases of washing machines and dryers and curtains and things of that nature. I am talking about being able to properly educate their children.

A lot of what has been talked about here tonight is whether you can place your children in a position to do better than what you did. So what we are talking about is trying to figure out ways to close that gap so that everybody rises, as opposed to—it has been said, when you have got a wealth gap of 5 or 6 cents for Hispanics and African Americans, as compared to Whites, what that means is that, slowly but surely, you have one part of your society that simply is not participating at any reasonable level.

So the question is, how do we address those issues?

I know that the Black Caucus budget goes in that direction. But one of the things that I have concentrated on quite a bit is the whole situation with the loss of wealth with regard to property.

African Americans and Hispanics, quite often, their wealth is tied up in property. Over the past few years, we have seen a tremendous loss of that wealth.

You talked about it a little bit earlier, about how when America has a cold—is that what you said—then we have pneumonia.

So what has happened is that, disproportionately, African Americans and Hispanics have lost a lot of that wealth in property because they lost their property. And when they lost that property, they no longer had collateral to make business loans, to even get loans for their kids, or to do the things that they really wanted to do to make their lives better.

But just as significantly, they were losing jobs at the same time. So as quiet as it is kept, you have a situation where a lot of Hispanics and African Americans were trying to help their relatives.

So not only were they losing their houses, but then whatever savings they may have had, or the little extra income that they may have had that they could have put aside for a rainy day, or in an effort to create some wealth, it simply was disappearing.

Then we have had some major settlements with regard to these mortgage lenders, and the mortgage lenders have come in and basically, pretty much admitted, through these settlements, that they wronged a lot of people.

As a matter of fact, in my city, in Baltimore, there were certain mortgage companies that admitted that they were pushing people into subprime situations, that they could have done even better, and these were African Americans, by the way, and giving them all these loans, ''no doc'' loans and things of that nature, and the next thing you know, the people had lost all they had.

So the question now becomes, with two major settlements, what did they get?

As we are doing our research on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and looking at some of this, what we have noticed is that a lot of the people who suffered the most got the least out of the settlements.

There are still settlements that are going to take place, so what we are trying to do is study the settlements that have been resolved to learn from those so that future settlement monies will go to the people who actually were harmed. That is just one area.

But again, we have got to do everything in our power to close this gap. This is our watch. We are here today. We are the ones who must guard the progress that has been made.

Quiet as it is kept, slowly, but surely, we have seen some of that progress go in the opposite direction in a downward spiral. So what we are here to do is to make sure that not only do we stop that slide for African Americans and Hispanics, because, like I said, if we stop that slide there, then the entire economy does well, then all of us do well, and that is what it is all about.

So I want to thank the Congressional Black Caucus for doing this. This is so important. We must be the voice, and we must constantly pound the drums because so often I think what happens—and I will close on this—is a lot of times people see things going in the opposite direction and they say, we will get to it tomorrow, or we will wait another day, or somebody else will deal with it, or maybe somebody else will speak up about it.

So what happens is nobody does anything. Nobody says anything. And the next thing you know, 10 years have passed, 20 years, and you look back and you say, Wow, there was a lot of slippage there.

But you know what?

That slippage also represents people. I heard Congressman PAYNE talk about people in his district. I have heard you talk about yours and Congressman

HORSFORD. These are people. These are people whom we represent. These are people who get the early bus, the ones who go through trying to make it possible for not only their children but their grandchildren to do well.

So again, I want to thank you.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Maryland for his very thoughtful remarks and observations, and for pointing out that if we can find a way to make sure that, collectively, the African American community is uplifted, the Latino community is uplifted, that we can close the racial wealth gap that exists in America across these different measurements, whether that is home ownership or access to good-paying jobs or retirement security, savings accounts, whatever the case may be, that if we can close this gap that exists, that America, overall, benefits, particularly as we become a more diverse country.

Now, 50 years ago our President, Lyndon Baines Johnson, came to this very floor and, before a joint session of Congress, declared a war on poverty. As a result of this legislative effort, there were several things that were put into place that have benefited Americans over time. Medicare, Medicaid, Head Start, the school breakfast program, the Food Stamp Act, Job Corps, minimum wage enhancement, college work study—all of these programs were part of the effort to create a great society.

Over the last 50 years, as a result of the war on poverty, significant progress has been made. Tens of millions of Americans have been lifted out of an impoverished condition and set on a pathway toward the middle class. But we know that there is still a long way to go.

In fact, the middle class, broadly defined, has taken a huge hit in the aftermath of the collapse of the economy, and that hit has disproportionately and adversely impacted communities of color, and the African community in particular.

We are here to illuminate the fact that, in our humble opinion, that is bad for America as a whole.

I am pleased that my good friend, and the coanchor of this CBC Special Order, has joined us today, the distinguished gentleman from the Silver State, who has worked incredibly hard on behalf of the district that he represents.

Let me now yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD).

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my good friend, my colleague, the gentleman from the great State of New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for his leadership and for coanchoring this hour, and for focusing the efforts of the Congressional Black Caucus and the attention on such an important and pressing matter as the issue of the decline of opportunities for millions of Americans.

So often people ask the question, why do you have to talk about race?

Why do you have to raise issues in the context of the disproportionality of issues as it applies to race?

□ 2045

If there is any question about why that is the need or why there is a need to do that, unfortunately, the events over the last week and the comments by individuals over the last week indicate why these issues are still so prevalent in our country.

They talk about the original sin being slavery in this country, and the fact is so much of the disparate treatment of color is based on some institutional issues that are so pervasive in a number of different areas.

For me, it is necessary because I represent a district that is very diverse, like many Members in this body. My district is home to Cliven Bundy, the rancher that has received so much national attention, not just because of the issues around his use of public lands, even though he had failed to pay the grazing fees and was prohibited from being on that land, but because of the racist, hate-filled words that he talked about pertaining to African Americans.

The fact that he said that people didn't take the time to understand his way of life in a town in Nevada's Fourth Congressional District, but yet he would profile another community based on the fact that he just drove by and looked and observed their situation and then judged and made the judgment that maybe they were better off under slavery.

Maybe it is the recent remarks by the owner of the L.A. Clippers, the fact that, in a private conversation, he would talk about what his true feelings are about the people who have made him such a wealthy individual; and yet it is that hate-filled racist view that we are here to expose today.

So when we talk about opportunity, it is fundamental. It is a fundamental tenet of our great Nation, and we still are trying to live up to that ideal of an equal opportunity for every individual.

So just like I advocate for constituents who live out in Bunkerville and Mesquite, in Moapa Valley, in Virgin Valley as part of my congressional district, in rural areas that may not have a lot of diversity, just as they are concerned with the armed militia that are still in their communities tonight—and I have spoken up and asked law enforcement agencies to help remove those armed militias from that local community that just wants to return to normal—I am also here to speak up for communities throughout my district that are very diverse, that have Latino communities and African American and Asian American communities that are faced with this opportunity gap issue that we are here to talk about.

This is not a one-way conversation that we are having. We want to invite those of you who are watching on C–SPAN or those of you who are following us on Twitter at #CBCtalks to get involved in the conversation. Tweet us your comments about what this opportunity gap means to you.

The ability to work hard and achieve success, no matter what part of society you were born in, this is what has produced the world's largest middle class and has propelled all of us to be the most powerful and wealthy country in the world; and it has also been an economy that works for everyone, in that it grows wealth from the middle out. That has produced our country's most prosperous times, and that is what we are here to defend tonight in this conversation.

But in the past two decades, in particular, and particularly during our Nation's recovery from the great recession, as my colleague from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) illuminated, the promise of opportunity is not materializing for millions of Americans.

It is not because these individuals don't want that opportunity. It is not because there is a lack of willingness or hard work on behalf of individuals. The question is: What is keeping so many people from that same opportunity?

More and more Americans are falling out of the middle class and into poverty while those in poverty are unable to climb beyond the first rung of the economic ladder.

Just last week, we learned from The New York Times that America no longer has the wealthiest middle class in the world, falling behind our neighbors to the north, Canada; and this should not come as a shock to anyone, given the troubling economic trends of the past decade or so.

We have to recognize that these income inequalities and a shrinking middle class is a crisis for our Nation and one that will not go away if we do not act. In fact, it is a crisis that will only grow worse and will ultimately catch up to our ability to sustain our position as the world's wealthiest country.

Now, as my colleague from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), the ranking member, just said, it is not an easy crisis to solve, and no single policy will address all of the factors that are contributing to the growing opportunity gap, but one issue that I want to speak about specifically is the fact that experts have consistently and nearly universally identified the area that will go the furthest in providing expanded opportunities for all, and that is education and particularly early education.

Positive social and cognitive development starts very early, and children who are encouraged to actively learn, starting from when they are as young as 3 or 4 years old, experience tremendous long-term benefits.

Research also shows that high-quality early childhood education can provide children from poor working class backgrounds with the similar early learning experiences as children from wealthier backgrounds.

Now, why is this important? The enrollment and graduation rates by race matter. For those individuals who belong to the Asian American community, they have the highest graduation

rates, at nearly 70 percent. Among the White population, it is about 62 percent. Among the Latino community, it is 51 percent.

But for African Americans, according to the 2005 cohort, we have just a 39.9 percent graduation rate compared to enrollment. So if we are going to change these statistics, we have to start at the beginning, and that is an investment in education, in early childhood education.

Now, we can't do that by supporting the budget by Congressman PAUL RYAN, which would cut investments in Head Start, which we know greatly helps all children develop social and cognitive skills that they otherwise might not receive at home.

In addition to early education investments, it is critical that we invest in our middle schools and high schools, so that every student has an opportunity to succeed and to be prepared to go to college and ultimately graduate with a college degree.

Still, to this day, schools are not even close to receiving equal amounts of funding; and that is why groups, such as the Children's Defense Fund, talk about be careful what you cut and that our budgets reflect our values, that if we don't invest properly in education, in early childhood education, then we are not going to get the type of return on investments and improved outcomes through high school graduation and college. Low-income African American students, in particular, suffer the consequence from these circumstances.

If I could talk about this chart for just a moment, dealing with the access to a full range of courses in math and science among the White, Asian, Latino, and African American population—again, this is an issue of access.

If students aren't being exposed to a curriculum in science, technology, engineering, and math, then they are not going to be able to learn or perform or graduate in these areas.

In this chart, we see an incredibly reduced rate for African Americans when it comes to math and science courses. Only 57 percent of African American students have access to a full range of math and science courses. These are subjects that have major impacts when it comes to college readiness and achievement scores on standardized testing.

Now, in my home State of Nevada, the graduation rate discrepancy between White students and students of color is striking: 72 percent for Whites, 55 percent for Latinos, and a staggeringly low rate of 48 percent for African Americans.

Nevada's high school graduation rate is the lowest in the Nation. In fact, today, they just released the most recent high school graduation statistics for every State in the country, and Nevada was at the bottom.

It contributes greatly to our State receiving the lowest opportunity score in the country by Opportunity Nation, which factors in economic, educational, and community conditions that affect people's ability to succeed and climb the economic ladder.

So if we don't address education and invest in education, then we are never going to really be able to truly close this wealth gap that exists.

That is why the CBC and the Democratic alternative budgets both propose investing billions of dollars—in fact, reinvesting because, under the budgets that were passed when we were in the majority in this House, the funding was there for school and the training of our teachers to properly address the growing opportunity gap between high-income and low-income students; but under the GOP here in the House, they have slashed those budgets. It is time for us to reinvest.

The Republican budget ignores the long-term opportunity gaps that arise in our Nation's low-income schools. It would pull the rug out from under as many as 3.4 million disadvantaged students and 8,000 schools across the country. It cuts 29,000 teachers and teacher aides, educating disadvantaged students by 2016. The GOP budget cuts 170,000 vulnerable children out of Head Start, as I said.

So it is pretty clear to me that the differences between the House Republican budget and the Democratic priorities stand when it comes to investing and providing opportunities to the next generation of middle class workers, but it starts with education. That is why we need to fulfill that promise of opportunity for all and allow those who work hard and who play by the rules to climb that economic ladder and to achieve economic stability in their lives, no longer living paycheck to paycheck.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank my good friend for that very comprehensive presentation and, in particular, for focusing in on the importance and the significance of investing in education in order to create a bright future for everybody.

Certainly, we cannot continue to allow so many people across this country to find themselves trapped in a dysfunctional public school system that essentially dooms them to life sentences of disadvantage and despair and fails to adequately prepare them for the challenges of a 21st century economy.

Now, we are here today talking about the racial wealth gap in America; and invariably, there will be some commentator who is going to make the observation: There they go again, members of the Congressional Black Caucus taking to the House floor, speaking about race.

Actually, it is not that frequent an occurrence, but we are compelled to do so today; and then, as my good friend made the observation: Who should we allow to talk about race in America? Should we just leave it to Paula Deen to talk about race in America? Does that reflect positively on this great country?

□ 2100

Should we just allow Cliven Bundy to talk about race in America? Does that paint our country in the best possible light? Or should we just leave it to Donald Sterling to talk about race in America? Does that reflect the views of the great many good-hearted people across this country? Of course we shouldn't. And so we are here today to illuminate a problem that we think America should deal with for the good of the country—not just the African American community, because there is a significant gap in terms of wealth generation, creation, and maintenance that threatens the economic security of this country.

Let me just briefly highlight a few points along this spectrum, one, in terms of the unemployment rate is a significant difference. The White unemployment rate is 5.8 percent in this country, as this chart illustrates. The Latino unemployment rate is 7.9 percent, and the African American unemployment rate is 12.4 percent.

In terms of annual median income, you see the same type of disparity. The average median income for White Americans is $57,009. The average median income for African Americans is $33,321. And in terms of overall wealth, for White families, $113,149, but for African American families in this great country, the average collective wealth is $5,677. That means for every $100 in a White household, a similarly situated African American household only has $5. That is a problem for America that we should all feel compelled to confront, and that is why the Congressional Black Caucus wants to invest in education and job training, invest in transportation and infrastructure, invest in research and development, invest in technology and innovation, and invest in preserving the social safety net so that you can lift up communities left behind by the recession, but also collectively lift up America for the good of everyone.

It is now my honor and my privilege to yield to the very distinguished gentleman from New York, a prominent member of the Ways and Means Committee, someone who has given so much of his life to public service and made such a difference for so many people in Harlem, in New York City, in the country, and, in fact, across the globe, the Lion of Lenox Avenue. I am proud to now yield to Congressman CHARLIE RANGEL.

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. I want to thank you so much for pulling together this special hour. I got from New York a little late, and in working, I turned on the TV and saw these eloquent spokespeople, and I am just so glad I got here in time before our time has expired. So all of those that made this possible, it starts my new week down here with a breath of fresh air.

Last Sunday, I participated in ceremonies at Grant's Tomb. That is General Grant. That is President Grant. And his great-great-grandson was there to speak on Grant's not wanting slavery. They even had a few people dressed up in Union uniforms, which I had not seen before. But at the conclusion of listening, just a few generations ago, this guy talking about General Grant and President Grant, it convinced me that in some parts of the United States of America, they don't believe that the Union won. The reason I come to that conclusion is that, as I never saw that many Union uniforms, I have never seen so many Confederate flags that represent groups that are proud of the fact that they call themselves the Tea Party. And then I was thinking, because it was a long ceremony, where do these Tea Party people, what areas of the country are they most comfortable? And I reached the conclusion they are from that part of the country that the States owned slaves. And then I thought, well, are they Democrats or Republicans? They used to be not only Democrats, but they fought against every civil rights bill we had here.

I never thought in the 54 miles I marched with Dr. King from Selma to Montgomery that we ever would get the civil rights and the voting rights, but when we got it, somehow the Dixiecrats disappeared. And all of a sudden, they came up in the South as Republican, Republicans that really hate this President as much as their predecessors probably hated Abe Lincoln. And it was all about slavery—all about slavery. And if you go to the parts of South America and the Caribbean islands, Mexico, all you see are remnants of slavery—even Puerto Rico.

But here in this country where we thought we had broken out of the Civil War, what the heck does it take for people to understand that you shouldn't hate the President so much that you are ready to destroy the Republican Party, the entire Congress, but most of all the people of this great country? We have been able to take people of all colors, all blood, all languages, and they didn't come here and just fall in love with each other. They hardly knew each other. But somehow they set aside these differences and in 300 or 400 years became the power of the world.

That power just wasn't in dollars and cents and the ability to have more than any other country in wealth, but it was hope. It was the ability to believe that no matter what level of the economy you were in, you could achieve. This could not be said for many of the countries in Europe. That is why they loved their countries, but they cared more for their families here.

And now we have millions of people whose complexions look more like the people who were here when Columbus so-called discovered them. And then you find a hatred which defies economics and sound politics against people who want to come to this country, who have invited constructively as we say in the law because they came, they got paid, everyone was happy, but the more that came, the more that wanted to come, their complexion started changing the complexion of the Nation.

And why they refuse to allow the President to try to remove this cancer from America, why they don't understand that we just can't afford to destroy everything this country stands for? We are talking about immigration laws so that we can bring more talent. But, most of all, most of my colleagues, we are talking about education. How the heck can we allow party differences with the President to agree that we have got 2 million human beings locked up in jail? Most of them have—the only people they ever hurt was themselves. The cost of keeping them incarcerated—cops, courts, food, and health care—is mind blowing compared to the infinitesimal fraction of America's education as paid to by this Congress. So much of the setbacks has to do with the stigma of having come from slaves rather than slave owners.

But the thing is, if a nation like ours is going to maintain any degree of similarities, we have to all pull together and not be divided by color, sex or where a person has been born or the language that they speak.

So I came over wondering what can 43 people of African background, combined with scores of people that have Latin American backgrounds, combined with so many other people that families can remember poverty and the pain of not being a part of the middle class, and to see this shrinking and missing a paycheck, a check on unemployment compensation, a month in rent, homelessness, being in shelters, not being able to get a job, losing your kids—man, that is pain. That is not America.

So what can I do? Well, I am 84, and I guess I don't want to say anything that would jeopardize my getting to Heaven without any hassles with St. Peter and the rest of them up there. So I will make an appeal to the priests, the ministers, the rabbis, and the imams in saying that you deal with a higher authority. You deal with all people. God can't possibly have expected, when He would have us to believe we are made in His image, that He could be so many different colors. He is one in our mind as He used these colors to make the world.

I want to hear their voices when we talk about education, hunger, nakedness, thirst, and being locked up and having some comfort, because that is what we are talking about today.

So let me just thank you. We can't give up. We can't give in. We can't give out. We may not have an answer in this Chamber, but the will of America can change this Chamber, and we just have to have good people, whether they are in synagogues, mosques, or cathedrals, to call their Congressperson and say that this is not the time for our great Nation to be divided by class, color, or wealth. It is time for us to do what that sign says: ''In God we trust.'' And we have got to trust. We have got to fight, and we are going to win.

Thank you for the opportunity for all of us to express ourselves.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from New York for his incredibly eloquent, thoughtful, and insightful presentation and analysis.

We have now been joined by a senior member of the Judiciary Committee and the Homeland Security Committee, a voice for the voiceless, someone who has fought to promote justice and equality across a wide spectrum of issues but certainly in the economic arena in such a compelling way during her career in the House and throughout her entire career in public service. Let me now yield to the distinguished gentlelady from Texas, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the gentleman from New York for convening this dialogue with our colleagues and, through our colleagues, the American people and Mr. HORSFORD as well as the Congressional Black Caucus and the passionate words of our colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), and others who have come on this floor to challenge our colleagues.

I think the backdrop of this whole discussion is the Ryan budget, which we debated before we left for the work recess. And I think it is important that we not allow that budget to just pass with a vote and let it not represent the moral document that now the Republicans have tied themselves to.

Interestingly enough, while we were away, it seems that America caught on fire. For some reason, the season generated a number of unfortunate and sad incidents that really reinforce this wealth gap that is so very important.

I have 10 points that I would like to succinctly mention in the backdrop of the Ryan budget, which cuts drastically the social network of America which really makes America great. Some of us had the opportunity to be in countries outside, countries as we were, during the recess, South and Central America, Europe and other places.

□ 2115

You come back to this country and you thank God for its greatness, and I still do that. But I also know that it is great, or it was great, because people pull together and realize there is no shame in a social safety network because it was people of all backgrounds—Caucasians, Hispanics, African Americans and others—who were in this country who celebrated the creation of Social Security under Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Medicare and Medicaid back in the 1960s.

This is the 50th year of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and so it is tragic that we still have to look at numbers that show the wealth inequality. It is more tragic

that we compound this discrimination with ugly words that really suggest that there is a lack of understanding for why these numbers exist.

I might say to Mr. Bundy, who suggested that government subsidies is all that African Americans receive, and that we would be better off as slaves with a garden and picking cotton: maybe if there had been a fair distribution of wealth at the end of slavery, as it was supposed to be, there would have been the investment in that now-free population where you could look at them and say, Why didn't you succeed?

Well, if you read your history books, you know that we lived under a discriminatory society for much of the 20th century. And in actuality, there was not an equalizing or trying to equalize rights until the 1960s.

Even today, the decision that was just rendered on affirmative action, some people would shout for joy, but in actuality it undermines America's great quality, and that is diversity. It takes away from Hispanic and White students and African Americans students and Asian students an opportunity to go to school together, a very unfortunate decision in affirmative action, compounded, of course, by the atmosphere and the attitudes of the likes of the owner of the Clippers, who today, in 2014, suggests I don't want to be sitting next to, taking a picture with, don't promote it, whatever his heartbroken situation might have been with an ex-girlfriend, it still sets a tone that speaks, if you will, to the discrimination that exists in wealth.

Some would say, how do you tie that together? We have to change our attitudes about all of us. And frankly, unemployment rates emphasize the discrimination in employment: African Americans, 12.4 percent and higher among young African American men; Hispanics 7.9 percent.

I don't want unemployment in any group. I fight for full employment for everyone because I know that is what America is about, giving opportunity and creating the working middle class. That is what we should fight for, and I hope our discussion focuses on the fact that we want that to occur.

Decline in wealth. We can clearly see that the decline in wealth has gone to some 53 percent in the African American community. And then of course bankruptcy filings; likewise, you can show that the highest amount is in African Americans.

Let me conclude by simply saying the budget that Mr. RYAN has will never answer the question of solving the problem of lifting the boats of all Americans. I thank the gentleman for having yielded to me. The challenge tonight is clearly to find a solution that ends the evilness of racism, but more importantly lifts the boats of all of our fellow Americans because they deserve the kind of equality and wealth opportunity that goes for poor Whites, Hispanics, African Americans, and Asians. A solution must be found.

KEY MESSAGES

The median wealth of White households is 20 times that of African American households. Put differently, African Americans own just five cents for every dollar of wealth whites own.

Buying a home is the single largest investment most families can make.

Asset accumulation is the foundation to economic mobility for low- and middle-income families.

Public—such as Social Security, Medicare, and Unemployment Insurance—and private assets are important for the economic security of communities of color.

Investing in assets and limiting debt can help families build wealth and improve their financial security.

Families of color lack the necessary savings and assets to climb up the economic ladder.

This wide gap in wealth between families of color and White families is a reflection of systemic and social barriers that have limited economic mobility.

Along with a history of discrimination, communities of color face obstacles getting a good job or using banks to save for future investments.

Public policy—rooted in historical discrimination—created the racial wealth gap and it will take public policy to overcome economic inequities.

The national budget is a primary vehicle through which public assets are protected and strengthened.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) for 30 minutes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to be here tonight. Today is a significant day. It is Holocaust Remembrance Day. And the greatest ally that the United States has, Israel, had a remarkable experience that they hold every day because of the unique situation that the Jewish people have endured, and that is, the entire nation and all of the people in Israel come to a complete stop. Cars literally stop in the middle of highways. Buses literally stop in the middle of highways. Metros stop. If a pedestrian is walking on a street, kids playing in a park, they stop. A siren goes off for 2 minutes' time, and during that time every person in the nation comes to a standstill. Why? Why this extraordinary action?

Because, quite simply, nothing like the history of Israel has ever happened anywhere in the annals of recorded human history. It is this: 6 million people lost their lives. They lost their lives simply because they were Jewish. They were children, they were grandparents, they were moms and dads. They were disfigured. They were disabled. They were high functioning. They weren't even necessarily in Israel. They were in countries all across primarily European areas. But 6 million died. And it is important that we never forget. That we never forget that a people were so brutally targeted that 6 million were killed virtually in silence; silence because of the devious ways in which the German regime carried out this horrific action. That is what happened about 70 years ago.

We will commemorate D-day, the 70th anniversary this June 6, as we should, probably one of the greatest sacrifices ever made by one people for another, led in large part by the Americans to liberate Europe as they were under this cloud of Adolf Hitler. It is a horrific past, but it is something that we have to remember because we can never forget. We can never, ever, ever forget.

We join with our great ally Israel today as we remember this horrific act. It was a racist act on the part of Adolf Hitler. It was a bigoted act on the part of Adolf Hitler, and I think that is why today we are all rather shocked when the story was disclosed that our American Secretary of State had made comments last Friday behind closed doors in a meeting with members of the Trilateral Commission, and he had said that if Israel does not go along with the proposed two-state solution, that Israel would risk becoming an apartheid state.

Now that is a shocking comment to come from an American Secretary of State, particularly to have this comment revealed on Holocaust Remembrance Day, to accuse the Jewish people who have undergone what no other people have undergone, a horrific act to be targeted by Adolf Hitler some 70 years ago, within the lifetime of some people who remain alive today. And yet our Secretary of State, accusing this nation of engaging in an act, an institutional act against another people based upon race with no evidence whatsoever because there is none.

I want to read the definition of the 1998 Rome statute. It says:

> The crime of apartheid is defined as inhuman acts committed in the context of an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group or groups and committed with the intention of maintaining that regime.

Now, that would apply to an Adolf Hitler. That did apply in the case of South Africa. It does not in any possible imagination or universe apply in any possible sense to the Jewish State of Israel, and yet that is what our Secretary of State said last Friday in reference to our greatest ally. Our Secretary of State needs to apologize humbly to the people of Israel, and then he needs to tender his resignation immediately to the President of the United States.

But our Secretary of State did not stop there. He went on to reiterate a statement that he had made prior that merely was an echo of what the Palestinians had intimated, and it was this: That Israel could be looking at a third fatwa—that is a war—that Israel could look at a war by the Palestinians, by people who would engage in

terrorist acts against Israel, that Israel could be looking at the threat of another war if they failed to give up 40 percent of their land to people who, number one, don't recognize that Israel has the right to exist; number two, that they have the right to exist as the Jewish state; and number three, that they have the right to defend themselves.

Since when do we force our greatest ally to sit down with people and negotiate with people who want to see them killed and annihilated? That is the stated position of Hamas. Just read article 7 of the Hamas charter.

The head of the Palestinian Authority, Abbas, recently said:

> I am 79 years old, and I have no intention of changing my ways.

In other words, he has no intention of recognizing the legitimacy of the Jewish State of Israel and their right to exist. And the United States is expecting, our Secretary of State is expecting after that statement, not only that Israel would sit down and negotiate in good faith with people who have said unequivocally they will never recognize the right to exist. And Israel is the bad guy here, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, I think we have our priorities wrong. Not only did Abbas say he would not recognize Israel's right to exist, we also heard last week that the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, which is a foreign terrorist organization, part of the violent Muslim Brotherhood, have said that they are looking to merge—the Palestinian Authority and Hamas. And again, we are going to force our great ally, Israel, to sit down at a negotiating table and negotiate with terrorists over Israel's right to exist and give the terrorists 40 percent of their land?

This is madness. This is once again an alternative universe that doesn't make any sense.

Our Secretary of State went on to say that Israel has built 14,000 living units, apartments, extra rooms, what have you, for Jewish people. Well, of course, a population that increases has to build apartments.

How many times has our Secretary of State talked about the Palestinian building of apartments on their land? Because, after all, this is Israelis building apartments on their own land. Since when is this a detriment to peace? And since when will our American Secretary of State ever call out the Palestinians and say those Palestinians, they shouldn't be building apartments, they shouldn't be building houses on their own land. Are you kidding? In the multiple times that I have been to Israel and the multiple times that I have been to Ramallah, to the Palestinian Authority, it is a building bonanza going on in the Palestinian Authority. And if it is their land, more power to them. Let them go ahead and build.

□ 2130

Since when is it wrong for Israel to build on their own land? You see, there is a reason why the Obama administration has been accused of being the most anti-Israel American administration since Harry Truman wisely recognized the modern Jewish state's sovereignty in May of 1948.

Eleven minutes after Israel declared her independence, the greatest military economic super powerhouse of the world, the United States of America, recognized Israel's right to exist. That meant something because our strength and our wealth was behind Israel. We had Israel's back.

No one, no nation, thinks that America unequivocally has Israel's back today. All you have to do is look at Israel's neighborhood. It has become a very dangerous place, a very dangerous place, indeed. The epicenter of jihad today is on Israel's border in Syria.

There are more weapons floating around in the Middle East today in the hands of terrorists than ever before; and yet our Secretary of State, rather than being focused on Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon, which it has stated unequivocally it will use to annihilate the Jewish state and to murder millions of Jewish people in Israel, rather than the Secretary of State calling out Iran for its ongoing action tonight, as I am speaking before C–SPAN and before the Speaker of this House, tonight, Iran has thousands and thousands and thousands of centrifuges spinning, fissile material that can be used and converted into nuclear weapons.

Tonight, as we speak, research and development continues to go on for nuclear warheads. Tonight, as I speak, Iran continues to work on a delivery system—a missile delivery system to deliver a nuclear bomb, a nuclear warhead with the fissile material to take out Israel. The fact is Iran already has the capability to deliver a missile into Israel.

What they don't have is that capability yet to deliver a nuclear warhead against us, the United States. You see, that is Iran's ultimate goal. They call us, the U.S., the Great Satan. Israel is the Little Satan. So, of course, the goal of Iran will be let's wipe out, with a nuclear weapon, some strategic main cities in America, so that we can achieve our real goal, which is the annihilation of the Jewish State of Israel. That is the goal.

Where is our Secretary of State calling out Iran? What about the epicenter of jihad, Syria, where weapons are awash? Where is our Secretary of State there, talking about the numerous, numerous terrorist organizations that are already running completely independent in Syria? Where is our Secretary of State talking about the problem with the communist nation of Russia, which has illegally seized Crimea and is now making incursions into the eastern area of Ukraine?

I just returned from a trip, Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, visiting some former Soviet bloc nations to talk about their response to the aggressive illegal actions of Russia and what is happening to reset the table in the former Soviet bloc nations.

These are nations that are very worried about what they are seeing. They are worried because they understand that you can trust a communist to be a communist, and their actions today are a mere image of what their actions were formerly.

Russia recognizes that, if no one pushes back, they will continue to salivate over more lands and more influence and seek to dominate more people. Russia is responsible for enslaving millions of people. In fact, they even murdered tens of millions of their own people under Stalin. This is a regime that needs to be watched.

Unfortunately, under our previous Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, she gave, in my opinion, unwisely, the reset button to the former Russian government and apparently didn't think that they would push the button.

They did. They pushed the reset button, and they pushed it in a way that has the Soviet Union looking at the United States and making the calculation that the United States is now a weak power, that we have weakened ourself, and therefore, now is Russia's opportune time to seek to influence and pull back into the fold former Soviet bloc nations.

As we have learned from history, when a madman speaks, listen. Madmen spoke in the form of Lenin and Stalin, and millions—tens of millions of people were enslaved in misery for decades. The same happened under Adolf Hitler, with a madman who spoke, and he murdered 6 million Jewish people. That is why we have, today, the Holocaust Remembrance Day.

We need to pay attention today to the thugs and rulers that are making their mad statements. They are doing it again. That is why again—why did the Obama administration demand that Israel release from prison over 100 murdering terrorists, murderers who murdered innocent people—children, women, men—in order for the Palestinian authority just to go to the table and have negotiations and talks?

Now, these same leaders are saying: Don't worry, we will never recognize the Jewish state; and, oh, by the way, we want to form up a new league with a terrorist organization.

That is why I say tonight, Mr. Speaker, our Secretary of State has to first apologize to the Jewish state and then tender his resignation. I call on President Obama, Mr. Speaker, to completely change course on his foreign policy.

We are looking at one foreign policy disaster after another. After the thugs of the world have calculated that the United States has put itself into a position of weakness, while we are in the process of gutting the greatest military force in the world, the bad actors of the world are recalculating and resetting the table.

We are seeing China making aggressive moves that we haven't seen before

against Japan and causing trouble in that area and region of the world. We are seeing Russia making incursions, again, as I just said, in Eastern Europe that we haven't seen before.

Even just today, we heard of a mayor in eastern Ukraine who was shot in the back by Russian forces. Just over this last weekend, there were those who were killed also in Ukraine and those who were taken hostage. This is moving forward. This isn't stopping. This is moving forward.

In Syria, with the epicenter of jihad, and as we saw three Americans killed—innocent Americans killed in Afghanistan by a member of the Taliban. You see, they are making calculations, these murderers. They are looking at the United States. They are seeing this failed foreign policy.

They are seeing that America won't stand up for her allies, like the Jewish State of Israel, and at every turn, we lift up the agenda, for some inexplicable reason, of the radical Islamist who seeks to destroy the Jewish state and destroy the United States of America. It is a policy that will lead to a day that I believe we will all regret.

That is why America and the world needs to wake up and listen to these bad actors. So when our Secretary of State calls the Jewish State of Israel an apartheid state, it is more than unhelpful. Those words are dangerous because a state that was born after seeing 6 million of its compatriots, one-third of the entire Jewish population in the world at that time, one-third of its people annihilated by the maniacal evil ruler named Hitler, to see them called an apartheid state, institutional oppression, really? There is no such thing. You will find it nowhere.

Mr. Speaker, as we look again to the Jewish state and as we remember with great sadness what this day signifies, the incredible loss of life that this signifies, I am reminded of the violence that I witnessed myself on a recent trip that I took to Israel.

I was in the area that President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry have demanded that the Jewish state give up and yield, which is 40 percent of its land. It is the biblical homeland of the Jewish people. Hebron is the city, essentially, where the Jewish people were born. Abraham was in Hebron.

It was in Hebron where I was invited into the home of a Jewish woman who is in a so-called settlement and has been there for decades. She invited me into her kitchen.

In her kitchen, she showed me some of the doors on her cabinets. Those doors on her cabinets had bullet holes in them, Mr. Speaker, bullet holes, bullet holes fired across her land, over her deck, in through the glass windows of her kitchen and into the cabinet doors of her kitchen.

Every day, her family is reminded of the very real existence that they have, that they literally can be in their home and bullets can fly in to a place where children should be able to be free, where a wife should be able to whip up supper or breakfast and not have to dodge bullets.

You see, that is the very real existence that the Jewish citizens have had to face in the southwestern section of Israel, where I had a chance to live for a summer. The day after I graduated from high school, I was privileged to be able to go and live and work on a kibbutz down in Be'er Sheva.

Kibbutz Be'eri is the area now that is oftentimes dealing with the violence from Gaza where Qasam and various rockets are fired from Gaza into the Jewish area with no other intention other than killing innocent civilians. This is what Israel deals with on nearly a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, just in the month of February alone this year in 2014, there were more rockets that were shot into Israel in this one month this year in February than there were all of the previous 12 months in 2013 put together.

The Jewish state is under attack, and yet what is Israel's response? In Israel, especially in the area known as the disputed territory, what is called occupied territory by people in our United States State Department, the greatest human rights that women—Arab Muslim women in the Middle East are afforded is in no other country but Israel, in the so-called occupied territory.

That is the area where women—Arab Muslim women enjoy the greatest protection of human rights, and Israel is being called the apartheid state—Muslim women enjoying the greatest rights that they can find anywhere in the Middle East in Israel.

What about jobs? Jobs are available for Palestinians in Israel at higher wages, at better conditions, and they are grateful to have those jobs. I was in the area where there is a threat by now potentially European nations and other nations.

Even 5,000 academics from America were calling for boycotts, divestment, and sanctions on any products that are made in the so-called occupied territories of Judea and Samaria. Those are Israel's biblical homeland. There are 3,500 years of history. Just pick up the Bible, read the Bible.

This is the land that God gave to Abraham. He said: I give you this land, Abraham, to you and your descendants through Isaac. Through the descendants of Abraham, I give you this land, not just for a year or 5 years or 10 years.

But in the Bible, God said: I give you this land for eternity.

□ 2145

If you don't want to believe the Bible or if you think that it is a book of fiction, that is up to you. I believe it is true. You can look at historic documents. You can look at documents from this last century. International agreements gave this particular piece of land not to any other country but to Israel. This is Israel's rightful land.

Don't we recognize that this has been a very long effort on the part of the Arab Muslim people, who made a decision that they don't want Israel to exist?

As I said previously, Mr. Speaker, even the head of the Palestinian Authority—Abbas—has said:

> I am 79 years old. I am certainly not about to recognize Israel now.

He is the one Israel is supposed to negotiate with?

Even with the leader of the Palestinian Authority—and going back for decades—the stated position has been from the Palestinians: Israel does not have the right to exist. We will push the Jews into the sea, and we will take it over.

It isn't that they just don't want Israel. It is that they don't want any Jews in Israel. They want Jews gone. They don't want Jews anywhere on the planet. There is nowhere they believe that the Jewish people have the right to exist.

And this is after 6 million Jews were murdered by Hitler?

You see, there is an ongoing genocide, if you will, because there is a group of people who still believes today that the Jews have no right to exist. This isn't just a modern phenomenon. You can go back to the days of Haman, when Haman didn't want to have the Jewish people exist, and he persuaded the king at that time to issue an edict to eliminate and exterminate all of the Jewish people.

One woman—her name was Esther—was called upon by her uncle, Mordecai, and Mordecai said to her:

> Esther, could it be that you have been called to a position for such a time as this?

Mordecai, her uncle, called upon Queen Esther, and said to the queen:

> You need to go to the king, and you need to ask the king to pardon the Jewish people from this death sentence.

Esther said to her uncle:

> But if I go in to the king, I could be killed. I am not allowed to just go in to the king. I have to wait until he calls upon me.

That is when Mordecai infamously said to his niece, to Queen Esther:

> Could it be but that you were appointed for such a time as this?

She rose up at that moment. She had courage, and she went before the king. The king, rather than banishing her or rather than having her see the end of her life, called her in, and he asked what it was that she wanted. She made the request and interceded on behalf of the Jewish people, and, ultimately, the Jewish people were spared.

You see, Mr. Speaker, this isn't a one-off. This is throughout history—from the time of the creation of the Jewish people through Abraham and through Abraham's line. This was a God thing. He created this people. He created this race.

In the Book of Genesis, it is extremely clear:

> Those who bless Israel, I will bless, says God. Those who curse Israel, I will curse, says God.

That isn't just a one-off. It is for all time.

The United States of America, I believe—it is my opinion—has been singularly blessed by standing by the Jewish people, and on this day of remembrance of the Holocaust, we stand with Israel. We, too, remember, and we stand up against those who want to see the extermination and the annihilation of the Jewish race.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of him assisting with the emergency response to the tornadoes in Arkansas.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker pro tempore, Mr. THORNBERRY, on Thursday, April 10, 2014, announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 2195. An act to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 29, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first quarter of 2014 pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO UNITED KINGDOM, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 18 AND MAR. 24, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Ander Crenshaw	3/19	3/23	United Kingdom		1,968.00		n/a				1,968.00
Hon. David Cicilline	3/20	3/23	United Kingdom		2,440.00		1,600.00				4,040.00
Hon. Robert Latta	3/20	3/23	United Kingdom		2,440.00		1,470.00				3,910.00
Hon. Robert Aderholt	3/19	3/23	United Kingdom		1,968.00		1,515.00				3,483.00
Hon. Ed Whitfield	3/18	3/23	United Kingdom		1,968.00		1,030.00				2,998.00
Hon. John Delaney	3/20	3/24	United Kingdom		1,968.00		820.00				2,788.00
Hon. Phil Roe	3/20	3/23	United Kingdom		2,440.00		7,490.00				9,930.00
Hon. George Holding	3/19	3/23	United Kingdom		1,968.00		1,716.00				3,684.00
Hon. Jim Moran	3/18	3/23	United Kingdom		1,968.00		1,062.00				3,030.00
Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton	3/20	3/23	United Kingdom		2,440.00		1,062.00				3,502.00
Janice Robinson	3/20	3/23	United Kingdom		2,440.00		1,062.00				3,502.00
Ed Rice	3/20	3/23	United Kingdom		2,440.00		1,062.00				3,502.00
Committee total					26,448.00		19,889.00				46,337.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW, Apr. 14, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS, Chairman, Apr. 4, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, Chairman, Apr. 2, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER, Chairman, Apr. 2, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. PETE SESSIONS, Chairman, Apr. 1, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson	3/9	3/11	Belgium		535.48				117.25		652.73
Richard Obermann	3/9	3/11	Belgium		946.44		2,050.50		51.00		3,047.94
Committee total					1,481.92		2,050.50		168.25		3,700.67

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. LAMAR SMITH, Chairman, Apr. 15, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. SAM GRAVES, Chairman, Apr. 2, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BILL SHUSTER, Chairman, Apr. 8, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DAVE CAMP, Vice Chairman, Apr. 3, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Mark Milosch	2/12	2/16	Austria	Euro	1,487.00		1,751.00				3,238.00
Committee total					1,487.00		1,751.00				3,238.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, Co-Chairman, Apr. 15, 2014.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5438. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Consolidation of Permit Procedures; Denial and Revocation of Permits [Docket No.: APHIS-2011-0085] (RIN: 0579-DA76) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5439. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Stephen P. Mueller, United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list in the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5440. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Policy and Licensing Division Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Service Rules Governing Public Safety Narrowband Operations in the 769-775/799-805 MHz Bands [WT Docket No.: 96-86] received April 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5441. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Response Strategies for Potential Aircraft Threats, Regulatory Guide 1.214, Revision 1 received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5442. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Changes to Authorized Officials and the UK Defense Trade Treaty Exemption; Correction of Terrorism Lebanon Policy and Violations; and Adoption of Recent Amendments as Final: Correction (RIN: 1400-AD49) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5443. A letter from the Diversity and Inclusion Programs Director, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's FY 2013 report, pursuant to the requirements of section 203(b) of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No Fear Act); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5444. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-307, ''Small and Certified Business Enterprise Development and Assistance Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5445. A letter from the Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, transmitting the Agency's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5446. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's annual report for Fiscal Year 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5447. A letter from the Director, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5448. A letter from the Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity Programs, National Archives, transmitting a copy of the Administration's Fiscal Year 2013 Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) Act Annual Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5449. A letter from the Acting Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Title II of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5450. A letter from the Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5451. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority, USFWS, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reinstatement of the Regulation that Excludes U.S. Captive-Bred Scimitar-Horned Oryx, Addax, and Dama Gazelle from Certain Prohibitions [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-IA-2014-0010; 92220-1113-0000; ABC Code: C6] (RIN: 1018-BA47) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5452. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Endangered Species, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for the Olympia Pocket Gopher, Roy Prairie Pocket Gopher, Tenino Pocket Gopher, and Yelm Pocket Gopher, with Special Rule [FWS-R1-ES-2012-0088] (RIN: 1018-AZ17) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5453. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest in Alaska; Harvest Regulations for Migratory Birds in Alaska During the 2014 Season [Docket No.: FWS-R7-MB-2013-0109] [FF09M21200-123-FXMB1231099BPP0L2] (RIN: 1018-BA02) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5454. A letter from the Department of the Interior Chief, Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Threatened Species Status for the Georgetown Salamander and Salado Salamander Throughout Their Ranges [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2012-0035; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-AY22) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5455. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Recovery and State Grants, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Island Night Lizard from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife [Docket No.: FWS-R8-ES-2013-0099] (RIN: 1018-AY44) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5456. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — 2013-2014 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-NWRS-2013-0074] (RIN: 1018-AZ87) received April 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5457. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's 52nd annual report of activities for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5458. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report concerning the operations and status of the Government Securities Investment Fund (G-Fund) of the Federal Employees Retirement System during the debt issuance suspension period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 8438(h); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Oversight and Government Reform.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[The following action occurred on April 11, 2014]

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. Referral to the Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr. Attorney General, of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois G. Lerner for possible criminal prosecution for violations of one or more criminal statutes based on evidence the Committee has uncovered in the course of the investigation of IRS abuses (Rept. 113–414). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[The following action occurred on April 14, 2014]

Mr. ISSA: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives find Lois G. Lerner, Former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, in Contempt of Congress for Refusal to Comply with a Subpoena Duly Issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Rept. 113–415). Referred to the House Calendar.

[Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 544, the following reports were filed on April 17, 2014]

Mr. CULBERSON: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 4486. A bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–416). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COLE: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 4487. A bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–417). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[Submitted on April 28, 2014]

Mr. ISSA: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 4192. A bill to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia'' to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of

penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed (Rept. 113–418). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ISSA: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 4194. A bill to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements (Rept. 113–419). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4002. A bill to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–420). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4120. A bill to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date (Rept. 113–421). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 555. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4414) to clarify the treatment under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of health plans in which expatriates are the primary enrollees, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–422). Referred to the House Calendar.

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. LEWIS (for himself and Ms. BROWN of Florida):

H.R. 4488. A bill to make technical corrections to two bills enabling the presentation of congressional gold medals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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. CLEAVER (for himself, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. YODER, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):

H.R. 4489. A bill to designate memorials to the service of members of the United States Armed Forces in World War I, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. ROYCE (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. SALMON):

H.R. 4490. A bill to enhance the missions, objectives, and effectiveness of United States international communications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 4491. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to restore the 10-year statute of limitations applicable to collection of debt by administrative offset; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 4492. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the availability of breastfeeding support, supplies, and counseling under the TRICARE program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 4493. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the definition of minister for purposes of excluding the rental value of a parsonage from gross income to include duly recognized officials of nontheistic spiritual, moral, or ethical organizations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself and Mr. PAULSEN):

H.R. 4494. A bill to launch a national strategy to support regenerative medicine through funding for research and commercial development of regenerative medicine products and development of a regulatory environment that enables rapid approval of safe and effective products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FORBES (for himself and Ms. HANABUSA):

H.R. 4495. A bill to strengthen the United States commitment to the security and stability of the Asia-Pacific region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on 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. GARDNER:

H.R. 4496. A bill to establish universal access programs to improve high risk pools and reinsurance markets to ensure coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GARDNER:

H.R. 4497. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for damages relating to federally declared disasters during September 2013, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia:

H.R. 4498. A bill to provide for the legitimate use of medicinal marijuana in accordance with the laws of the various States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 4499. A bill to require reports submitted to Congress under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to also be submitted to the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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. KILMER (for himself, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 4500. A bill to improve the management of cyber and information technology ranges and facilities of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 4501. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to adjust the limits on expensing of certain depreciable business assets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4502. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to exempt certain products from the requirements of subsections (d) and (e) of section 310 of the Controlled Substances Act if it is not practical to use such products in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. MCDERMOTT:

H.R. 4503. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the Secretary of the Treasury to issue prospective guidance clarifying the employment status of individuals for purposes of employment taxes and to prevent retroactive assessments with respect to such clarifications; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. TSONGAS (for herself, Mr. PETERS of California, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana):

H.R. 4504. A bill to improve military readiness by establishing programs to consistently track, retain, and analyze information regarding suicides involving members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces and suicides involving dependents of members of the regular and reserve components; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. TSONGAS (for herself, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 4505. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States and the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense to assess the cloud security requirements of the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Ms. LOFGREN introduced a bill (H.R. 4506) for the relief of Antonia Esmeralda Aguilar Belmontes; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. CULBERSON:

H.R. 4486.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 4487.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United

States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 4488.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 5 and Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4489.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 4490.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 4491.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 4492.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 4493.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 4494.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: ''The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;'' and

Article I, 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. FORBES:

H.R. 4495.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18

By Mr. GARDNER:

H.R. 4496.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GARDNER:

H.R. 4497.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The Congress shall have Power To lay and Collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia:

H.R. 4498.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 4499.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 4500.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 ''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 Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 4501.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4502.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT:

H.R. 4503.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Ms. TSONGAS:

H.R. 4504.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. TSONGAS:

H.R. 4505.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 4506.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 and Amendment I, Clause 3 of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 20: Mr. BECERRA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Ms. HAHN.

H.R. 32: Mr. STOCKMAN, Ms. BROWN of Florida and Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 54: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 60: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 148: Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 155: Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 300: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 333: Mr. JOLLY and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 351: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 352: Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 389: Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 411: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 485: Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 494: Mr. ROSS and Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 508: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 519: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 521: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 543: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H.R. 556: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 563: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 578: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. GOWDY.

H.R. 594: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. NUGENT, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 676: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 713: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. COBLE, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 719: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 721: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 732: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 741: Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 837: Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 906: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H.R. 963: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KIND, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 997: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 1020: Mr. COFFMAN, Ms. HANABUSA, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 1070: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. POCAN, Mr. ENYART, and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1074: Mr. ROSS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. STOCKMAN, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. THORNBERRY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 1094: Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 1141: Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MCDERMOTT and Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 1148: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 1149: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1175: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 1179: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 1199: Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 1201: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 1250: Mr. MESSER and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1266: Mr. CRAMER and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 1284: Ms. BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 1286: Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 1330: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 1331: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 1369: Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 1428: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1429: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MENG, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1470: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 1507: Mr. VISCLOSKY and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 1509: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1515: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 1528: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 1563: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. MARINO, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 1573: Mr. ROSKAM and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 1588: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1597: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 1619: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 1649: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1666: Mr. LANGEVIN and Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 1698: Mr. LYNCH and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 1716: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1736: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 1750: Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 1771: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 1798: Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 1812: Mr. MULLIN, Mr. SALMON, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 1821: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 1827: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Ms. BASS.
H.R. 1830: Mrs. BEATTY and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1852: Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 1861: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1883: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 1893: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1975: Mr. RUSH and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1998: Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 2028: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 2035: Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 2037: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 2056: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 2101: Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 2123: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H.R. 2135: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 2139: Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 2203: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. OWENS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. BECERRA, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 2324: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LEWIS, and Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 2332: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 2365: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 2377: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 2424: Mr. YARMUTH and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 2429: Mr. ROSS, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 2493: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 2502: Ms. ESTY and Mr. BARBER.
H.R. 2509: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 2537: Mr. COTTON.
H.R. 2548: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GRIMM, Ms. DELBENE, and Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 2553: Mr. WALZ and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 2591: Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 2632: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 2648: Mr. CLAY and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 2654: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 2662: Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 2663: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. WOLF, Mr. JOYCE, Ms. BASS, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H.R. 2692: Mr. LEWIS and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 2697: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2707: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 2746: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. COTTON, and Mr.AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 2782: Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 2794: Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 2800: Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 2807: Mr. MARINO, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 2825: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 2841: Ms. TSONGAS and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 2870: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mrs. BLACK, and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 2892: Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 2907: Mr. MASSIE.
H.R. 2921: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 2939: Mr. COTTON, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 2955: Mr. YARMUTH and Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 2959: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 2978: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 2996: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. KILMER, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 3043: Mr. ROONEY.
H.R. 3097: Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H.R. 3240: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 3279: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama and Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 3303: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 3310: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 3313: Mr. NUNES and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 3334: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 3335: Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 3344: Mr. YOHO, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 3367: Mr. MEADOWS and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 3377: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CULBERSON and Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 3382: Mr. POLIS, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. MULVANEY.
H.R. 3407: Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 3413: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 3416: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 3461: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LEWIS, and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 3478: Mr. AMODEI and Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 3494: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 3505: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 3549: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H.R. 3571: Mr. DENT, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. ENYART.
H.R. 3593: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 3600: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 3601: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 3610: Mr. YOHO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HOLDING, Mrs. BLACK, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 3619: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 3655: Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 3657: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 3665: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 3673: Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BARBER, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 3689: Ms. FOXX.
H.R. 3698: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 3708: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 3712: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. DOGGETT, and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 3723: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 3742: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
H.R. 3744: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 3833: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 3836: Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 3854: Mr. KIND, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. ENYART, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 3877: Mr. POSEY, Mr. HECK of Washington, and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 3925: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3929: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 3930: Mr. FLORES, Mr. BENISHEK, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. WOODALL, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. KLINE, Mr. MARINO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 3978: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 3982: Ms. TSONGAS and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 3988: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 3992: Mr. POLLS, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. COFFMAN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. DAINES.
H.R. 4031: Mr. POSEY, Mr. WALDEN, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. COOK, and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 4035: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4040: Mr. MORAN and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 4058: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. YOHO, Mrs. BLACK, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 4060: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 4092: Ms. TSONGAS and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 4102: Ms. PINGREE of Maine and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 4106: Mr. BYRNE and Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 4108: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 4119: Ms. WATERS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 4131: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 4148: Mr. FOSTER, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
H.R. 4158: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 4162: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 4173: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 4188: Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. JONES, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 4190: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. RUSH, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 4208: Mr. TAKANO and Ms. BASS.
H.R. 4213: Mr. JOYCE.
H.R. 4219: Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 4221: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 4225: Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. STEWART, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. BARR, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PEARCE, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. CRAMER, and Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 4226: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 4227: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 4234: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 4254: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 4261: Mr. YODER.
H.R. 4272: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 4285: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 4304: Mr. COTTON, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 4305: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. COFFMAN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4308: Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 4316: Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 4317: Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 4318: Mr. COTTON, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 4320: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 4321: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 4325: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 4342: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. NUGENT, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 4346: Mr. COTTON.
H.R. 4349: Mr. COTTON.
H.R. 4351: Mr. JOYCE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. LANCE, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. COBLE, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. VELA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. MENG, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. KING of Iowa.
H.R. 4365: Mr. ENYART, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. TURNER, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 4367: Mr. DAINES and Mr. MASSIE.
H.R. 4370: Mr. SALMON.
H.R. 4383: Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 4387: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. COTTON, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. HULTGREN.
H.R. 4388: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 4407: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 4410: Mr. ENYART, Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4415: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. CHU, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. KILMER, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. COOPER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FARR, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. RUSH, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. WELCH, Mr. GIBSON, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HIMES, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 4426: Mr. WALZ and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 4427: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4429: Mr. ROSKAM and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 4438: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. REED, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. MARINO.
H.R. 4445: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 4450: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. KILMER, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. KEATING, Mr. ISRAEL, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4457: Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. REED, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 4459: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 4460: Mr. JOLLY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4464: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.J. Res. 50: Mr. BARLETTA.
H.J. Res. 113: Ms. WATERS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. ESTY.
H. Con. Res. 16: Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. KEATING.
H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H. Con. Res. 51: Mr. ROTHFUS and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H. Con. Res. 86: Mr. WALDEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. GIBBS.
H. Con. Res. 94: Mr. COTTON.
H. Res. 30: Ms. TSONGAS and Mr. JOLLY.
H. Res. 72: Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H. Res. 109: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H. Res. 169: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr LEWIS.
H. Res. 190: Mr. MORAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. KEATING, Mr. COTTON, and Ms. TSONGAS.
H. Res. 208: Mr. ENGEL.
H. Res. 284: Mr. CUELLAR.
H. Res. 365: Mr. COURTNEY.
H. Res. 412: Mr. STIVERS.
H. Res. 422: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H. Res. 489: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Res. 494: Mr. SIMPSON and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H. Res. 503: Mr. DOYLE.
H. Res. 522: Mr. HONDA.
H. Res. 525: Mr. HIGGINS and Ms. WATERS.
H. Res. 526: Ms. KAPTUR and Ms. JENKINS.
H. Res. 527: Ms. TITUS.
H. Res. 532: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H. Res. 538: Mr. RANGEL.
H. Res. 540: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H. Res. 545: Mr. GIBSON.
H. Res. 547: Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. WOLF, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. JONES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. LATTA.

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. CAMP

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Ways and Means in H.R. 4414, ''Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014,'' do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.

OFFERED BY MR. GOODLATTE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Judiciary in H.R. 4414 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF WASHINGTON

The provisions of H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014, that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of House rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. KLINE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Education and the Workforce in H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF MICHIGAN

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on House Administration in H.R. 4414 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. UPTON

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in H.R. 4414 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4486

OFFERED BY: MR. ROTHFUS

AMENDMENT NO. 1: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay a performance award under section 5384 of title 5, United States Code.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014 No. 61

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of history, strong to save, remind us that You are not an indifferent spectator to the progress and pathology in our world. Help us, dear God, to view our world as You see it, becoming Your ambassadors of reconciliation. Empower us to love our enemies, to bless those who curse us, and to pray for those who maliciously use us.

Today, guide our Senators through all their deliberations, keeping ever before them the vision of a better world that is yet to be. May they work for justice and peace, advancing Your kingdom on Earth.

Sustain us all with the knowledge that our prayers are not in vain.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 28, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MURPHY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 354, S. 2223.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 354, S. 2223, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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. 354, S. 2223, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Jeff Merkley, Patrick J. Leahy, Cory A. Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Thomas R. Carper, Christopher A. Coons, Bill Nelson, Al Franken, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Bernard Sanders.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, if any, the Senate will be in morning business until 5:30 p.m., with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

At 5:30 p.m. there will be up to four rollcall votes. The first vote will be on the confirmation of the Friedland nomination to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Ninth Circuit. The next vote will be a cloture vote on the Weil nomination to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor, and then a confirmation vote on the Weil nomination. The last vote will be a vote on confirmation of the O'Regan nomination to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

SEEMINGLY REAL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Nevada, and especially Las Vegas, is home to the best entertainment on the planet. Those who visit Las Vegas and Reno know they will find the best musical, theatrical, and comedic performances anyplace on Earth. Some of the most popular performers in Nevada are magicians and illusionists who entertain their audiences by making the impossible seem real. Through misdirection, these performers distract viewers from what they know to be true and instead funnel their attention to something entertaining—and it is really fake.

It seems that the Republican party has decided to follow in Houdini and Copperfield's footsteps and employ a

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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bit of misdirection of its own. For example, last week the Wall Street Journal reported that the Republican Party has a newly adopted campaign strategy to defeat Senate Democrats. They are going to attack me because their attacks and fabrications regarding the Affordable Care Act have borne little fruit.

In Senate races across the country, Republicans will avoid the issues that matter most to Americans and instead will try to focus attention on a Senator who is not even up for election—and that Senator is me.

What are those issues that Republicans so desperately want to avoid? How about immigration? That bill was introduced a year ago, and it passed the Senate many months ago. It is a good piece of legislation and the vast majority of the American people think it is a good idea. Yet instead of explaining to the American people why this bipartisan bill sits idle in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, they want to change the subject.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives refuses to allow a vote. If a vote were allowed to occur, it would pass overwhelmingly. It is a good piece of legislation. Not only is it fair and equitable, but it would also reduce the debt by $1 trillion.

While struggling American families plead to Congress for help in providing work or getting paid fair, livable wages, House Republicans prefer to talk about anything other than what is relevant? Why? Because their billionaire sugar daddies are not interested in helping middle-class Americans.

Charles and David Koch are not concerned with the long-term unemployed families, and so the Republicans they sponsor in the House of Representatives are content to do nothing. These billionaire oil barons don't care that working women are being deprived of fair wages.

My daughter—or the Presiding Officer's wife—can do the exact same work as a man but only get 77 cents while the man gets paid $1. We want to change that. The Koch-driven Republican Congress refuses even to allow us to have a vote on it. They have started filibusters here in the Senate time and time again on this issue, and they will not bring this matter to a vote in the House either.

As the Senate turns its attention to increasing the Federal minimum wage, which we moved to earlier today, is there any question as to whether Republicans will once again do the Koch brothers' bidding? Of course not. They are not going to give millions of Americans a fair shot at earning a decent wage.

Eighty billion dollars is not enough for these two brothers. Evidently the Kochs think that $10.10 is too much for a hard-working American with a family to take care of. If a person works 40 hours at $10.10, you just hit the magic spot where you are no longer in poverty. They refuse to allow millions of Americans the opportunity to get out of poverty and to give millions of Americans a raise.

The Republicans in Congress yawn at the idea of giving the American middle class a fair shot at financial stability and instead have chosen to distract the American people by attacking me. Like all illusions, they are using misdirection to call the American people's attention away from reality and attempting to buy America with their billions.

The Koch brothers and their accomplices continue to put millions upon millions of dollars into attacking anyone and anything that stands in their way of getting richer—and already rich they are.

Senate Democrats refuse to stand idly by while two megarich individuals attempt to create an American oligarchy.

I have spoken on the Senate floor against the Koch brothers' attempts to rig the system in their favor because it comes at the expense of families in Nevada and families across this great country. In response, one of the Kochs' puppet organizations announced its plans to run ads against me in the State of Nevada.

I am not running for anything for a few more years. As I said before, being the target of a couple of rich billionaires is not going to intimidate me.

Shockingly, the leadership of the Republican Party has decided to follow suit with their new campaign strategy. It is obvious their previous strategy of attacking ObamaCare has proven to be a miserable failure. Over 8 million Americans have chosen the coverage of the Affordable Care Act, plus 3 million more who are on their parents' insurance because of the Affordable Care Act. Up to 6 million people are on their way to having health care because of Medicaid, which is also as part of ObamaCare.

For example, in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, 413,000 people have already signed up for the State-sponsored health care they have in Kentucky. So with one failed strategy behind them, Republicans and their benefactors are trying something new, but it is still the same smoke-and-mirrors routine they tried in the past. Divert and obstruct is what they do.

To those Republicans who would rather bash me than speak out about what matters most important to their constituents, I say fire away.

To Charles and David Koch and their radical henchmen, feel free to attack me as much as you want. I can take it. Don't expect the American people to be fooled by this newest slight of hand strike. Ultimately voters will see the new tactic for what it is—a distraction that is keeping American families from getting a fair shot at financial stability.

In the meantime Senate Democrats will continue to speak against the shadowy influence of two power-drunk billionaires and their devoted followers on Capitol Hill.

Most importantly, Senate Democrats will continue working on meaningful legislation that will get our Nation's middle class back on track.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Will the Chair announce the business of the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders and their designees.

Mr. REID. I note the absence of a quorum and ask to have the time charged equally against both the majority and minority.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MAREN SANCHEZ

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, in just a couple of hours in Milford, CT, at 7 p.m. this evening there will be a vigil that will bring together many different members of the Milford community to celebrate, mourn, and grieve the life of a beautiful young woman who suffered a senseless and brutal death last Friday morning. In this inexplicable act of violence, she was killed by a fellow classmate shortly after 7 in the morning.

Jonathan Law High School was turned into a crime scene as members of the emergency responder team—first the police and then the medics—sought to save her life. Tragically and unfortunately, they were unable to do so. The evening that was to be their junior prom instead became a vigil.

We will perhaps never know what prompted this horrific and unimaginable act of brutality. This horrific event has united and brought together people who are now mourning Maren's death.

We know with certainty what a wonderful human being Maren Sanchez was, and we also know this community has shown strength and courage by coming together and uniting to help each other—particularly those students who knew her. We also know with certainty how gifted, talented, compassionate, and caring she was as

the manager of sports teams, a gifted singer, an athlete, school president, and an honor student. Her whole future was ahead of her. Most remarkably, she was a person of consummate caring and compassion for her fellow students. Those students struggle today to make some sense of this violence, to derive some meaning and maybe some comfort.

I went to Jonathan Law High School yesterday for part of the afternoon and spoke with Chief of Police Keith Mello, whose men and women have helped the community so deeply; the mayor of Milford Ben Blake, who has demonstrated leadership in this crisis; the superintendent of schools and principal of Jonathan Law High School; and the many teachers and parents and students and the grief counselors and therapists who came to speak with those students and help them to think and live through this horrible tragedy.

What is remarkable and so impressed me yesterday was the love and caring that people from disparate parts of this community showed for each other and continue to show in this testing time. This is a time of extraordinary adversity and tragedy. People who might otherwise be strangers are drawn together by the thread of grief and will reform the fabric of a community by simple acts of caring. They are united today in their grief and bewilderment. They are seeking to honor Maren's legacy and sustain it with the very qualities of courage, strength, caring, and compassion she demonstrated throughout her life. Those qualities of caring, compassion, courage, and strength will see them through this tragedy as they come together for the vigil tonight.

We can all honor the legacy of this remarkable young woman by looking for ways to make the world better, as she sought to do, and filling it with song and color, the lust for life, and the joy and pride in her contemporary accomplishments.

We need to search for steps we can take to make our schools better and safer. The time to talk about policy or steps to better school safety will come, and I hope we will all be a part of that continuing effort in exploring how to protect anyone and everyone who comes to school, which should be a haven of safety and insulated from violence—particularly against the most vulnerable members of our community. But those policy responses can wait until after the days of grief and mourning have passed as we celebrate this remarkable young life. She was described by members of her class as an angel. Her cousin Edward Kovac said on Friday:

> Maren should be celebrating at her prom this evening with her friends and classmates. Instead, we are mourning her death and we are trying to understand this senseless loss of life.

He said:

> She was a bright light full of hope and dreams. In fact, she was among the brightest of lights, full of the most wondrous hopes and dreams.

So today my heart and prayers are with her family, her friends, the Milford community, as they gather for this vigil tonight. Separated by distance, I will be with them in spirit, as I know my colleagues who know of this tragedy will be as well. This kind of tragedy is indecipherable, incomprehensible to young men and women—16-year-olds—but equally so to all of us of any age. My hope is that we will honor Maren Sanchez's legacy, that our hearts and prayers will go to her family, her parents, and all who knew her and all who would like to have known her because she was such a remarkable and wonderful human being.

Thank you. I yield the floor and I 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. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, we are told that this week, on Wednesday, we are going to have a vote on the so-called minimum wage, the so-called 40-percent increase in the minimum wage. This is part of a jobs plan by my friends on the Democratic side. Now, it is not a plan that is intended to pass anything, and that was revealed in a New York Times article by my distinguished friend from New York, Senator SCHUMER, who may be an architect of this. It is to highlight political differences, which is a fair thing to do in the Senate. But lest anyone think that someone is trying to pass a law here, they should not be confused by that.

We have had three hearings on the minimum wage in the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, of which I am the ranking Republican member. We have had time to have those three hearings, but the chairman of the committee, the Senator from Iowa, has said we do not have time to markup the bill in committee or consider any amendments to this idea with better proposals to create jobs. It was reported in one of the Hill newspapers that somebody said: Well, why don't you have time for amendments on the minimum wage, and he said: Well, there might be embarrassing amendments. I think there probably would be votes on embarrassing amendments—embarrassing only if you voted against them.

So let me talk a little bit about this proposal by my Democratic friends to create jobs by raising the minimum wage.

Now, they are on the right issue. The issue is jobs. We have been home in Maine and Tennessee and around the country, and too many people are having a hard time finding a job. Too many people have been out of work for more than 6 months. We call them the long-term unemployed. Mr. President, 10.5 million people are unemployed right now. Unemployed Americans have been out of work an average of 9 months. That is beyond the time for unemployment compensation, on the average.

It is hard to find a job. It is hard to create a job. It is especially tough on people in their forties and fifties and sixties.

Family incomes are lower than we would like for them to be. The critical problem is, there are too few jobs, especially for low-wage workers. Then, we saw a report this morning that said that most of the jobs created since 2008 have been lower-wage jobs rather than higher-wage jobs.

So the issue is right. It is jobs. The American people want it to be easier to find a good-paying job. The Democratic proposal we are going to vote on this week as a solution to the jobs problem is a proposal that will eliminate 500,000 jobs. Now, let me say that again in case anyone thought I misread my page of notes. We are talking about jobs, and the Democratic proposal—this is the big deal this week. We are not going to do anything in the Senate this week of any significance on the floor, so far as I know—a few nominations—except have a procedural vote Wednesday on the minimum wage proposal, and the Democratic proposal to make it easier to find a job is to eliminate 500,000 jobs.

In case you think I am making this up, let me quote where I got this piece of information. This is from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. The Congressional Budget Office is something we set up by law because we will make our Republican points and we will make our Democratic points, and we may shade it a little bit this way or a little bit that way. So we say to the CBO: You tell us the truth as best as you can tell. They are nonpartisan. We do not always like what they say. This is what they said about the Democratic proposal to create more jobs:

> Once fully implemented in the second half of 2016, the $10.10 option [to raise the minimum wage] would reduce total employment by about 500,000 workers, or .3 percent. . . .

That is according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Should we believe the Congressional Budget Office?

Senator HELLER, the distinguished Senator from Nevada, asked Janet Yellen, President Obama's recently confirmed head of the Federal Reserve Board, what her thoughts on the CBO study and the impact of raising the minimum wage would be. This is what she said. I quote President Obama's new Fed chief, Janet Yellen:

> The CBO is as qualified as anyone to evaluate that literature.

And she said:

I wouldn't want to argue with their assessment.

So there we have the Congressional Budget Office saying it will reduce 500,000 jobs and the new head of the Federal Reserve Board—appointed by the President, confirmed by the Senate—saying she ''wouldn't want to argue with their assessment.''

We will be hearing more from Democrats this week about the number of people whose wages will be raised by the minimum wage. There will be that. But the CBO also reported that $4 out of $5 earned from the increase in the minimum wage will go to workers in families who are above the poverty level. Mr. President, $4 out of $5 will go to workers in families who are above the poverty level, and nearly one-third of those families who would benefit from the minimum wage increase already earn more than three times the poverty level.

This reminds me of ObamaCare in this way: According to a recent Washington Post story, only about 1 in 4 people signing up for ObamaCare were previously uninsured. About three-quarters of people with ObamaCare insurance already had insurance before we went through all the turmoil of the last 3 or 4 years.

In the same sort of way, the minimum wage is said to benefit low-income Americans, but only 1 in 5 of the dollars from an increase will go to families below the poverty line. And that is not all.

In addition to cutting 500,000 jobs and providing 80 percent of the benefits to families above the poverty level, the Democratic jobs proposal imposes one more burden on the only Americans who are capable of solving this problem, and that is the job creators.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD following my remarks the testimony of Laurie Palmer of Waterville, ME, who owns four Burger King franchises with approximately 140 employees. I say to the distinguished Presiding Officer, I had no idea he might be presiding today, but I am glad to have a Maine story.

Ms. Palmer says in her testimony:

An increase in the minimum wage will directly and negatively impact my ability to create new jobs while limiting the benefits available to my current employees. I currently employ 60 people who work an average of 25 hours per week and earn the current minimum wage as defined by Maine law—$7.50 per hour. All but a handful of these people were hired within the last 6 months. Mathematically, an increase in the federal minimum wage would cost me an extra $3,900 per week or $208,000 per year . . . my net income for last year was approximately $35,100—with an extra $208,000 in expenses, I will very likely be forced to close my business.

She also notes, ''One hundred percent of my current staff starting at minimum wage are under 25.''

Republicans believe that if we want to create jobs, there is a better way. We would like to offer our ideas through the Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee. But as I mentioned, we only had time for three hearings. Although we are able to spend a whole week on this on the floor for one procedural vote, we are not allowed to offer amendments in the committee and, so far as I know, here because there might be embarrassing amendments.

Let's consider what those embarrassing amendments might be. They might be about the earned-income tax credit. Senator RUBIO of Florida, and Congressman PAUL RYAN, have all suggested the earned-income tax credit is a better way to make sure the lowest earning workers in America have a better wage if we are going to get the government involved in it.

Of course, if we are going to do that, we are going to have to deal with some problems, including the Internal Revenue Service estimate that 21 or 25 percent of the payments are improperly made in 2012. We could consider the proposals that, rather than giving those earned-income tax credits out in a lump sum each year, they might be given out with each paycheck.

But the Congressional Budget Office also said something about earned-income tax credits. They said one-third of low-wage workers would be in families [benefiting from the minimum wage increase] whose income was more than three times the Federal poverty level in 2016. By contrast, said CBO, an increase in the earned-income tax credit would go almost entirely to lower income families. CBO also noted that the earned-income tax credit encourages more people in low-income families to work, a value we should encourage.

So if our goal as a country is to provide a minimum wage for working Americans, why is it fair to assess the cost of that goal on just the Americans who create the jobs? Of course it makes creating the jobs harder, but even more importantly, why should not every one of us who pays taxes share in the burden of increasing America's workers' pay? That is what happens with the earned-income tax credit.

There is another proposal, a bipartisan one. We call it the 30-to-40-hour workweek. Senator COLLINS of Maine is one of the principal sponsors. The Senator from Indiana I believe is the lead Democratic sponsor. It is a bipartisan proposal that would, in effect, be a 33-percent pay increase for millions of American workers who already have seen their hours cut because of ObamaCare. It is a way to prevent—to say it another way—millions more workers from getting a 25-percent pay cut.

The reason all of this occurs is because ObamaCare defined full-time work as 30 hours. We would like to change it to 40 hours. ObamaCare says employers with 50 or more full-time workers must offer government-approved insurance or pay a fine. Full time is defined as 30 hours or more. That sounds as though it was written in France.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce says 74 percent of their members say the health care law makes it harder for their firms to hire workers. Changing the definition of full time to 40 hours would make it easier to hire. Senators COLLINS and DONNELLY have introduced the Forty Hours is Full Time Act. It would change the definition of full time in the law to 40 hours per week. We could be discussing that this week. We could have brought that up in our committee, had we been allowed to, or the SKILLS Act.

There are 47 separate Federal jobs programs for which taxpayers are spending $18 billion. The Government Accountability Office says 44 of those programs are duplicative. The SKILLS Act, passed by the House, consolidates 35 Federal programs and creates a single workforce investment fund. Members of the Senate have been working with Members of the House to see if we can agree on a revision of the Workforce Investment Act. We are making good progress.

If we can do a better job spending those dollars across America, that would be a good way to help create more jobs in America or at least make them easier to obtain. But we do not have time for that in our hearings. We could spend time debating amendments to transform long-term unemployment compensation into job training. But we do not have time for that amendment.

Today, Americans have been out of work for an average of 9 months. They need new skills. They need skills that help them get a job. Then ask almost anyone on either side of the aisle what is the best long-term way to make sure that children of low-income families are prepared for a good job. Almost every Governor I know is focused like a laser on this. That is the chance to go to the best possible school.

I have introduced legislation that would allow States, such as Tennessee or Maine, to take their money from approximately 80 existing federal elementary and secondary education programs and turn it into $2,100 scholarships that would follow 11 million low-income children to the school they attend. We could create $2,100 scholarships for 1 out of 5 school-aged kids in America.

When I say ''schools they attend,'' that could include a private school, if the State decided that. But this would not be a Federal mandate to that effect. The State would make that decision. It would simply make sure these Federal dollars follow the child to the school the child attends. If the State wants it to be public, if the State wants it to be on this corner, that is up to the State. We could offer and discuss that amendment.

Why not give elementary and secondary children a ticket to a better school? We give them a ticket to a childcare development center. We did that in a bipartisan way last month. We have tickets to college. We call those Pell grants. Why not help them go to better schools?

Then there are other amendments that we think, on our side of the aisle, have more to do with creating jobs than a so-called minimum wage proposal that the Congressional Budget Office says will destroy 500,000 jobs. For example, we could build the Keystone Pipeline, which passed the Senate last year during our budget discussions 62 to 37. That would create jobs.

We could pass trade promotion authority. President Obama has asked us to do that. Both in Europe and in Asia, the President has a chance to negotiate trade agreements that would create more jobs in America as we ship automobiles and soybeans from Tennessee and other places to the rest of the world. But the majority leader of the Senate says: No, that is dead for this year.

We could debate a proposal to reform the National Labor Relations Board. I do not like the fact that they have become more of an advocate than an umpire, with micro unions, with ambush elections, with undermining state right-to-work laws. But Democrats come back and say: Well, when the Republicans are in power, they are more of an advocate for employers. Maybe there is some truth to that. Let's pass a law saying: It would be better to create jobs in America if employers and employees could count on the NLRB to be a fair and unbiased tribunal, an umpire, not an advocate.

We could create jobs in America and slow the spread of jobs to Europe from America by repealing the medical device tax. That also passed the Senate last year, 79 to 20, which means there are lots of Democrats for it as well as lots of Republicans. So as I say, the only thing embarrassing about these amendments to a jobs bill would be voting against them.

On the most important issue facing the country, surely we can do better than the stale, bankrupt idea that will be voted on this week on the floor of the Senate, that according to the office we are supposed to trust for advice, the Congressional Budget Office, would, No. 1, destroy 500,000 jobs; No. 2, concentrate most of the benefits on those above the poverty line; No. 3, make it more expensive to create jobs; and, No. 4, tax only some taxpayers for a policy designed to benefit the entire society.

This kind of thinking is right in line with ObamaCare, Dodd-Frank, and all of the other policies that have spread a big wet blanket of rules and regulations over our free enterprise system and made it harder to create a job and harder to find a job in the United States of America. That is why we have 10.5 million people unemployed in America today for an average of 9 months. It is this constant parade of ideas that increases the big, wet, smothering blanket of rules and regulations over the free enterprise system and that does nothing to make it easier to create jobs and easier to find a job.

There are better ideas. Reform refundable tax credits to benefit all low-income workers; replace long-term unemployment compensation with job training; change ObamaCare's workweek definition from 30 hours to 40 hours to encourage full-time work; use existing Federal education dollars to give children of low-income families a $2,100 scholarship to choose a better school. All of those would create an environment in which the job creators could create more jobs and in which these who want them could find a job more easily.

That is what we should be about, instead of pretending we can pass a law in America and give many people a higher income. We can do that. We can do that. But when we do it, make no mistake about it, we are destroying 500,000 jobs and giving benefits to people above the poverty line instead of below.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATEMENT FROM LAURIE ANNE PALMER, BURGER KING® FRANCHISEE, WATERVILLE, MAINE

Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Alexander and members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony today. My name is Laurie Anne Palmer and I own Waterville Burger Corporation which runs four Burger King® restaurants in the Waterville area of Maine. I would like to note that I am a small business owner; my views are my own and may not reflect those of the Burger King® brand.

In 1972, my father, David Palmer, purchased the only existing Burger King® restaurant in Maine. Over the next 8 years, my mother and father expanded to 5 restaurants around Portland and Waterville, Maine. After selling their Portland stores, my parents formed Waterville Burger Corporation and began growing their operations in the Waterville area, eventually turning the company over to me in 1996. As a teenager and into college, I had worked part time in their restaurants, so it was a natural fit for me to take over upon their retirement. I've always considered my parents' employees as my second family, and I still do so today.

In 1998, I was forced to close one of my restaurants. This restaurant was located in Boothbay Harbor, Maine—a very seasonal small fishing town. The State of Maine's Department of Transportation had rerouted the tourist traffic off I–95 resulting in a bypass of the town. My other restaurants were supporting this restaurant financially and it just did not make sense to continue to lose money at that location. I have invested significant time and money in my four remaining stores, including transferring $25,000 of my personal savings this year alone into the business to keep it afloat. I will always do what it takes to keep my company healthy. Personal sacrifice is the first step in cutting costs. I learned this from my parents and will continue this method of operation. I am proud to employ 140 people, 30 of which are full time and 110 are part time.

I am here today to talk to you about the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013 (S. 460). As I understand it, this bill seeks to increase the federal minimum wage from $7.25 per hour to $10.10 per hour, which equates to a 39.3 percent increase. It would also increase the cash wage for tipped employees from $2.13 per hour to $7.07 per hour, a 232 percent increase. If this legislation becomes law, small business owners like myself—who already face minimal profit margins—will either be forced to recoup the costs elsewhere or close their businesses entirely. In a business that has been solely owned and run by my family, this possible outcome would be devastating not only for me, but for my second family—my employees.

THE FRANCHISE MODEL

It is important to understand that, as a franchisee, the business model under which I operate is much different than other small business owners. By signing a franchise agreement, my businesses must carry certain trademarks and other identifiers consistent with the Burger King® brand. Burger King® Corporation also receives a monthly royalty fee of 3.5 percent and a monthly advertising fee of 4 percent of my gross sales.

As a franchisee, I am often seen as an agent of the brand and not a small business owner. In fact, my salary comes from the net income generated after royalty and advertising fees, payroll, supplier bills, utility bills, and other costs associated with running my business. My net income last year was $35,100. In particularly slow months, I didn't receive a salary at all. In the months devastated by weather I had to contribute money into the business. Further, I am currently preparing my business for the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which is going to cost me thousands of dollars, if not more.

It is crucial to understand that, as a franchisee, government mandates are paid out of my pocket—not that of my franchisor. That's why additional proposals like an increase in minimum wage will put yet another financial strain on my business—one that's already struggling to keep its doors open.

QUICK SERVICE RESTAURANT (QSR) INDUSTRY

As a franchisee in the QSR industry, my profit margins are minimal. As a businessperson, I look at the penny profits of the products I sell. Data from a P&L benchmark report prepared by my purchasing cooperative, Restaurant Services, Inc. (RSI), shows that, from November 2012–October 2013, the average net profit per Burger King® Restaurant was approximately $78,000. An increase in the minimum wage to $10.10 per hour ($2.85/hour) for a small business owner employing 10 minimum wage workers working 40 hours per week is an increase of $59,280 per year. Simple math reveals that an increase in minimum wage to $10.10 per hour would reduce the average net income of a Burger King® franchisee to $18,720 per year—a figure lower than the 2014 federal poverty level for a family of three. For a franchisee like me whose net profits are less than half of the $77,000 average, it would simply put me out of business.

Further, a calculation of profits per employee reveal that those in the QSR industry like me cannot afford to absorb the impact of costs such as a minimum wage increase. In fact, a study from the University of Tennessee's Center for Business and Economic Research concluded that the average net income—or profit—per employee for those in the hospitality industry is $754—significantly lower than almost every industry in the United States (see attached PPE Executive Summary). An increase in minimum wage to $10.10 per hour would cost me $5,928 for each full-time (40 hours per week) minimum wage employee per year ($2.85 × 40 × 52)—a figure far below the income generated per employee. Again, the math shows that I simply cannot afford this minimum wage increase and, unless I can recoup the costs somewhere else, will go out of business.

IMPACT ON MY BUSINESS

An increase in minimum wage will directly and negatively impact my ability to create

new jobs while limiting the benefits available to my current employees. I currently employ 60 people who work an average of 25 hours per week and earn the current minimum wage as defined by Maine law—$7.50 per hour. All but a handful of these people were hired within the last 6 months. Mathematically, an increase in the federal minimum wage would cost me an extra $3,900 per week or $208,000 per year ($2.60 × 25 × 60 × 52). As I mentioned above, my net income for last year was approximately $35,100—with an extra $208,000 in expenses, I will very likely be forced to close my business.

In order to remain in business and continue to employ over 140 individuals, these costs must be recouped somewhere. Most likely, I will be forced to cut employee hours, increase menu prices and/or freeze all possible new hires. The industry has developed equipment engineered to reduce labor hours in the restaurant—an increase in minimum wage would make the purchase of this equipment a more likely consideration. These employees are my second family—many of them have worked for me for over 10 years. A small handful have even been with me for over 20 years. Having to cut their hours or even lay off employees would be almost as devastating to me as it would to my employees.

While an increase in the minimum wage doesn't take into account the overwhelming financial burdens of ACA implementation, I have additional costs that are cutting into my already minimal profits. Increases in food and energy costs have been rising steadily over the last several years. I must additionally consider the fact that my higher paid employees will also be seeking an increase in pay as a result of an increase in minimum wage. My payroll costs are at 30 percent of my net sales with the current wage structure. Simply put, another costly government mandate such as an increase in minimum wage may be the nail in my business's coffin.

THE ACTUAL ''MINIMUM WAGE''

In truth, the ''minimum wage'' is not a floor—it is an opportunity for those who may neither want nor have access to other employment. It is a ''starting wage'' in which primarily young, inexperienced workers are given the training and experience they would have not otherwise received. As a result of hard work and dedication, many quickly receive pay increases and are promoted within the organization.

The majority of my employees have been promoted due to their hard work and dedication and now serve as managers in my restaurants. In fact, my four General Managers began their careers with me earning the minimum wage and have worked their way to the top position in each of my restaurants. All of my hourly managers began by earning the minimum wage and have each worked hard to earn a management position. I strongly believe in developing the talent of individuals.

One hundred percent of my current staff starting at minimum wage are under 25. In fact, 47 percent of federal minimum wage restaurant employees are teenagers, while 71 percent are under the age of 25. The average household income of a restaurant worker that earns federal minimum wage is $62,507. Minimum wage income is often a supplement to family wages or as ''spending money'' for younger workers.

An increase in the federal minimum wage will likely and directly hurt those it was intended to benefit. By increasing costs, small business owners like me will be forced to eliminate entry-level jobs and redistribute tasks to more senior employees. The availability of job opportunities for those who need it the most will decrease and unemployment will likely rise. In sum, a minimum wage increase will hurt both small business owners and their potential employees across the country—the last thing we need in an already stagnant economy.

I'm proud of the opportunity I offer my employees and of course I wish I could pay them more, but my industry business model makes it very difficult. As I referenced previously, this is a labor intensive business with tight margins. It is challenging enough competing with McDonalds, Wendy's and others, but when mandates like ACA and this proposed wage hike are thrust upon me, I get scared, I really do . . . for me and my employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to explain the effect of a minimum wage increase on my business.

Mr. ALEXANDER. 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.

Mr. CRUZ. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ISRAEL

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, every Member of this body has expressed our bipartisan commitment for the United States to stand resolutely with our friend and ally, the nation of Israel. Doing so is right, and it is overwhelmingly in the national security interests of the United States of America.

It was therefore with great sadness that I read this morning about the comments of Secretary of State John Kerry, who reportedly suggested at the Trilateral Commission that Israel could become an apartheid state if his proposed two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process fails.

Secretary Kerry has long experience in foreign policy, and he understands that words matter. Apartheid is inextricably associated with one of the worst examples of state-sponsored discrimination in history—the apartheid system in South Africa that was ultimately brought down by the heroic resistance of Nelson Mandela inside the country, supported by a concerted campaign of diplomatic and economic sanctions by the international community.

There is no place for this word in the context of the State of Israel. The term ''apartheid'' means apart, different, and isolated—the state of the victims of apartheid with which the Jews are tragically all too familiar. The notion that Israel would go down that path—and so face the same condemnation that faced South Africa—is unconscionable. The United States should be aggressively asserting that Israel can never be made an apartheid nation while America exists and stands beside her because America will be with Israel regardless of the status of the diplomatic process.

Fifteen months ago, almost to the day, John Kerry was confirmed by this body by a vote of 94 to 3. Despite my preference for giving the President the Cabinet members of his choice, I found that I could not join the vast majority of my colleagues and support his nomination because I was convinced that as Secretary of State, John Kerry would place what he considered to be the wishes of the international community above the national security interests of the United States.

I fear that with these most recent ill-chosen remarks, Secretary Kerry has proven these concerns well founded. Rather than focusing on our clear national security interests—which is continuing to guarantee Israel's security through our unquestionable commitment to it—Secretary Kerry has instead repeatedly demonstrated a willingness to countenance a world in which Israel is made a pariah because it will not sacrifice its security to his diplomatic initiatives; likewise, he has previously suggested that Israel might probably be subject to boycotts for the same grounds.

It is no wonder Israel's Defense Minister remarked in January that ''the only thing that can 'save us' is for John Kerry to win a Nobel Prize and leave us in peace.''

Indeed, my colleague, the senior Senator from Arizona, has suggested that the foreign policy carried out by Mr. Kerry is the equivalent of a ''human wrecking ball.'' The fact that Secretary Kerry sees nothing wrong with making a statement comparing Israel's policy to the abhorrent apartheid policies of South Africa—and doing so on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day—demonstrates a shocking lack of sensitivity to the incendiary and damaging nature of his rhetoric.

Sadly, it is my belief that Secretary Kerry has proven himself unsuitable for the position he holds and, therefore, before any further harm is done to our national security interests and to our critical alliance with the nation of Israel, that John Kerry should offer President Obama his resignation and the President should accept it.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MICHELLE T. FRIEDLAND TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michelle T. Friedland, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, more than 2 weeks ago, the Senate voted to end the filibuster on the nomination of Michelle Friedland of California to fill a judicial emergency vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. That vote was the fourth time this year that the Senate had to overcome a Republican filibuster of a highly qualified circuit court nominee. In stark contrast, the Senate confirmed 18 of President Bush's circuit nominees within a week of being reported by the Judiciary Committee.

The Ninth Circuit is the busiest circuit court in the country. It has the highest number of appeals filed, the highest pending appeals per panel and the highest pending appeals per active judge. It also takes far longer than any other circuit court to resolve an appeal. The delay in resolving these appeals hurts the American people. After the confirmation last month of John Owens and what I expect will be today's confirmation of Michelle Friedland, the Ninth Circuit will be operating at full strength for the first time in more than 9 years. This is an important milestone, but we should not stop there. There are five additional circuit court nominees awaiting Senate confirmation. I hope that Senators who care about Americans having access to the courts will allow the Senate to confirm these nominees without further delay.

Michelle Friedland is an exceptionally talented attorney, who like the other 19 judicial nominees confirmed earlier this year, could and should have been confirmed last year. She was first nominated last August and after her hearing was delayed due to the Republican shutdown of our government, she finally came before the Judiciary Committee for a hearing in early November.

In January, Ms. Friedland's nomination was voted out of the Judiciary Committee with bipartisan support and she has the strong support of both of her home state Senators—Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator BOXER. Nevertheless, we were once again forced to follow the costly ritual of filing and voting on cloture and wasting valuable floor time. There is no good reason we could not have voted to confirm Ms. Friedland last year, and there is no good reason that we did not have a vote to confirm her 2 weeks ago. Meanwhile, it is our Federal judiciary and the American people who suffer from these delays.

If confirmed, Michelle Friedland would increase the gender diversity on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She would be the seventeenth woman to ever sit on this appellate court. In comparison, 83 men have been appointed to the Ninth Circuit over the course of its history. Her confirmation will bring the percentage of active female judges sitting on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to nearly 38 percent. Her confirmation will also mark the first time since the 29th judgeship was added in 2007, that it has had a full complement of active judges serving on this busy appellate court.

I hope my fellow Senators will join me today to confirm Michele Friedland to the Ninth Circuit so that she can get to work for the American people.

• Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I wish to express my opposition to the nomination of Michelle Friedland to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Although Ms. Friedland has a fine resume, it is not her work experience that concerns me but, rather, her views on many issues—views that should give anyone reason to question her appointment as a U.S. Circuit Court judge. Most troubling to me is Ms. Friedland's views that the International Court of Justice preempts U.S. law, despite the Supreme Court's repeated rejection of this notion. For those who don't know, the International Court of Justice is the judicial arm of the United Nations and Ms. Friedland believes decisions from this court should be binding on state courts in the U.S. I am thankful that the Supreme Court hasn't agreed with her and I'm fearful that her appointment to the Ninth Circuit will give her the opportunity to surrender U.S. sovereignty to foreign courts and international law.

Another reason we, as legislators, should oppose Ms. Friedland is that she has expressed views that indicate judges are free to legislate from the bench. As we all learn in grade school, the legislative branch creates the laws, the executive branch enforces them, and the judicial branch interprets them. Despite this, Ms. Friedland believes laws have no force unless a judge says they do. So when legislators, elected by the people, pass a law or a constitution is amended, the new law has no power until a judge deems it enforceable and a constitution, state or U.S., does not create any rights unless the judiciary says it does. This is a dangerous notion that tells me that Ms. Friedland is likely to only enforce laws and constitutional rights with which she agrees.

It is for these reasons that I am opposed to this nomination.•

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question occurs on the nomination.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Michelle T. Friedland, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO). and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) would have voted ''nay,'' and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) would have voted ''nay.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 108 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Levin	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Durbin	Menendez	Walsh
Feinstein	Merkley	Warner
Franken	Mikulski	Warren
Gillibrand	Murphy	Whitehouse
Hagan	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—40

Alexander	Fischer	Murkowski
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Chambliss	Heller	Scott
Coats	Hoeven	Sessions
Coburn	Isakson	Shelby
Cochran	Johanns	Thune
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Cornyn	Kirk	Vitter
Crapo	Lee	Wicker
Cruz	McCain	
Enzi	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—9

Begich	Harkin	Moran
Boozman	Inhofe	Pryor
Coons	Landrieu	Rubio

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the rest of the votes tonight be 10 minutes in duration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule

XXII, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The assistant bill 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 nomination of David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Jon Tester, Barbara Boxer, Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, John D. Rockefeller IV, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall.

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 nomination of David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted ''nay.''

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 109 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Levin	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (CO)
Durbin	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Feinstein	Menendez	Walsh
Franken	Merkley	Warner
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Warren
Hagan	Murphy	Whitehouse
Harkin	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—42

Alexander	Corker	Heller
Ayotte	Cornyn	Hoeven
Barrasso	Crapo	Inhofe
Blunt	Cruz	Isakson
Burr	Enzi	Johanns
Chambliss	Fischer	Johnson (WI)
Coats	Flake	Kirk
Coburn	Graham	Lee
Cochran	Grassley	McCain
Collins	Hatch	McConnell
Murkowski	Roberts	Thune
Paul	Scott	Toomey
Portman	Sessions	Vitter
Risch	Shelby	Wicker

NOT VOTING—7

Begich	Landrieu	Rubio
Boozman	Moran	
Coons	Pryor	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 51, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I have many concerns with the nomination of Dr. David Weil to be the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division at the Department of Labor—DOL.

The Wage and Hour Division is an important agency that oversees the enforcement of more than a dozen laws that govern just about every private sector employment relationship in America. To fill this position, we need someone who can be trusted by both employees and employers to enforce the law without bias, and we need a qualified manager. Unfortunately, I think Dr. Weil fails to meet that standard.

My greatest concern is about his ability to be impartial in carrying out the duties of his office. This role requires that he be a neutral arbiter of law. But we have a number of writings and lectures by Dr. Weil that suggest he may use the power of government to pursue how he thinks the employer/employee relationship should be defined.

Dr. Weil has written a new book called ''The Fissured Workplace: Why Work Became So Bad for So Many and What Can Be Done to Improve It.'' In this book, he suggests the Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division—the division he is nominated to lead—could look for ways to expand its current interpretations of labor law and should target employers who use certain business models. In addition, in his book, Dr. Weil singles out a number of major employers, such as Marriott, Time Warner, Bank of America, Walmart, Hershey, AT&T, Verizon, Subway, Hyatt, Apple, and FedEx. Dr. Weil states that current labor laws and traditional regulatory enforcement allow companies such as these to ''have their cake and eat it too,'' because they use common business models such as subcontracting and supply chains and, therefore, can push liability for compliance with workplace statutes off to other entities that are in their business model.

He further says that companies use multilayer business models ''to avoid unionization,'' and appears to be critical of that, stating that employers ''she[d] employment'' to find ''more subtle ways to shift away from a highly unionized workforce or move work to forms of employment that are both legally and strategically difficult for unions to organize[.]''

Dr. Weil has been critical of the franchising industry as a whole. For example, Dr. Weil believes the Wage and Hour Division should investigate corporate entities for wage and hour violations at individual franchises/locations even though a direct employer-employee relationship may not exist. He recommends investigating industries that employ significant numbers of low-wage workers, such as the fast food, hotel/lodging, and construction industries.

The franchising industry has been an incredible engine of economic growth in this country and, according to the International Franchise Association, has created hundreds of thousands of successful small businesses, employing over 8 million individuals. Many of these businesses are owned by people who started on the bottom rung of the economic ladder, making minimum wage, and worked their way up all the way to the top. Many of them are owned by women and minorities. For so many people, franchising has been the path to the American Dream.

Take, for example, Laurie Palmer of Waterville, ME, who owns four Burger King franchises and employs approximately 140 people. She is already worried about the prospect of closing her business with possible minimum wage increases and the cost of Obamacare. The last thing she should be worrying about is being singled out for a wage and hour investigation simply because she is a franchisee.

Dr. Weil's responses to written questions while his nomination was before the HELP Committee also raised several questions about his policy positions. He gave non-answers to some pretty simple questions.

He would not answer yes or no when asked if he supports instructing Wage and Hour Division investigators to presume a worker is an employee even if the employer has told investigators the worker is an independent contractor. In other words, if an employer hires an independent contractor, Dr. Weil may feel that he has the discretion to decide that person is really an employee.

This is important because, just this month, a Texas Federal district court judge slapped DOL, and ultimately the taxpayer, with half a million dollars in costs for a failed wage and hour lawsuit. The Wage and Hour Division unsuccessfully tried to claim that a company's independent contractors were employees. After multiple investigative missteps noted by the court, including a wage and hour investigator improperly shredding and burning interview notes and incorrectly assessing a $6 million penalty against the company, the court found ''DOL failed to act in a reasonable manner'' and did not believe a reasonable person would conclude the folks in question were employees. If Dr. Weil is confirmed, I hope he reads the court's decision closely to ensure this type of investigative behavior does not happen again.

Dr. Weil's writings suggest he may have a bull's eye on industries that use subcontracting and franchising. And he would not answer yes or no when asked to commit to treating all complaints equally based on the merits instead of the industry. Instead, he committed to

giving the agency's investigators guidance on how to prioritize complaints, but made no indication of what complaints he thinks should be a priority.

I am also concerned about Dr. Weil's lack of management experience. If confirmed, Dr. Weil will be charged with supervising the work of more than 1,800 employees in 54 field offices covering all of our states and territories, with a $224 million budget. Dr. Weil has no management experience beyond supervising small teams of people at Boston University and Harvard.

Several outside groups, including the Associated Builders and Contractors, the International Franchise Association, and the National Restaurant Association have also expressed their opposition to Dr. Weil. The Wall Street Journal underscored its concerns with Dr. Weil by describing him as ''a lifelong, left-wing academic with labor union sympathies, no private-sector experience or legal training, and limited management experience.''

Last, I will note that this position has not had a confirmed Administrator since the Bush Administration and this fact cannot be blamed on Republican delays or use of the filibuster. The President has nominated two individuals to this position, both of whom voluntarily withdrew before any HELP Committee votes were scheduled. The last nominee withdrew his nomination in August of 2011—a full 32 months ago.

After waiting this long, we need to get this right. I cannot support a nominee who has advocated expanding current law beyond what Congress intended, nor could I support a nominee who is a proponent of targeting industries and employers who use certain business models rather than being responsive to complaints of breaches of the law or one that has the underlying goal of increasing unionization without regard to the desires of employees themselves. Therefore, I cannot support Dr. Weil's confirmation.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my strong support for the nomination of Dr. David Weil to serve as Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division at the Department of Labor.

The Wage and Hour Division oversees some of the most fundamental protections for American workers: it ensures that people are paid fairly in accordance with our minimum wage and overtime laws. It protects vulnerable children when our child labor laws are abused. It ensures that workers can spend time with their families when a new baby is born or a health crisis is looming. In short, this relatively unknown agency plays a huge role in how Americans experience their day-to-day working lives.

However despite this important mission, this critical agency was unfortunately allowed to atrophy during the last administration. The division took a backseat approach that relied almost exclusively on complaint-driven enforcement—relying on the questionable assumption that vulnerable workers know their rights and will approach the agency to report violations of the law—rather than taking a more proactive approach to educate workers and seek out industries and populations where abuses are likely to happen. Furthermore, even this complaint-driven system was often poorly managed—the Government Accountability Office issued a harshly critical report finding that Wage and Hour ''frequently responded inadequately'' to those complaints that it did receive.

The current administration has corrected these problems and beefed up enforcement, revitalizing this essential agency. It has improved the complaint process and encouraged ''strategic enforcement'' that is geared to efficiently using limited resources to maximize compliance with the law.

With this new vision, the division has made great strides. Over the past 5 years, the Wage and Hour Division has returned more than $1.1 billion in stolen wages to workers whose rights were violated. They have done the best job ever of targeting their investigations to the workplaces that have the most violations, even when the workers felt too threatened or too disempowered to complain. The Division also successfully completed vital regulations to expand minimum wage and overtime protections to nearly 2 million home health aides. As a result of the division's efforts, these hardworking people will soon get the most basic of worker protections, and our country will benefit from a more stable and reliable workforce to assist people with disabilities and our elderly loved ones live full and independent lives.

There are certainly more challenges ahead for Wage and Hour. In addition to implementing the new minimum wage rules for home care workers in a careful and thoughtful manner, the division will be tasked with developing an important new Obama administration initiative to update our outdated overtime rules. I am a strong supporter of this effort. Too many Americans are working longer and harder without anything to show for their efforts in their paycheck. Often low-wage and modestly paid workers can be forced to work long hours without overtime compensation because the threshold for determining which workers are automatically eligible for overtime pay is set too low. It is long past time to update these rules, to prevent abuses of low-wage workers and ensure fair compensation for those who work long hours.

The Wage and Hour Division will also be tasked with implementing any minimum wage legislation passed here in Congress. While we will, of course, set the contours of the law here in Congress, the Wage and Hour Division will be tasked with ensuring that employees and employers are educated about the new law and that employers are complying with its requirements.

In facing these critical challenges, I can think of no one better to lead the Wage and Hour Division into the future than Dr. David Weil. Dr. Weil is one of the Nation's leading experts on enforcement of wage and hour, safety and health, and other workplace regulations. He has spent the last 20 years teaching at Boston University's School of Management, where he has done extensive empirical research on the prevalence of wage and hour violations and the effectiveness of different enforcement strategies. Because of his expertise, he has been called on to work extensively with Labor Department officials for many years to help them improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Wage and Hour Division. He has served as a consultant to the Department of Labor under both Democratic and Republican administrations, and has also advised both Democratic and Republican officials at the State level. His expertise on these issues is indisputable.

Dr. Weil also approaches these issues from a unique perspective. He has spent two decades as a professor of management at a business school, teaching a course on strategic decision-making for businesses. This insight into businesses' decision-making process will be invaluable to working at the Wage and Hour Division—both to understand businesses better and to work with them more effectively. Dr. Weil also has extensive experience in collaborating with a variety of groups, often playing a role of mediator and advisor—skills that will help him work effectively with both worker advocates and the business community to advance the mission of the Wage and Hour Division.

Some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have taken issue with Dr. Weil's scholarship promoting strategic enforcement. I will confess that I find these criticisms hard to understand. The basic idea that Dr. Weil has articulated is that we have limited enforcement resources, and that we should target those resources—to the best of our ability—to industries where there is an objectively verifiable pattern of noncompliance and where workers are particularly vulnerable to abuse.

This is a commonsense approach, especially in times of tight budgets. We need to be trying to get the best bang for our enforcement buck, and Dr. Weil has some great ideas for how to do that. I would think all the fiscal conservatives in this Chamber would be applauding his suggestions to build a more efficient and effective Wage and Hour Division. This sort of innovative thinking and strategic and efficient planning will be a tremendous asset to the agency.

Indeed, a group of Dr. Weil's peers, respected academics at a variety of universities, strongly agree with this conclusion. They note: David is one of if not the nation's leading expert on enforcement of safety and health, wage and hour, and other workplace regulations. He has done extensive research

on the effectiveness of different enforcement strategies and has worked intensively with Labor Department officials for many years to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the policies he will be entrusted to administer. The letter also notes his ''long history of public service,'' including his work with current and former agency leadership on both the Democratic and Republican sides. I ask unanimous consent to have the text of this letter printed in the RECORD.

As this letter confirms, while Dr. Weil has never worked directly for the division, he is intimately familiar with its mission and operations. He knows the Department, he knows the laws, and he can hit the ground running to move this important agency forward.

It is clear that Dr. Weil is an exemplary candidate to administer the Wage and Hour Division. It is unfortunate that the Wage and Hour Division has been without a Senate-confirmed leader for many years now, and I am glad that we will soon be able to change that. I thank Dr. Weil for his willingness to go through this process, and for his commitment to public service. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this nomination and allow it to move forward quickly so that Dr. Weil can get to work doing the important business of the Wage and Hour Division.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

OCTOBER 29, 2013.

Hon. TOM HARKIN,
Chairman.
Hon. LAMAR ALEXANDER,
Ranking Minority Member, Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HARKIN AND RANKING MEMBER ALEXANDER: We are all academics who study different aspects of employment relations and public policy. Each of us has worked in and/or advised the Department of Labor and other federal and state government agencies in both Democratic and Republican administrations. While we do not all share the same views on employment policy issues, we share a tremendous respect for David Weil and believe he would be an excellent Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor.

David is one of if not the nation's leading expert on enforcement of safety and health, wage and hour, and other workplace regulations. He has done extensive research on the effectiveness of different enforcement strategies and has worked intensively with Labor Department officials for many years to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the policies he will be entrusted to administer.

He brings a long history of public service to this position. Among other things he worked closely with the late John Dunlop, Secretary of Labor in the Ford Administration, on a major study of work practices and productivity in the apparel and textile industries. He currently serves as Co-Director of the Transparency Policy Project at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. He is recognized by his colleagues at Boston University as an extremely competent, fair, and thorough administrator.

For the past eight years he has served as the neutral Chair of the Dunlop Agricultural Labor Commission, a position that requires gaining and maintaining respect and trust from diverse groups of employers, contractors, employees, immigrants, and unions.

For all these reasons, we are pleased to endorse the President's nomination of David Weil to be the Administrator of the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division. Please feel free to contact any of us if we can be of further help to your Committee.

Sincerely,

Richard Freeman, Professor, Department of Economics, Harvard University;

Harry Katz, Dean, School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University;

Lawrence Katz, Professor, Department of Economics, Harvard University;

Thomas Kochan, Professor, MIT Sloan School of Management;

David Levine, Professor, Haas School of Business, University of California-Berkeley;

Lisa Lynch, Dean, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University;

Robert McKersie, Professor Emeritus, MIT Sloan School of Management;

Paul Osterman, Professor MIT Sloan School of Management;

James Rebitzer, Chair, Dept. of Economics, Law & Policy, School of Management, Boston University.

NOMINATION OF DAVID WEIL TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. This should be the last vote this evening. The next vote will be by voice.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor?

Mr. WICKER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted ''nay.''

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 110 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Blumenthal	Boxer
Bennet	Booker	Brown
Cantwell	Kaine	Reid
Cardin	King	Rockefeller
Carper	Klobuchar	Sanders
Casey	Leahy	Schatz
Donnelly	Levin	Schumer
Durbin	Manchin	Shaheen
Feinstein	Markey	Stabenow
Franken	McCaskill	Tester
Gillibrand	Menendez	Udall (CO)
Hagan	Merkley	Udall (NM)
Harkin	Mikulski	Walsh
Heinrich	Murphy	Warner
Heitkamp	Murray	Warren
Hirono	Nelson	Whitehouse
Johnson (SD)	Reed	Wyden

NAYS—42

Alexander	Enzi	McCain
Ayotte	Fischer	McConnell
Barrasso	Flake	Murkowski
Blunt	Graham	Paul
Burr	Grassley	Portman
Chambliss	Hatch	Risch
Coats	Heller	Roberts
Coburn	Hoeven	Scott
Cochran	Inhofe	Sessions
Collins	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Crapo	Kirk	Vitter
Cruz	Lee	Wicker

NOT VOTING—7

Begich	Landrieu	Rubio
Boozman	Moran	
Coons	Pryor	

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF KATHERINE M. O'REGAN TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the O'Regan nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Katherine M. O'Regan, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Katherine M. O'Regan, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, April 29, 2014, at 11 a.m., the Senate proceed to executive session, and that notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on Executive Calendar Nos. 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, and 590; further, that if cloture is invoked on any of those nominations, all postcloture time be considered expired; that following the series of votes, the Senate resume legislative session; further, that on Wednesday, at a time to be determined by me, after consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; that there

be 2 minutes for debate prior to each vote and all rollcall votes after the first vote be 10 minutes in length; further, with respect to the nominations in this agreement, that upon disposition on Wednesday, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise to discuss partly the state of our economy but more precisely the state of our workers. Working Americans are in some sense being attacked from both ends. We have seen an orchestrated attempt to cut safety net programs where a low-income worker making $9, $10, or $11 an hour might be eligible in some cases for SNAP or is surely eligible for the earned income tax credit.

Opponents strongly say that programs such as SNAP foster a culture of dependency and do not reward work. Those same elected officials—some of whom, I might add, have voted to raise their own pay—oppose efforts to ensure that hard work is reworded with fair pay. Last fall one House Republican said: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

I am all for quoting Scripture. I do not think it should be used to vilify hard-working people. Detractors of SNAP, opponents of the minimum wage, cannot have it both ways. By raising the minimum wage, it means, frankly, fewer people will be eligible for SNAP, because if their wages are higher, they cannot and should not be eligible for certain benefits. So we create opportunities for Americans to earn a living wage and no longer need those benefits.

One hundred years ago in January, Henry Ford, in 1914, announced that he was going to pay his workers $5 a day. Nobody thought, when they looked at Henry Ford and his life, nobody thought he was doing it out of the kindness of his heart. But that did not matter; he decided to pay everybody in his plant $5 a day because he understood that paying them more would mean a more prosperous workforce who could then, presto, have the money in their pocket to begin to buy a car, to buy a Model T or to buy one of Henry Ford's cars.

We should be taking a page from Ford's playbook. Productivity has increased 85 percent in this country since 1979. It used to be as productivity went up, wages went up. Since World War II, between 1945 and 1973, productivity went like this: Wages pretty much paralleled the increase. In other words, workers who were producing more for their boss would get part of the wealth, would share in the wealth they were helping to create for their company, for their boss.

So while productivity has increased 85 percent in the last 35 years, inflation-adjusted wages increased 6 percent, and the value of the minimum wage fell 21 percent. Think about that. Productivity went up 85 percent. Profits went up significantly. Wages went up only 6 percent. The value of the minimum wage fell 21 percent. The value of the minimum wage, since 1968, is actually one-third less today—the minimum wage today is worth one-third less in buying power of the minimum wage in 1968.

Simply put, workers, while they are earning more for their bosses, they are making their companies more profitable, workers are not seeing the wealth they helped to create. Fundamentally, the contract—not literally a legal contract but the contract we once had in this country was, if you work hard, if you take responsibility, if you are productive, if you do things according to sort of society's mores, you would benefit. You would benefit in higher wages. You would benefit in a higher standard of living.

In the aftermath of the recession, the job growth, the increase in jobs, has been in the low-wage job sectors. Men and women who lost good-paying middle-class jobs, generally through no fault of their own, are returning to work at low-wage jobs, jobs that make it difficult to support a family.

Enrollment for programs such as SNAP has grown. I hear some of my sort of tea party colleagues complain that more and more people are getting SNAP. They are, because wages are not going up, because the minimum wage has less buying power than it used to. So many workers that were union, middle-class workers now are making lower wages 45 million people. So, yes, the number of people who are receiving SNAP benefits, food stamps has gone up.

In 2011, 45 million people relied on those benefits. SNAP spending increased, but that is a reason to pass the minimum wage. Increase their wages and fewer people will need that. Too many people who work harder than ever are barely getting by despite their best efforts. That is why millions of fast-food workers in cities across the country took to the streets in December for a National Day of Action, asking for and demanding an increase in the minimum wage.

More than half of frontline fast-food workers, more than half of those who work more than 40 hours per week, earn so little that they are forced to enroll their family in public assistance. Think of all the companies, all the companies where workers are making such low wages and they are getting food stamps.

So I come to the floor to talk about the minimum wage and to specifically discuss support for the Fair Minimum Wage Act. Majority Leader REID has been supportive of this measure, as have most of my colleagues in this Chamber. We have not yet been able to corral 60 votes, which is what we need to break a filibuster, from those who I think are far out of step with the country, with their constituents, who oppose the minimum wage.

The Fair Minimum Wage Act would raise the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour in three 95-cent increments. In other words, it is $7.25 now. Upon the President's signature, it would be $8.20. One year later it would be $9.15. Then one year later it would be $10.10 an hour. The bill also—this is important to note because it is rarely talked about. The bill also raises the Federal minimum wage for tipped workers from the current $2.13 an hour to 70 percent of the regular minimum wage. If you work in a restaurant, if you are a server, if you push a wheelchair at an airport, if you are a valet, if you are working in a hotel where you get tips, in most cases those employers are only required to pay the subminimum wage, assuming that you are going to get up to the minimum wage with tips.

It does not always happen that way. It is a Federal law that it should, but it does not always happen that way. As Senator DURBIN and I were talking earlier, it is not so easy to enforce that. So if you are in a diner and you are talking to your server, the chances are that your server is making significantly less than the minimum wage, maybe higher than $2.13—that is the law—but maybe no more than $3 or $4 an hour.

If you are in an airport and you see someone pushing an older person in a wheelchair, usually down the concourse, or someone who is disabled for whatever reason, they are only making $3, $4 or $5 an hour.

The tipped minimum wage, $2.13, has not been raised since 1991. So every time we have raised the minimum wage—we did it bipartisanly; President Bush signed it in 2007. We did one a few years before that—I was in the House then—bipartisanly. The Presiding Officer from Indiana supported these minimum wage increases. But every time we have raised the minimum wage since 1991, the $2.13 subminimum wage, the tipped wage, has been stuck. It has never been raised. This will raise the tipped wage.

Let me share a couple of letters. I got a letter from Tom in Cuyahoga County, the county I live in, in Northeast Ohio:

Senator Brown, I'm a 50 year old food service worker with a college degree, and I make $7.40 an hour. I just closed my retirement account that had $2,500 in it to pay my bills—

and it's still not enough to cover everything. Now with that money gone, I should be able to qualify for food stamps. I only have the most basic bills, and I don't have any credit card debt or loans. How much longer do we have to wait for a livable wage?

The people whom I have met who are working minimum wage or close to minimum wage, $8-, $9-, $10-an-hour jobs, are people who often hold two jobs. They are working hard. They have so little to show for it. For somebody who is willing to work as most people in this country do, they should have a livable wage.

We know there are many more stories such as Tom's that all of us will hear if we go out in our States and listen. Pope Francis I exhorted his parish priests to go out and ''smell like the flock.'' The illusion of the Old and New Testaments and sheep and shepherds was obviously what he was referring to, but he was also referring to the fact of how important it is for people in his church, in the Roman Catholic Church, the priests, the people who minister to people, should understand how people live.

It is an important admonition for politicians too. I think more of my colleagues should get out of Washington and ''smell like the flock'' as Pope Francis said, meet people trying to make a go of it on a minimum wage, put food on their table to support their families, to put a little aside maybe for retirement someday; all of those are so important.

When we are seeing people working harder and harder, and, frankly, getting paid less and less money for it because of the decline of the buying power of the minimum wage, we know it is time for change.

I ask my colleagues to support the Fair Minimum Wage Act. It will pull millions of people out of poverty. It will help our economy because it will put money in people's pockets that they will immediately spend, generating other economic activity and creating jobs.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today as we convene, I call to the Senate's attention today's commemoration of the Holocaust. The Holocaust was the systematic genocide of 6 million Jews and countless others, carried out by Adolf Hitler and his minions.

Today is Holocaust Remembrance Day. It is a reminder that we must continue to fight against genocide, racism, hatred, and violence. Yet with Holocaust Remembrance Day also comes the hope provided us by the survivors.

I think of my friend the late Tom Lantos, a Congressman from California. Tom was a Hungarian Jew and a survivor of the Holocaust—and a survivor he was. I had the good fortune of traveling to Hungary and meeting with him there, and he showed us a number of places where he escaped from the Nazis. It was a remarkable story, and he was a remarkable man.

He once said: ''I like to work hard to make this a better country, to provide a just government for our people and make sure we have learned from the past.'' Tom Lantos' statement should apply to all of us.

Today we remember those who were lost, honor those who survived, and share our grief with the families who suffered the tragedy of Nazi Germany during the Holocaust.

Let us remember the words of Congressman Lantos who, in spite of all he suffered, had great hope and faith that we would work to stop genocide in the future.

IATSE LOCAL 720 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the 75th anniversary for the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts, IATSE, Local 720. Local 720 was chartered on February 23, 1939, by the nine original members—Mickey Burton, Barney Deussen, Clyde Gilbert, Harry Beuford, Arden Lusch, Rudy Rear, Harry Keller, Wally Roper, and Howard Folley. Since that time, because of the hard work and dedicated service of its founding members and their predecessors, it has grown to represent over 2,500 professionals in the entertainment industry, performing over 50,000 dispatches and receiving $60 million in gross wages in the last year alone.

The union may have started with nine stagehands, but today it represents some of the most highly trained and skilled technicians in the country, including theatrical carpenters, electricians, riggers, audio/video technicians, video projectionists, camera operators, grips, gaffers, trade show technicians, audio engineers, stitchers, hairstylists, and make-up artists. It is the hard work and passion of these members that helped make Las Vegas the Entertainment Capital of the World.

For 75 years Local 720 has fought for the rights of Nevadan workers. I applaud and celebrate with IATSE Local 720 on their 75th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MARKO MEDVED

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, it has come to my attention that one of our finest Civil Engineer Corps officers, CAPT Marko Medved, who is the officer in charge of Construction, Marine Corps Installations West, has announced his retirement from the U.S. Navy.

Captain Medved was born and raised in St. Paul, MN. He and his wife Maria Nagy, reside in San Diego, CA, with their children Jack, 15, and Carly, 13,

I ask unanimous consent that his biography be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CAPTAIN MARKO MEDVED, P.E., CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS, UNITED STATES NAVY

OFFICER IN CHARGE OF CONSTRUCTION MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS WEST

CAPT Medved's first duty assignment was onboard USS *Leftwich* (DD 984), home ported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii where he served as the Damage Control Officer, Missile Officer and Fire Control Officer. He deployed with *Leftwich* to serve in Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 1989–1990 and returned again to the Persian Gulf in 1992–1993.

CAPT Medved transferred to the Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) in the summer of 1993. He reported to his first CEC assignment at Resident Officer-in-Charge of Construction, Puerto Rico Area, in January 1994. Here he managed construction contracts in the U.S. Virgin Islands and at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads. CAPT Medved was then reassigned to the Public Works Department (PWD) where he directed the Technical Management Division, then Customer Service for the Base Operating Support Contract. In October of 1997, CAPT Medved joined the ''Professionals'' of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Five, leading a Detachment for Training to assist in disaster recovery in Sao Miguel, Azores, Portugal. He later deployed to Okinawa as Charlie Company Commander and Air Detachment Commander. Upon completion of graduate school in August 2000, he reported to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Fleet Readiness and Logistics) staff to serve as Action Officer for Range Planning and Base Realignment and Closure. During the 107th Congress, CAPT Medved served as a Legislative Fellow for Senator Thad Cochran of Mississippi, working on Defense Appropriations. He then served as the Public Works Officer at Naval District Washington, Indian Head, Maryland—the Center for Naval Energetics, until June 2005. Shifting coasts, CAPT Medved lead the Coastal Integrated Process Team at NAVFAC Southwest, supporting bases in San Diego, Ventura County and Monterey. In his next assignment as the Assistant Regional Engineer for Navy Region Southwest, he led the facilities programs for naval bases and reserve centers across six states. Deploying as an Individual Augment, he served as the Public Works Officer for Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, where he supported Marine and Army Division Commanders in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

CAPT Medved graduated with distinction from Annapolis with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean Engineering in May 1989. He later attended postgraduate school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, earning a Master of Science degree in Construction Engineering and Management in August 2000. In the summer of 2011, he completed the Advanced Management Program at the Duke Fuqua School of Business. He holds qualifications in Seabee Combat Warfare and Surface Warfare, is a member of the Acquisition Professional Community, and is a registered Professional Engineer in Virginia. CAPT Medved's awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), Navy Achievement Medal (three awards), and the Combat Action Ribbon.

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide—a tragedy that has left a dark stain on the collective conscience of the world.

Between 1915 and 1923, more than 1.5 million Armenians were marched to their deaths in the deserts of the Middle East, murdered in concentration camps, drowned at sea, and forced to endure unimaginable acts of brutality at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.

The Armenian Genocide—along with the Holocaust is one of the most studied cases of genocide in history. Countless experts have documented the atrocities that occurred, compiling an overwhelming body of historical evidence on the Armenian Genocide.

However, successive U.S. administrations have refused to call the deliberate massacre of the Armenians by its rightful name, continuing only to refer to it as an annihilation, massacre, or murder.

It has been nearly a century since the Armenian Genocide began and each day that goes by without full acknowledgement by the United States prolongs the pain felt by the descendants of the victims, as well as the entire Armenian community.

For years, I have been urging both Democratic and Republican administrations to finally acknowledge the Armenian Genocide for what it was—genocide. I do so again today.

The United States has often led the international community in speaking out against violence and suffering wherever it occurs. But tragically, our Nation is on the wrong side of history when it comes to the Armenian Genocide. I hope that this year we right this terrible wrong once and for all.

It is time for the United States to join the list of countries from Argentina to France as well as 43 U.S. States that have unequivocally affirmed the Armenian Genocide.

Genocide is only possible when people avert their eyes. Any effort to deal with genocide—whether past, present or future—must begin with the truth.

So this April 24, as we pause to remember the victims of the Armenian Genocide and to celebrate the many contributions Armenian Americans have made to our great nation, I hope that the United States will finally and firmly stand on the right side of history and call the tragedy of 1915–1923 by its rightful name.

TRIBUTE TO H. SAWIN MILLETT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on May 30, H. Sawin Millett will step down as commissioner of the Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services, one of many positions he has held during a remarkable career of more than 55 years of dedicated service at all levels of government. I rise today to join the people of Maine in thanking him for his many contributions as he retires to his family, his farm, and his beloved hometown of Waterford, ME.

Sawin has served five Maine Governors—Republican, Democratic, and Independent—and in the cabinets of four. His energy, expertise, and commitment to responsible and accountable government have been applied to such diverse areas as education, finance, and mental health services.

Sawin served six terms in the Maine legislature and was lead House Republican on the Appropriations Committee during the last three. His institutional knowledge and keen understanding of the State budget process and fiscal operations has been invaluable to our State. Building on his early career as a teacher, coach, and principal, he was the first executive director of the Maine School Management Association and an assistant professor at the University of Southern Maine.

It is fitting that Sawin's life in public service began at the local level, serving as selectmen in the towns of Dixmont and Waterford, and as a town meeting moderator.

The appreciation of Sawin's service crosses party lines. When the announcement of his retirement was made, both sides of the aisle were united in praise for this generous mentor and effective leader who has always been devoted to the people of Maine.

I have had the privilege of knowing Sawin for many years. We served together in the cabinet of Gov. John McKernan, and I was fortunate to have him on my State staff during my first term in the Senate. I also have had the pleasure of knowing his wonderful wife Barbara, who has been a strong and loving partner for more than 57 years. On behalf of the people of Maine, I wish them health and happiness in the years to come.

LET FREEDOM RACE CELEBRATION

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise to thank the great people at the Charlotte Motor Speedway for their hard work in honoring our Nation's military and veterans' families. This Memorial Day Weekend, the 55th Let Freedom Race Celebration at CMS will bring together more than 100,000 military guests to celebrate our military heroes and honor their service. This Memorial Day tradition will, once again, showcase our military strength by demonstrating patriotic unity and pride for those who served in our Armed Forces to protect us.

Over the 55 years of the Memorial Day weekend celebration at Charlotte Motor Speedway, millions of race fans have joined together to celebrate America's military heroes and honor their service. Generations of men and women have worn their Nation's uniform with pride and put their lives on the line to protect and preserve our most precious commodity: freedom. Many of them paid the ultimate price and should always be remembered for their sacrifice. I commend all those at Charlotte Motor Speedway, and the wider racing community, for their continuing support of our men and women in uniform.

Please join me in recognizing those at the Charlotte Motor Speedway for their efforts in promoting the Let Freedom Race Celebration each May.

COLUMBUS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Columbus State Community College in recognition of its 50th anniversary and the opportunities it has provided to students throughout Ohio. On September 30, 1963, Columbus State was founded in the basement of Central High School in Columbus, OH. Since its inception, Columbus State has grown tremendously by expanding its enrollment and academic offerings from an initial 67 students to more than 25,000 students. The diverse student body has come from more than 130 countries and all of Ohio's 88 counties.

The mission of Columbus State is ''to educate and inspire, providing [its] students with the opportunity to achieve their goals.'' This mission is vital to the Columbus community. Throughout its 50 years, Columbus State has provided exemplary educational opportunities through more than 200-plus degree and certificate programs. It has awarded nearly 50,000 degrees and has a nearly $1 billion annual impact on the local economy. The school also provides several transfer options and continuing education opportunities to students.

I have visited Columbus State and seen firsthand the excellent education and training it provides to students, including the resources available through the Center for Workforce Development. The center collaborates with companies in the Columbus region to address workforce needs through innovative approaches to education and customized training. It is helping to ensure that students are prepared with the skills they need for the jobs of the 21st century.

I am pleased to honor Columbus State Community College and congratulate everyone who was a part of making its first 50 years a success.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO IVÓN PADILLA-RODRÍGUEZ

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Ivón Padilla-Rodríguez, an honors program student at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Ms. Padilla-Rodríguez was selected for a prestigious 2014 Harry S. Truman Scholarship from among the Nation's most competitive applicants. The award is given annually for those of demonstrated leadership and public

service. She is the fourth student in UNR's history to receive the award. Her hard work is deservingly rewarded through the scholarship, as she plans to utilize the funds toward her goal of becoming a legal advocate.

Focused, bright, and driven are just a few of the words used by Ms. Padilla-Rodríguez's mentors and colleagues to describe her attributes. Overcoming homelessness and becoming a Truman Scholar are far from her only accolades: this year she was also named one of the 10 Top College Women by Glamour Magazine, and in 2011, she secured $100,000 as a scholarship from Dr. Pepper in one of their annual Tuition Giveaway challenges.

A dedication to the community is evident through her commitment to adolescent outreach. In 2012, Ms. Padilla-Rodríguez co-founded Spotlight, a free improvisational theater program in Reno for youth, and she even carried her improvisational talents to Costa Rica, where she shared the skills with orphans while studying abroad.

Above all, Ms. Padilla-Rodríguez has maintained a dedication to her studies. A junior honors student, she is double majoring in English and history, and working toward a minor in philosophy of law, ethics, and politics. In all of her free time, she conducts research at UNR's Latino Research Center on immigration reform. She has been invited as one of 60 college students in the Nation to present her research on Capitol Hill later this month.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ivón Padilla-Rodríguez on all of her successes thus far.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries, on Friday, April 11, 2014.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Health, Labor, Education, and Pensions, on Friday, April 11, 2014.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2262. A bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–5318. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Consolidation of Permit Procedures; Denial and Revocation of Permits'' ((RIN0579–AD76) (Docket No. APHIS–2011–0085)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5319. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Spirulina Extract'' (Docket No. FDA–2012–C–0900) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5320. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food'' (Docket No. FDA–2001–F–0049, Formerly Docket No. 01F–0047) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5321. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Advisory Committee: Bone, Reproductive and Urologic Drugs Advisory Committee'' (Docket No. FDA–2014–N–0355) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5322. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Air Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills; State of Missouri'' (FRL No. 9909–45–Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5323. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Stephen P. Mueller, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5324. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Clauses with Alternates-Transportation'' ((RIN0750–AH90) (DFARS Case 2012–D057)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5325. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to Congress On Repair of Naval Vessels in Foreign Shipyards''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5326. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to China; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5327. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Certain Consumer Products'' (RIN1904–AD08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–5328. A communication from the Chief of the Permits and Regulations Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reinstatement of the Regulation that Excludes U.S. Captive-Bred Scimitar-Horned Oryx, Addax, and Dama Gazelle from Certain Prohibitions'' (RIN1018–BA47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5329. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Mazama Pocket Gophers'' (RIN1018–AZ37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5330. A communication from the Chief of the Recovery and State Grants Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Island Night Lizard from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife'' (RIN1018–AY44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5331. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for the Olympia Pocket Gopher, Roy Prairie Pocket Gopher, Tenino Pocket Gopher, and Yelm Pocket Gopher, with Special Rule'' (RIN1018–AZ17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5332. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2013–2014 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations'' (RIN1018–AZ87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5333. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Jaguar'' (RIN1018–AX13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5334. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and

Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Threatened Species Status for the Georgetown Salamander and Salado Salamander Throughout Their Ranges'' (RIN1018–AY22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5335. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Threatened Status for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken'' (RIN1018–AY21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5336. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Special Rule for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken'' (RIN1018–AY21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5337. A communication from the Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest in Alaska; Harvest Regulations for Migratory Birds in Alaska During the 2014 Season'' (RIN1018–BA02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5338. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''NRC Assessment Program for a Medical Event or an Incident Occurring at a Medical Facility'' (Management Directive 8.10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5339. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard'' (FRL No. 9908–53–Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5340. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Connecticut; Reasonable Further Progress Plan and 2002 Base Year Emission Inventory'' (FRL No. 9908–51—Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5341. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Interstate Transport of Fine Particulate Matter'' (FRL No. 9909–57—Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5342. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Clean Data Determination for the Baton Rouge Area for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard'' (FRL No. 9909–53—Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5343. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri'' (FRL No. 9909–43—Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5344. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard'' (FRL No. 9909–51—Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5345. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances; Withdrawal'' (FRL No. 9909–25–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5346. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Underground Storage Tank Program: Codification of Approved State Program for South Carolina'' (FRL No. 9909–12—Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5347. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Alaska; Revised Format of 40 CFR Part 52 for Materials Incorporated by Reference'' (FRL No. 9908–23—Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5348. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates'' (Notice 2014–27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5349. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Application of the Windsor Decision and Rev. Rul. 2013–17 to Qualified Retirement Plans'' (Notice 2014–19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5350. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; McConnellsburg, PA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0558)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5351. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Revisions to Headboat Reporting Requirements for Species Managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council'' (RIN0648–BD49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5352. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Big Skate in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XD120) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5353. A communication from the Deputy Chief of the Policy and Licensing Division, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Service Rules Governing Public Safety Narrowband Operations in the 769–775/779–805 MHz Bands'' (WT Docket No. 96–86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5354. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XD111) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5355. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation of a group as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the Secretary of State (OSS 2014–0491); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5356. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Central African Republic'' (RIN1400–AD56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5357. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Changes to Authorized Officials and the UK Defense Trade Treaty Exemption; Correction of Errors in Lebanon Policy and Violations; and Adoption of Recent Amendments as Final; Correction'' (RIN1400–AD49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5358. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–035); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5359. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to

law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–018); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5360. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–190); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5361. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–149); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5362. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–136); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5363. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of April 11, 2014, the following reports of committees were submitted on April 25, 2014:

By Mr. NELSON, from the Special Committee on Aging:

Special Report entitled ''Pushing the Envelope: Publishers Clearing House in the New Era of Direct Marketing'' (Rept. No. 113–153).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WYDEN, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

S. 2260. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–09154).

S. 2261. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make technical corrections, to remove provisions that are no longer applicable, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–09155).

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. TOOMEY:

S. 2257. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from the tax on early distributions for certain Bureau of Prisons correctional officers who retire before age 55, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, and Mr. MORAN)):

S. 2258. A bill to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2014, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2259. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow for data collection about military-connected students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2260. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2261. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make technical corrections, to remove provisions that are no longer applicable, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BENNET, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2262. A bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 2263. A bill to appropriately limit the authority to award bonuses to employees; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 2264. A bill to designate memorials to the service of members of the United States Armed Forces in World War I, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 357

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 357, a bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 375, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 466

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 466, a bill to assist low-income individuals in obtaining recommended dental care.

S. 539

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes and diabetes.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs.

S. 878

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 878, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 942

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 942, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 1239

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1239, a bill to expand the research and awareness activities of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect to scleroderma, and for other purposes.

S. 1510

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1510, a bill to provide for auditable financial statements for the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1562, a bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 1635

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1635, a bill to amend the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to extend the period during which supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits are temporarily increased.

S. 1697

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1697, a bill to support early learning.

S. 1756

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1756, a bill to amend section 403 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to improve and clarify certain disclosure requirements for restaurants, similar retail food establishments, and vending machines.

S. 1828

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 1828, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage.

S. 1839

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1839, a bill to make certain luggage and travel articles eligible for duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1862, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

S. 1956

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) 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. 2013

At the request of Mr. BURR, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, a bill 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.

S. 2022

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2022, a bill to establish scientific standards and protocols across forensic disciplines, and for other purposes.

S. 2075

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2075, a bill to prohibit a reduction in funding for the defense commissary system in fiscal year 2015 pending the report of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

S. 2118

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2118, a bill to protect the separation of powers in the Constitution of the United States by ensuring that the President takes care that the laws be faithfully executed, and for other purposes.

S. 2160

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2160, a bill to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to require background checks before foster care placements are ordered in tribal court proceedings, and for other purposes.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2223

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2223, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

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, May 7, 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. 1603, to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians, and for other purposes; S. 1818, to ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and for other purposes; S. 2040, to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and for other purposes; S. 2041, to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and for other purposes; and S. 2188, to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes. Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee (202) 224–2251.

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, May 14, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an oversight hearing to receive testimony on: ''Indian Education Series: Ensuring the Bureau of Indian Education has the Tools Necessary to Improve.'' Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

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, May 14, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an oversight hearing to receive testimony on: ''Wildfires and Forest Management: Prevention is Preservation.'' Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2262

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I understand that S. 2262, introduced earlier today by Senators Shaheen, Portman, and others is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2262) to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

Mr. BROWN. I ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read for a second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2014

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 29, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders to be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, 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 at 11 a.m. the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order; further, that following the votes, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; and, finally, that the majority control the time from 2:15 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. and the Republicans control the time from 3:30 p.m. until 4:45 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, there will be six rollcall votes starting at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:09 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 29, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate Friday, April 11, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SYLVIA MATHEWS BURWELL, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE KATHLEEN SEBELIUS.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Friday, April 11, 2014:

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RANYA F. ABDELSAYED AND ENDING WITH FIRENO F. ZORA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 9, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER DAVID FREDERICK AND ENDING WITH JULIO MALDONADO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES BENJAMIN GREEN AND ENDING WITH GEOFFREY W. WIGGIN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SCOTT THOMAS BRUNS AND ENDING WITH JANELLE WEYEK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERTA MAHONEY AND ENDING WITH ANN MARIE YASTISHOCK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JULIE ANN KOENEN AND ENDING WITH BRIAN KEITH WOODY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KATHLEEN M. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH SEAN YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KATE E. ADDISON AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM F. ZEMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GERALD MICHAEL FEIERSTEIN AND ENDING WITH DAVID MICHAEL SATTERFIELD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW D. LOWE AND ENDING WITH WILBUR G. ZEHR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KEVIN TIMOTHY COVERT AND ENDING WITH PAUL WULFSBERG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BEATA ANGELICA AND ENDING WITH BENJAMIN BEARDSLEY DILLE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARK L. DRIVER AND ENDING WITH KARL WILLIAM WURSTER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SCOTT S. SINDELAR AND ENDING WITH CHRISTINE M. SLOOP, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Monday, April 28, 2014:

THE JUDICIARY

MICHELLE T. FRIEDLAND, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

DAVID WEIL, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

KATHERINE M. O'REGAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH THEODOR LANG MAY DAY MEDICAL CONFERENCE

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford, Illinois, as it holds the 75th Theodor Lang May Day Medical Conference on May 1 and 2, 2014. One of the oldest medical conferences in the United States, May Day was started by Dr. Lang, a radiologist serving Saint Anthony Hospital. Dr. Lang's goal was to improve patient care by gathering physicians from the region for a day of education and fellowship under a large tent. The May Day conference has outgrown the tent on the front lawn, but OSF continues to strive to improve patient care by bringing fellowship and continuing medical education to health care providers.

Throughout the years, the May Day conference has attracted such renowned speakers as Dr. Christiaan Barnard, the surgeon from South Africa who performed the first human-to-human heart transplant, as well as Abigail Van Buren and Ralph Nader.

The physicians who have addressed the May Day conference through the years have come from some of the most prestigious institutions in the United States, including the University of Illinois Medical School, Washington University Medical School, Chicago Lying-In Hospital, University of Chicago, Penn State School of Medicine, Cleveland Clinic, Children's Memorial Hospital, Hines Veterans Administration Hospital, Northwestern Medical School, Baylor University Medical Center, Sloane-Kettering, and the National Institutes of Health.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our deepest thanks to OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center for continuing to provide valuable continuing education to clinicians and students.

CELEBRATING MR. JOHN KRAMER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, we rise today in memory of John Kramer, who passed away on February 26, 2014, after a battle with cancer. A longtime Sonoma State University political science professor and icon of the North Bay progressive community, Mr. Kramer was a champion of social justice and environmental causes and an outspoken advocate for the issues in which he passionately believed.

After a childhood in suburban Cincinnati, Kramer earned a bachelor's degree from Miami University and a master's degree in physics from the University of Illinois. In 1961, he volunteered with a program that was the precursor to the Peace Corps and helped build a community building in Guinea, West Africa. After receiving a Ph.D. in political science from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, John joined the faculty of Sonoma State in 1970, lecturing hundreds of students during a distinguished career spanning more than 40 years. In 1987, he was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study public broadcasting policy in Europe.

Together with his wife, Nancy Dobbs, Kramer co-founded local public television station KRCB and was an active board member of Sonoma County Conservation Action, the political arm of the local environmental movement, in addition to his involvement in many other community organizations and pursuits.

Mr. Speaker, John Kramer leaves a legacy of political action, education, and community service that will not soon be forgotten. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to him today and express our deepest condolences to his wife Nancy Dobbs, and his children Annie Dobbs Kramer, Andrew Dobbs Kramer, and Ian Dobbs Dixon.

CONGRATULATING CHANDLER AND MARIA SMITH ON THE BIRTH OF THEIR CHILD

HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chandler and Maria Smith on the birth of their daughter, Rosslyn Marie Smith.

When my wife and I were married sixteen years ago, Chandler was our ring bearer. His family is very special, and I have been close to his parents for years.

Chandler graduated Basic Training on December 13, 2013 as a Private First Class, and graduated from the Infantry Training Battalion on April 1, 2014. It's my privilege to honor him for becoming a father.

Rosslyn Marie Smith was born on December 28, 2013. She and her mother, Maria, are both healthy, and their family is currently stationed at the United States Marine Base in Camp Pendleton, California. I thank Chandler for his service and his commitment to our country. I wish him and Maria all the best as they watch their daughter grow.

I ask my colleagues to join me, Chandler, and Maria in celebrating Rosslyn Marie Smith's birth, and look forward for the many years of happiness for their family.

CURTIS WILSON TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Curtis Wilson, a dedicated educator and principal of Centauri High School in La Jara, Colorado. In recognition of his continued excellence, the Colorado Association of Secondary School Principals has selected Mr. Wilson as the 2014 Colorado Principal of the Year.

This highly competitive award is based on personal excellence, collaborative leadership, curriculum, instruction, assessment and personalization of learning for students. In every one of these criteria, Mr. Wilson far exceeds expectations. Students and teachers alike praise Mr. Wilson's ability to motivate students to never settle for less than their best. Centauri High School is located in the second most impoverished county in Colorado providing a number of challenges including tight budget restraints. Despite these challenges, under Mr. Wilson's leadership, the students of Centauri High School achieve strong academic results.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege to honor Mr. Wilson for his outstanding performance and leadership. Through his dedication to excellence, he continues to inspire his students. I congratulate Mr. Wilson on his selection for this prestigious award, and thank him for his continued service to his students.

HONORING THE WEST SUBURBAN WATER COMMISSION 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INCORPORATION

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th anniversary of the West Suburban Water Commission, which celebrated the milestone on April 23, 2014. The Water Commission was created to provide the residents of Justice and Willow Springs clean and safe water. Chairman Alan Nowaczyk, who also serves as the Mayor of Willow Springs, has provided great leadership to the Water Commission and continues to expand the excellent service it provides.

Founded in May of 1964, it was originally named the Justice-Willow Springs Water Commissions. The Water Commission became incorporated in Cook Country which created a utility with a mission to providing safe and clean water to the residents of Justice and Willow Springs. From that point on the newly formed Water Commission began planning major projects to enhance and expand service throughout community.

One of the Commission's first major accomplishments came in 1975 when the Water Commission finished installing a new water main to expand service to North Willow Springs. Just over a decade later in 1986 the Water Commission faced its first major crisis when the Des Plaines River flooded. The flood displaced thousands and caused an estimated $35 million in damage to the surrounding community. The Water Commission responded by working around the clock to pump water from the streets and get life back to normal in the western suburbs.

Since the flood, the Water Commission has committed itself to upgrading and improving the infrastructure of the rapidly growing area. For example, The Commission added a new computerized monitoring system increased the efficiency of the newly renamed Water Commission. This year the Water Commission was renamed the West Suburban water Commission to signify the expanding scope of the commission and usher in the next chapter of its history.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the great service that the West Suburban Water Commission has provided to the citizens of Justice and Willow Springs. May their selfless dedication to their community serve as example to us all.

39TH ANNUAL LABOR AND COMMUNITY AWARDS RECEPTION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate several of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens. The Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor, American Federation of Labor–Congress of Industrial Organizations, recognized several individuals for their dedication and service during the 39th Annual Labor and Community Awards Reception, which was held at Wicker Park in Highland, Indiana, on Thursday, April 24, 2014. These individuals, in addition to all Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are the epitome of the ideal American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

At this year's event, several individuals and organizations received special recognition. The Joseph A. Beirne Community Service Award is presented each year to local and national labor leaders for their volunteer service to United Way. This year, Jim Stemmler, retired Business Manager for Ironworkers Local 395, was the recipient of this prestigious honor for his outstanding dedication and noteworthy service to the United Way movement.

Dave Fagan, Financial Secretary, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150, is this year's recipient of the President's Award. Mr. Fagan was honored for enhancing the well-being of workers throughout Northwest Indiana through countless contributions to further the philosophy of the Labor Movement.

The Union Label Award was presented to Lake County Sheriff John Buncich for his unselfish devotion to the Labor Movement through its promotion in all areas of endeavor: social, civic, educational, and political.

Larry Regan, Vice President, Teamsters Local 142, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his many years of Labor activism and his commitment to his community. For the exceptional service he has provided to the people of Northwest Indiana, he is worthy of our admiration and respect.

Dr. Debra Dudek, Director of Title and Special Student Services for the Portage School District, was honored with the Community Services Award for her exemplary service to her community and to the enhancement of the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana.

The Industrial Sector Award was presented to Dave McCall, Director, District 1, United Steelworkers, for his leadership and support of working families throughout Northwest Indiana.

David Tharp, Midwest District Vice President, Carpenters Local 1005, was the recipient of the Building Trades Sector Award, which was bestowed upon him for his many years of service to the Labor Movement and his outstanding dedication to his fellow union members.

Tim Murray, of the Ceramic Tile, Terrazzo and Granite Cutters Union Local 21, and Michael Larson, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 697, received the George Meany Award for their significant contributions to the youth of their communities through their involvement with the Boy Scouts of America.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These honorees are all outstanding examples of these qualities. They have demonstrated their loyalty to their unions and the Northwest Indiana community through their hard work and tireless service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and exemplary citizens, as well as all of the hardworking union men and women throughout America. They have shown commitment and courage toward their pursuits, and I am proud to represent them in Washington, DC.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF G. RICARDO SALAS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of former Guam Senator G. Ricardo Salas, a dedicated public servant and successful businessman on Guam. Senator Salas passed away on April 4, 2014, at the age of 90.

Affectionately known as Rick, G. Ricardo Salas was born in Guam's capital city of Hagåtña on November 14, 1923, to Jose and Coltilde Santos Salas. When he was just eight years old, Rick began helping with his family's business; he would assist his father and brother in their architecture and land-surveying professions and walk through the streets of Hagåtña selling baked goods.

As a young man on Guam after World War II, Rick decided to move to the U.S. mainland to pursue higher education. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business from Doane College in Crete, Nebraska, in 1949.

Mr. Salas married Rosa Teresita Perez on November 26, 1951. Together they had eight children: Richard Conrad, Sr.; Melissa; Ronald John; Kathleen Angelica; Lucina Elaine; Teresita Marie; Vicente Ramon and Solange Mirim. They also raised their first grandchild, Richard ''Ricky Boy'' Conrad, Jr., and were blessed with 19 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Rick began his career of public service with the Government of Guam, working at the Department of Land Management and later at the Department of Revenue and Taxation. He was an active member of the Republican Party of Guam, and in 1972, he represented Guam as a delegate to the Republican National Convention. In 19XX, he was elected a Senator to the 12th Guam Legislature. He went on to serve an additional term in the 13th Guam Legislature before returning to the private sector.

As a businessman, Senator Salas played an integral role in diversifying business on Guam. He used his background in real-estate to successfully attract international clientele from Asia to invest in Guam. He also managed his family businesses, the Salas Agency Corporation, Salas Services, and Salas Equipment Co. until his retirement in 2005. However, despite retiring many continued to rely on his advice and expertise of real estate on Guam.

Senator Salas will always be remembered for his years of public service and many contributions to the people of Guam. I am deeply saddened by his passing, and I join the people of Guam in mourning a great businessman and statesman. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. His legacy will live on in the memories of the people of Guam.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ART OF MAGIC

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of one of my constituents, Dal Sanders, National President of The Society of American Magicians, to recognize magic as an art.

The art of magic has been around for centuries and is intended to entertain audiences with the staging of tricks and creating seemingly impossible illusions. Throughout its history, magic has grown to show innovative and creative ways to delight and engage audiences worldwide. It takes a great deal of dedication and a strong work ethic to devote the practice time necessary to master this art.

I would specifically like to take this opportunity to recognize the world's oldest magic organization, The Society of American Magicians, SAM. Since its founding in 1902, The SAM has attempted to elevate and advance the art of magic by promoting an environment for magicians worldwide to come together and share their passion. The SAM members follow in the footsteps of renowned magicians Harry Houdini and Howard Thurston, who each served as national president of The SAM, and Harry Blackstone, Jr., and David Copperfield, who both have served as The SAM ambassadors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in recognizing the art of magic.

TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT AFFIRMATION AND NAVAL VESSEL TRANSFER ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 35th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) which has governed our relationship with Taiwan since its enactment.

The TRA was signed into law April 10, 1979, by President Carter in order to maintain economic, cultural, and security ties with Taiwan in the absence of an official diplomatic relationship. The TRA has been vital in strengthening this mutually-beneficial partnership over the last 35 years. The U.S. enjoys no closer friend than Taiwan. Our friendship is built on a firm foundation of shared values—democracy and freedom, free and fair elections, a free press, and a free economy.

Taiwan has created a vibrant economy and is a significant trading partner to the United States. It is also a major innovator and producer of IT products—many of which are assembled in China. Taiwan already plays a critical role in the global supply chain and has proven they would be an asset to the Trans-Pacific Partnership if included.

Taiwan has used thoughtful dialogue and trade to help ease cross strait tensions, ensuring peace in the Western Pacific and resulting in greater security for the United States. I invite my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 35th anniversary of the TRA and in expressing our commitment to our relationship with Taiwan.

HONORING RABBI JOHN ROSOVE

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Speaker, I would like to recognize my dear friend Rabbi John Rosove as he celebrates his 25th anniversary with Temple Israel of Hollywood (TIOH).

I have had the incredible privilege of knowing Rabbi Rosove throughout his tenure at TIOH and truly look to him as a leader in the Los Angeles faith-based community. Rabbi Rosove's work has extended well beyond the walls of TIOH. He has made a tremendous impact on the City of Los Angeles as a whole with his successful efforts to promote social action and improve education. Our entire community owes him a debt of gratitude for his tireless work.

Under Rabbi Rosove's leadership, TIOH has blossomed and become well-respected for its strong programs and great efforts to improve the lives of Angelenos. TIOH's Big Sunday Weekend of Service is one example of the exemplary programs Rabbi Rosove has spearheaded. It has grown to become one of the largest volunteer service days in California.

Additionally, Rabbi Rosove is responsible for the TIOH Green Team, a group of community members and schools committed to promoting a number of initiatives, including the use of reusable containers and bags, consumption of organically or locally grown food, and reduction of energy utilization.

Rabbi Rosove's vision has also given TIOH's work international recognition. He was the 2002 recipient of the World Union for Progressive Judaism International Humanitarian Award and has received special commendation from the State of Israel Bonds. In addition, he formed twin synagogue relationships with TIOH and Kehillat Mevasseret Zion, Israel, and with Congregation Darchei Noam in Ramat Hasharon, Israel, as well as with the Progressive Synagogues in Kiev and Kharkov, Ukraine.

I would like to congratulate Rabbi Rosove on 25 remarkable years with TIOH. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating his inspiring career and in wishing him all the best for the future.

HONORING PASTOR WALSTONE FRANCIS OF SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH ON HIS 22ND ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Pastor Walstone Francis of Shiloh Baptist Church in Waukegan, on his 22nd Pastoral Anniversary. Pastor Francis has been a dedicated community servant, a passionate religious leader, and an important and prominent figure in the suburban Chicago district that I represent.

Since 1992, Pastor Francis has offered his vision, his guidance and his spiritual insight to Waukegan and established himself as an invaluable leader in and out of the religious community.

A moving preacher, dedicated scholar, gifted writer and clear communicator, Pastor Francis is an exemplary ambassador for the Shiloh community. His tremendous impact in the community is also a testament to the great immigrant tradition of this country, having obtained citizenship two years after being called to pastor Shiloh.

In his distinguished 22 years, he has crowned seven deacons, licensed ten ministers and ordained six preachers—ensuring that his passion for, and commitment to scripture and positive vision continue through the work and preaching of others.

Leaders like Pastor Walstone Francis ensure our communities remain vibrant, strong and focused, in common purpose, on giving back and helping our neighbors.

Congratulations again to Pastor Francis on 22 years with Shiloh Baptist Church. I look forward to many more years and many more celebrations in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JANE CHU OF THE KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Jane Chu, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, located in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, which I am proud to represent. The promotion of creativity through artistic endeavor that leads to innovation and exposure to the arts has been Jane Chu's personal and professional persona. In Kansas City, this self-proclaimed workaholic has earned the reputation for stimulating change through a multitude of artistic disciplines, philanthropy and professional management skills. She helped to reinvigorate our historic Union Station as the Vice President of External Relations. Additionally, she served as Vice President of Community Investment for the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and as Trustee for William Jewell College.

Her professional imprint and legacy on Kansas City can best be found through her work since 2006 as President and CEO of the prestigious Kauffman Center. The $413 million center was designed by renowned architect Moshe Safdie. The magnificent structure houses two state of the art theaters, the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Theatre and Helzberg Hall. Since its grand opening in September 2011, more than 1 million people have attended events at the Kauffman Center. The center has elevated Kansas City's stature due in large part to Dr. Chu's ability to work internationally, nationally and locally to bring programing and funding to our community.

With programing for every genre of music, opera, theater and dance, the Kauffman Center is truly a place for artistic discovery. Audiences soon become absorbed in performances that can impact the spirit, elevate the imagination, entertain and stimulate thought. She has engaged the community and stressed the educational rewards that stem from exposure to art. And it is all happening in the heartland, in Kansas City.

Dr. Chu was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma, but was raised in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, the daughter of Chinese immigrants. Learning both English and Mandarin at home, she used music as an outlet and means to cultural assimilation. No doubt reflective of growing up in academia, her father, Dr. Finley Chu, Chairman of Ouachita Baptist University Economics and Business Departments, encouraged her to always keep learning. Her mother, Rosemary "Mom" Chu, demonstrated amazing strength through her own perilous journey as a teenager to escape communist China. Serving as an inspiration, Rosemary has the honor of having the Mom Chu House in Gosser Hall at Ouachita bear her name.

In 1979, Dr. Chu received a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and a Bachelor in Music Education from Ouachita Baptist University. She would augment her education with Masters Degrees in Music and Piano Pedagogy from Southern Methodist University, a MBA from Rockhurst University and a Ph.D. in Philanthropic Studies from Indiana University. In addition, she can proudly boast of an Honorary Doctorate in Music from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation to Dr. Jane Chu for her continued contributions to our country's artistic culture. As she continues her work to bring communities together through music and art, she inspires the next generation of artists. Dr. Chu has enriched the lives of many in Kansas City and around our

country, making her truly deserving of our recognition and gratitude.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Friday April 4, 2014 I was not present for 6 votes. I wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 159, I would have voted ''aye.'' Had I been present for rollcall No. 160, I would have voted ''aye.'' Had I been present for rollcall No. 161, I would have voted ''aye.'' Had I been present for rollcall No. 162, I would have voted ''aye.'' Had I been present for rollcall No. 163, I would have voted ''aye.'' Had I been present for rollcall No. 164, I would have voted ''no.''

COLORADO MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Colorado Model Railroad Museum at the Greeley Freight Station.

Throughout our history, Colorado has been known for its numerous scenic railroads. Now this great state is also known around the world for housing America's finest railroad of another type—a model railroad. Just as the great railroads of America started with the dream of one man, so did the Greeley Freight Station Museum.

This story begins with a man named David Trussell, who grew up around the railroads and began modeling them early in his life. After serving in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, Mr. Trussell bought his first newspaper business and began his journey towards his greatest achievement. Mr. Trussell moved to Greeley, Colorado, to publish the Greeley Tribune, which he owned from 1990–1997. The Trussells fell in love with Colorado and Mr. Trussell decided to build his dream in this great state. He wanted to see if he could construct the ''ultimate'' model railroad. He purchased land directly between the Union Pacific mainline from Denver to Cheyenne and the Great Western Railroad's Greeley branch line. The plan was to build a new facility to house a 5,500 square-foot model railroad. A dedication for the building was held on February 11th, 2004. After more than five and a half years of construction, the Greeley Freight Station Museum opened its doors to the public on Memorial Day weekend of 2009. 1,800 visitors enjoyed the grand opening.

Since its inception 10 years ago, the museum has become one of the largest year-round attractions in Northern Colorado. During its first 4 years of operation, the museum saw more than 60,000 visitors, and most of that time, the museum was only open one day per week. With visitors from all 50 states in the first year and from over 45 different foreign countries since opening, the museum has become an international attraction, and is now open daily during the summer months of high tourism.

The museum has been showcased on the cover of three international model railroading magazines and has been the feature of the PBS show, ''Tracks Ahead''. The economic impact for Greeley and Weld County from the influx of visitors has been substantial and with the increase in motor coach tours to the museum, it will only continue to grow. This family-friendly museum has been ''bursting at the seams,'' so to speak, and now has outgrown its name too. Due to the increase in out-of-state and out-of-country visitors, the Greeley Freight Station Museum celebrated the tenth anniversary of its dedication on February 11, 2014, with a new name. The museum will now be the Colorado Model Railroad Museum at the Greeley Freight Station. Please join me in congratulating the Colorado Model Railroad Museum on its success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF JOHN H. PRICE ON THE OCCASION OF OBTAINING STATE RECOGNITION AS FIRE OFFICER AND CERTIFIED FIRE INVESTIGATOR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Fire Chief John H. Price for receiving the professional designations of Certified Fire Investigator and Fire Officer. Deputy Chief Price has been a fire fighter for the Easton Fire Department for 31 and a half years. After five years of study and hard work, Deputy Chief Price received the Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) certification. Through education, training, and years of experience, he met the requirements needed to pass the comprehensive exam and successfully obtain certification. Deputy Chief Price joins the 58 other Certified Fire Investigators in Pennsylvania. Additionally, Deputy Chief Price was awarded the designation of Fire Officer (FO) by the Commission on Professional Credentialing. There are only three Fire Officers in Pennsylvania, and Deputy Chief Price is the first officer from the Lehigh Valley to obtain that distinction.

I offer my congratulations to Deputy Chief Price for obtaining the Certified Fire Investigator and Fire Officer certifications, and I applaud him for his continuing dedication to the City of Easton Fire Department and his outstanding efforts to develop as a professional in order to keep the Easton community safe. I ask my fellow Members to join me in recognizing Deputy Chief John Price for his outstanding service and achievements.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOODBANK OF MONMOUTH AND OCEAN COUNTIES

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties as it celebrates its 30th anniversary. Since 1984, the Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties has been providing resources to try to combat food insecurity in Monmouth and Ocean Counties and their efforts are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Since its opening, the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties (the FoodBank) has grown immensely in size and mission. Started in a warehouse in Spring Lake with the help of volunteers and donated supplies, the FoodBank quickly began receiving food from hundreds of donors to assist residents of the Jersey Shore. Within 10 years, the FoodBank went from serving 25 charities with 100,000 pounds of food in 1985 to distributing almost 2 million pounds of food. In 2001, the FoodBank opened an expanded 40,000 square foot facility in Neptune to accommodate the growing demand and today serves 260 agencies with over 8.5 million pounds of food annually.

Although its largest program is emergency food distribution, the FoodBank also began programs and resources to further assist local residents and increase efforts to create food-secure communities. The FoodBank offers residents a culinary training program, nutrition education, free tax preparation, SNAP application assistance and assistance with the Affordable Care Act through trained and certified Health Care Marketplace navigators.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties as it celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. The organization continues to provide outstanding service to the residents of Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF THE TRAGIC SHOOTING AT FORT HOOD

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sorrow for the family members of those that were lost in the terrible tragedy that occurred on April 2, 2014, at Fort Hood, in my home State of Texas.

Three soldiers were killed, with an additional sixteen injured, before the gunman turned the gun on himself. Our brave American soldiers are all too aware of the dangers and turmoil of war. When they return from war, we can only hope that they would return to the peace and security that they have sacrificed so much to create and protect.

Mr. Speaker, I want to honor the fallen soldiers: Sergeant First Class Daniel M. Ferguson, age 39, of Mulberry, Florida; Sergeant Timothy W. Owens, age 37, of Effingham, Illinois; and Staff Sergeant Carlos A. Lazaney-

Rodriguez, age 38, of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. These three brave soldiers were laid to rest entirely too soon. These three soldiers will be remembered for their achievements and their dedication to our country.

Americans are becoming all too familiar with tragedy of this magnitude, but it does not change the immense heartache and pain that comes with the loss of some of our nation's finest. A horrible tragedy such as this highlights the importance of serving our soldiers both while at war and during the difficult transition back into normal life. Worse is that it comes in the wake of another terrible incident at Fort Hood that occurred just five years prior. We must be able to wholly understand the challenges that our soldiers face in a time of such stringent and demanding operational tempos.

I extend my thoughts and prayers to the families of those that were lost on April 2, and offer my deepest condolences and hopes for the sixteen others that were injured in the shooting.

The men and women of Fort Hood are true American heroes. They deserve our greatest honors for the sacrifices they make every single day, within and beyond our borders. It must be our duty to always remember those that we have lost and we must be forever dedicated to preventing tragedies like these from ever happening again.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in honor of the three fallen soldiers, Sergeant First Class Ferguson, Sergeant Owens, and Staff Sergeant Lazaney-Rodriguez.

RECOGNIZING DENNIS CARDOZA FOR HIS SERVICE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and former colleague, Dennis Cardoza. Dennis served as the U.S. Congressman for the 18th Congressional District of California. He has truly led a life dedicated to public service, and his efforts deserve to be commended.

Dennis grew up in Atwater, California where he attended Atwater High School followed by California State University, Stanislaus. He later transferred to the University of Maryland College Park where he earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1982. He was the first member of his family to graduate college. Dennis' first taste of public service came in 1979 when he spent a summer in college interning on Capitol Hill.

After graduation, Dennis returned to the San Joaquin Valley where he ran a successful small business and served as a city councilman for Merced and Atwater. In 1996, he was elected to the California State Assembly where he served as Chairman of the Rules Committee and cofounder of the Moderate Democratic Caucus.

In 2002, Dennis was elected to his first term in Congress. He had many legislative accomplishments that truly made a difference in his district. Dennis was an unwavering advocate for issues impacting Valley residents such as water, agriculture, unemployment, and poverty. Dennis lobbied to bring Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar and Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack to the Central Valley. Their visit influenced the decision by the Department of Agriculture to declare Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin counties as natural disaster areas. Also, Dennis was an active member of the Blue Dog Coalition. He proudly cosponsored H.R. 2166 the ''Fiscal Honesty and Accountability Act of 2009'' to extend Pay-As-You-Go spending through 2014 in order to strengthen Congress' commitment to fiscal responsibility and accountability. In 2007 Dennis joined the House Rules Committee where he assisted the victims of the Valley's home foreclosure crisis by securing language in H.R. 1728, the ''Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act'', that established a federal database to track foreclosures across the country. In the 110th and 111th Congresses, Dennis served as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture, which had a prominent role in the formation of the 2007 Farm Bill.

Dennis believes that one of our greatest responsibilities as a society is to leave our nation a better place for our children and grandchildren. Dennis worked diligently to ensure that the University of California's 10th campus would be in Merced, California. In addition, one of Dennis' proudest legislative accomplishments was the language he introduced in the ''Fostering Connections to Success and increasing Adoptions Act'', which ensures that children in the foster care system receive necessary medical attention until the age of 21. Dennis has been an advocate on behalf of children and adoption not just as a legislator but also as a parent, raising two adopted children in addition to his one biological daughter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the leadership and public service of Dennis Cardoza. His contributions to the Central Valley, the State of California, and the future generations of this nation ennobled this body of Congress with his presence.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today outraged and baffled that we are in the 21st century and still have to have an Equal Pay Day. Equal Pay Day symbolizes when, more than three months into the year, women's wages finally catch up to what men were paid in the previous year.

Why this is still being debated when the Equal Pay Act was passed 51 years ago is crazy.

How can we as a nation begin to justify unequal pay simply because you are a man and I am a woman? Why does my gender diminish my value to the workforce?

I, and all women, am not asking for any more than what we deserve for being productive, valuable employees.

Today, in 2014, women earn 77 cents for every dollar that a man earns. This is outrageous. It gets even worse for women of color. Black women only earn 64 percent and Hispanic women, even less, just 53 percent of what white men earn. I am appalled by this, and so are the American people. Not only does my gender decrease my pay, but my race does as well.

According to the American Association of University Women, African-American and Hispanic women are paid less than their white peers even when they have the same educational background.

There are a record number of women in the workplace and two-thirds of women are the primary or co-bread winner in their families. Consider the position that the American family, our economy and our nation would be in if we all agreed that women should have equal pay for equal work. Our President said it best, ''When women succeed, America succeeds.''

Women are losing money every year and every hour due to the pay gap. It is time to close the loopholes in the Equal Pay Act.

I urge Speaker BOEHNER to bring H.R. 377 the Paycheck Fairness Act to the floor.

HONORING CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH ISD, GRAPEVINE-COLLEYVILLE ISD, AND HURST-EULESS-BEDFORD ISD FOR THE DISTINCTION OF ''BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION''

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of three school districts in the 24th District of Texas, Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, Grapevine-Colleyville ISD, and Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD, that have recently been designated to receive the prestigious honor of ''Best Communities for Music Education'' by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation.

The ''Best Communities for Music Education'' is a program that celebrates communities in America who support access to music education as part of their core curriculum. Each school district involved filled out a survey that answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and community music-making programs. This year, with over 2,000 school districts nominated, 376 were awarded this designation, of which I am incredibly honored to have three of those in the 24th District of Texas. This award recognizes the commitment of these school administrations, community leaders, teachers, and parents who believe in music education and are working to ensure that it is part of a complete education for children.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring this recognition from the NAAM Foundation for the Carrollton-Farmers Branch, Grapevine-Colleyville, and Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School Districts.

TRIBUTE TO CLAUDINA McCAMMACK

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute a remarkable Hoosier, Mrs. Claudina McCammack, who passed away on April 18, 2014. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for her friendship and service to our community, state, and country.

Claudina was a dedicated Republican Precinct Committeewoman, county voter registration officer, and secretary to the Delaware County Commissioners and U.S. Congressman David Dennis. Claudina also served on the March of Dimes Board, the Muncie Housing Authority Board, and in many other community organizations.

Claudina was one of the first elected convention delegates in Delaware County to fully support my candidacy for Indiana Secretary of State. Throughout my service, I received no less than a dozen handwritten letters of encouragement, congratulations and recognition from her. I frequently sought her wisdom, both personally and professionally. More than anything, she always helped me keep things in perspective. She was a constant reminder to me and others in public service, like Governor Mike Pence, that we should draw on our faith in God. In fact, such reliance was the only way we could truly serve the people of Indiana.

Known in Delaware County simply as ''Claudina'', she was a frequent stop when I traveled to Muncie. My family always enjoyed our visits with her, as recently as last December. I often ate, prayed, laughed and cried in her home—all in one visit. In casual conversation at her home, Claudina would confide that she paid for her neighbor's roof, even though she was a woman of modest means. She would tell me how she assisted the elderly in the community, even though she was 92 herself. Claudina personified selflessness and humility.

Mr. Speaker, you know I speak often here of American Exceptionalism. I describe it in terms of our unique history and how we are blessed to have as a primary source of that Exceptionalism our founding documents: The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, as amended by the Bill of Rights. What I don't do enough is provide examples of people who embody American Exceptionalism. Claudina, like many of her generation, was a product and a shining example of what Americans ought to be. I hope we never forget Claudina's unwavering commitment to our national heritage and responsibility to future generations. She would expect nothing less from her community, her friends, and her country. If, for no other reason, I can hear her say: 'God demands it of us.'

Claudina leaves her three children, seven grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren behind to remember her love and kindness. She also leaves her extended Republican family to celebrate her life and legacy. She will be remembered and honored by those who knew and loved her as a woman of faith, conviction and compassion. Rest in peace Claudina, and thank you for having such a meaningful impact on my life.

HONORING THE BRUDERHOF COMMUNITIES IN NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, WEST VIRGINIA, AND FLORIDA

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bruderhof communities in New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Florida. This year marks the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of Woodcrest, the first Bruderhof community in the United States.

Founded in 1920 in Germany, the Bruderhof is a Christian church community known for its exemplary contributions in education, care for the needy, excellence in business, and interfaith cooperation. Expelled from Germany by the Nazi regime in 1937, Bruderhof members initially found refuge in England and South America before settling in 1954 in Rifton, New York.

In celebration of this anniversary, it's my honor to quote from Foundations of Our Faith and Calling, the Bruderhof community's constitution:

Our life together is founded on Jesus, the Christ and son of God. We desire to love him, to follow him, to obey his commandments, and to testify in word and deed to the coming of his kingdom here on earth.

Our faith is grounded in the Bible, the authoritative witness to the living Word of God. Through the Holy Spirit, we seek to be guided in all things by the New and Old Testaments.

We hold to the teaching and example of the early Christians and affirm the apostolic rule of faith in the triune God as stated in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.

We stem from the Anabaptist tradition, but feel akin to all who are pledged to full discipleship of Jesus. We recognize his power to work in all people, regardless of their creed or walk of life.

Our calling is to Jesus, who calls all people to himself. Jesus sums up the nature of his kingdom in two great commandments: ''Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength,'' and ''Love your neighbor as yourself.''

Jesus asks us to live as citizens of his coming kingdom. We must prove our love to him in deeds, putting into practice his words in the Gospels, especially the Sermon on the Mount. His commands are practical: to forgive unconditionally; to renounce all violence; to stay faithful in lifelong marriage; to live free from wealth; to serve as the least and lowest; and to give up all power over others.

To live for the kingdom of God leads to church community. God wants to gather a people on earth who belong to his new creation. Such a people came into being in Jerusalem at the first Pentecost. As described in Acts 2 and 4, the Holy Spirit descended on the believers who had gathered after Jesus' resurrection, and the first communal church was born.

We are a fellowship of brothers and sisters, both single and married, who are called by Christ to follow him together in a common life in the spirit of the first church in Jerusalem. Our vocation is a life of service to God and humankind, freely giving our whole working strength and all that we have and are.

If asked whether we are the one true church, we reply, ''No''—we are merely objects of God's mercy like everybody else. But if asked whether we experience the church as a reality in our daily lives, then we must affirm that we do, through the grace of God.

We give all honor to God, knowing that our life together is nothing unless it is filled with his love and continually renewed by his mercy.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Day of Prayer.

Since 1952, the first Thursday of May in this great Nation has been dedicated to prayer. As in years passed, on May 1, 2014, millions of people of all faiths across the United States will gather together and humbly bow their heads asking God to bless our country. With great pride I can say that many of my friends and neighbors across Florida's 11th Congressional District will be joining me in participating in this annual observance of prayer for our Nation.

This day of prayer is reflective of the faith our Founding Fathers had that the United States of America would one day be a great nation. These men with deep religious and spiritual convictions built our country from the ground up and our continued faith and prayer will keep it moving forward.

Therefore, I, RICHARD B. NUGENT, Member of Congress representing the Eleventh District of Florida, do hereby recognize the district's observance of the 63rd National Day of Prayer.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 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 $17,437,874,260,412.18. We've added $6,810,997,211,499.10 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $6.8 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF INDEPENDENCE MAYOR DON REIMAL FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Don Reimal, Mayor of Independence, Missouri. Mayor Reimal will be retiring from office leaving a rich legacy of quiet determination that slowly and methodically lifted his

city from stagnation to restoration. He has the ability to solicit assistance from his constituents while working in tandem with his fellow mayors, county executive, state and federal officials, bringing an era of cooperation to Eastern Jackson County. His style of leadership is embedded in civility, compassion and understanding, rare characteristics in today's political climate. His departure will leave his city in a far better place after his twenty years of public service, twelve years on the City Council and eight years as Mayor.

As Mayor Reimal fondly gave his final state of the City address at the Independence Chamber luncheon, he shared how he witnessed the evolution of his city with personal memories as he and his city grew, evolved and matured. In 1948, during Don's formative years, he grew up in an Independence that encompassed only 3.3 square miles; but by 1975, he had witnessed the city's expansion to 78 square miles. During those years, Don met and fell in love with his wife, Jo, and together they committed themselves to each other, their family and their city. Don, more serious in nature, and Jo, with her outgoing bubbly personality, would serve as the first family of Independence with a deep appreciation for the city's rich heritage and a profound sense of responsibility.

As Independence evolved, there came a slow shift to the city's center of commerce and activity causing the older historic parts of the city to fall into slow decay. Since 1994, in his capacity as Councilman and later as Mayor, he helped to lead the effort to revitalize the area that President Harry S. Truman called home. Under his influence, the Independence Historic Square has had a rebirth due to the restoration of old historic buildings into new and vital centers for its citizens due in great part to Don Reimal working in cooperation with his constituents.

Today, as you visit the old square, you will find the Chicago Alton Depot that opened in 1870 saved, in great part, due to Don and Jo's efforts. The Truman Memorial Building stands tall, restored while Don was City Councilman. Don had worked with State Representative Franklin to obtain funds for the then-named Soldier and Sailor Memorial Building, built after World War I, with the support of local veteran, Harry S. Truman. The building was renamed the Truman Memorial Building, where today's soldiers have been welcomed home and an area in the building has been designated the Veterans Hall, designed for the Veterans' Video Project with recordings housed in conjunction with the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project.

In addition, the Palmer Junior High was converted into the highly recognized Palmer Center for those over 50. These renovations, along with the Roger T. Sermon Community Center, were the cornerstone to the beginning of the Independence Square revitalization. The final piece was added when the Jackson County Historic Truman Courthouse was renovated and rededicated on September 7, 2013, eighty years after Harry S. Truman dedicated the same building. Don had worked for years to find a way to save this wonderful building where Judge Harry S. Truman served Jackson County.

Don's personal touch has had lasting impacts, as he respectfully listened to his constituents, providing support and encouragement to projects that would serve as stepping stones for further neighborhood stabilization. He was rarely deterred, but would just try another way to accomplish his goals for the city. In 2007, the voters approved a school district change that would expand the Independence school boundary on the western side of the city and annex seven schools. Don and the city knew that they could provide a better opportunity for the students and bring families back to that part of the city. The Mayor worked with a prominent group of local citizens to upgrade an area known as the Norledge Place Redevelopment site, also in the newly expanded school area. HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan visited the site in 2011, praising the work of the community and city for using NSP funds and working with private and local funds to transform a depressed area into a site of remodeled and rebuilt homes. With much needed improvements for transportation, a new transit center was built and the IndeBus lines were developed to provide better access for the citizens of Independence.

During his time in office, Mayor Reimal helped to shepherd the continued economic growth along the I–70 corridor and the Little Blue Parkway. With the closing of older outdated hospitals, Center Point Hospital opened in 2007, and in 2012, Children's Mercy East opened in the expanding eastern part of the city. Don has never been deterred from criticism if he believed in what he was doing. He supported new shopping areas, the Greater Independence Business Incubator, fought to have the new Genealogy Library built in Independence, and an Independence Event Center that is the home of the Mavericks hockey team and the Comets soccer team. Mayor Reimal has brought excitement to Independence as both teams are of championship caliber.

His accomplishments are far too many to list, but we can all learn from Don's amazing ability to work with people of all political persuasions and interests. He is deeply admired, well respected and will be sorely missed because he truly cares for his city and the constituents that he was elected to serve. I will remember him as a quiet man whose heart and mind is always in the right place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in saluting the Mayor of Independence, Don Reimal, for a lifetime of dedicated service, and wishing him and his Jo a wonderful retirement.

HONORING THE NORTH AMERICAN PROFESSIONALS AND ENTREPRENEURS COUNCIL FOR ITS 2014 INNOVATION CONFERENCE AND ITS COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING A STRONG AND INNOVATIVE AMERICAN ECONOMY

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the North American Professionals and Entrepreneurs Council (NAPEC) on the occasion of its 2014 Innovation Conference. Drawing many of its volunteers and organizers from the suburban Chicago district that I represent, NAPEC demonstrates a commitment to fostering innovation and supporting the entrepreneurs and startups that will increasingly define our success in the 21st century.

Lacking the necessary support, too many of our brightest entrepreneurs' ideas and innovations never get off the ground. Dedicated organizations like NAPEC and the volunteers who make them great—many of whom come from the Tenth District—are helping these young innovators go from startup to step out to success.

Organizations like NAPEC play a key role in building and maintaining the infrastructure and networks our innovation economy needs. I am grateful for the tremendous work of NAPEC, and I look forward to many more years of supporting innovation and ensuring our economic success.

From a successful 2014 Innovation Conference to all of its work throughout the year, NAPEC is hard at work trying to kickstart our economy and accelerate our startups.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday April 2, 2014 I was not present for 3 votes. I wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 152, I would have voted "nay;" had I been present for rollcall No. 153, I would have voted "nay;" had I been present for rollcall No. 154, I would have voted "nay."

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 52 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Saturday in Washington, DC through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful State and country, we welcome these heroes to the Nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: Don W. Bohnert, U.S. Army Air Force; Wallace F Burton, U.S. Army Air Force; Walter D. Haines, U.S. Army Air Force; Glenn V. Koch, U.S. Army Air Force; Ernest A Meyer, U.S. Army Air Force; Orvin J Sletten, U.S. Army Air Force; Robert H. Walton, U.S. Army Air Force; Thomas L. Warren, U.S. Army Air Force; Miles R. Barfield, U.S. Army; Chelsey T. Barton, U.S. Army; John C. Bates, U.S. Army; Donald L. Freeman, U.S. Army; Theodore P. Geck, U.S. Army; James C. Hickey, U.S. Army; Cordino Longiotti, U.S. Army; Richard M. Macdougall, U.S. Army; Benjamin D. Morrison, U.S. Army; David Ha. Packard, U.S. Army; Albert V. Panacy, U.S. Army; James B. Ragsdale, U.S. Army; Robert J. Resner, U.S. Army; Gordon P. Rutter, U.S. Army; Raymond O. Sims, U.S. Army; Arthur N. Sorenson, U.S. Army; Charles W. Weeks, U.S. Army; Howard L. Abbe, U.S. Navy; Fred A. Carneau, U.S. Navy; Gail D. Cox, U.S.

Navy; Herbert N. Ellis, U.S. Navy; Henry T. Fuqua, U.S. Navy; Marlin E. Hammond, U.S. Navy; Donald F. MacLean, U.S. Navy; Donald Cl. Moberg, U.S. Navy; Wayne D. Mosher, U.S. Navy; Francis G. Nelson, U.S. Navy; Harlan S. Nice, U.S. Navy; Omer L. Oyster, U.S. Navy; Frank S. Palmer, U.S. Navy; Robert E. Peterson, U.S. Navy; Charles W. Pio, U.S. Navy; John D. Randall, U.S. Navy; Robert E. Reindl, U.S. Navy; Matt S. Satalich, U.S. Navy; Eugene J. Schmidt, U.S. Navy; Roy Al. Schnurr, U.S. Navy; George R. Schwarz, U.S. Navy; John S. Sherbeck, U.S. Navy; Kenneth E. Thomas, U.S. Navy; Howard P. Thomas, U.S. Navy; William F. Tromblee, U.S. Navy; Robert J. VanDyke, U.S. Navy; Fred R. Young, U.S. Navy.

These 52 heroes join more than 98,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home states to Washington, DC to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these soldiers, sailors, and airmen who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize and thank Gail Yakopatz for her tireless work as president of Honor Flight of Oregon.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE WEST CONTRA COSTA YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the tremendous work of the West Contra Costa Youth Service Bureau as the agency celebrates 30 years of service to the children and families of my Congressional District. The Youth Services Bureau (YSB) began in 1984 as a grass roots community movement focused on addressing the systemic causes of violence plaguing our West County neighborhoods at that time.

Under the outstanding leadership of Ms. Taalia Hasan, the Bureau consolidated services independently offered by the West County Unified School District, the County Probation Department, municipal and county law enforcement agencies, and local community based organizations. By coordinating the efforts of these agencies, YSB developed an innovative ''wraparound'' response system that has, since that time, been widely acclaimed as the most effective way to address the needs of children and families in crisis.

Using the Best Practices Model, the Youth Services Bureau staff has, for 30 years, successfully supported children and their families in difficult situations by providing reliable case management, professional counseling, critical crisis intervention, and caregiver respite services. YSB has also developed innovative programs such as the Family Enhancement Collaborative—known as Kinship, the Early Periodic Screening and Diagnostic Testing Program (EPSDT)—and has collaborated with community initiatives such as Building Blocks for Kids to ensure children and families in West County grow and thrive. The Youth Services Bureau also works closely with local law enforcement agencies and the West Contra Costa Unified School District to enhance delinquency prevention efforts and promote academic achievement.

Throughout the past 30 years, the Youth Service Bureau has been a constant guiding light in the West County community. I ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing work well done by Taalia Hasan and her dedicated staff and wish them many more years of success as they support our children, families and community.

HONORING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN FLORIDA'S PALM BEACHES AND TREASURE COAST FOR THEIR COURAGEOUS DECISION TO JOIN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 20 high school seniors from the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches of Florida for their commendable decision to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces following their graduation this year. Of these 20 enlistees, 8 are Army enlistees, 4 are Navy enlistees, 4 are National Guard enlistees, 2 are Air Force enlistees, 1 is a Coast Guard enlistee, and 1 is a Marine Corps enlistee. These young men and women have displayed an unmatched sense of bravery and courage in their commitment to defend and protect our Nation. Thus, it is important they know that they have the full support of the U.S. House of Representatives, their communities, and the American people. It is the dedication of these individuals which reminds us who we are as a people, and that though diverse problems may lie ahead, the United States remains a shining example of freedom, strength, and perseverance on the world stage.

The service of these young men and women must not go unrecognized, and so I want to personally thank these twenty local graduating seniors for their selflessness and commitment to our Nation by naming them here today: Oneil Daley, Antonio Allen Jr., Juan Machua, Mario Esquilin, Henry Thomas, Dion Yu, David Colton, Corbett Pervenecki, Matthew Connelly, Laquann Pitts, Corey Boyce, Jose Ruiz, Kristi McMillion, Selena Harrison, Ty Torres, David Tarrant-Schneiderman, Angela Fernandez, Tristan Sperling, Andrew Williams, and Tyler Stewart.

All will be recognized on May 8 at the Our Community Salutes event in Boca Raton.

Mr. Speaker, we owe a debt of gratitude to each and every one of them and to all who defend our freedom by serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. That spirit of service and sacrifice is something we all can be proud of. For this very reason, it is my honor to recognize these young leaders here today.

RECOGNIZING GRETA CARDOSO IN CELEBRATION OF HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Mr. VALADAO to recognize Mrs. Greta Cardoso as she celebrates her 90th birthday. Greta's generation set an example for our country in the 20th century, and Greta's life is truly reflective of the American Dream.

Greta was born in Tranquility, California, on April 1, 1924. She grew up in a large immigrant family with nine siblings. Her parents, Senhorinda Barcellos and Elisas Baptista, both emigrated from the Azorian Island of Terceira. Strong values were instilled in Greta at a young age. She attended Kerman High School and worked at the local Five and Dime. After graduation, Greta met her husband, Lee Cardoso, while she was working at The Chat and Chew.

In 1950, Lee and Greta married and began their lives together. Both of their families emigrated from Terceira, so their union encompassed many common traditions and values. Their marriage initiated a partnership between the families and led to the establishment of a dairy business. Greta and Lee raised four children: Linda, Sonny, Joe, and Mark. Growing up on a dairy, the Cardoso children gained a strong work ethic and learned to never take their successes for granted.

Greta is a loving and devoted mother to her children. She always gave her children freedom to learn and explore on their own. While they were in elementary school, Greta would volunteer as a room mother. She was not only an outstanding mother to her own children but also to her nieces, nephews, and neighborhood kids. Greta's hospitality goes unmatched. Relatives and friends are always more than welcome in the Cardoso household. On a personal note, Greta was an exceptional role model for me—her nephew.

Outside of working on the dairy and spending time with family, Greta enjoyed several hobbies. She loved to sew, crochet, and needle point. Her needle points are a work of art and are cherished by many. She also loved to play cards and liked Portuguese card games the most. Playing bridge, bunko, and bowling were all activities that Greta truly enjoyed because she loves to be in the company of others.

Greta loved her husband, and loves her children, nine grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren dearly. She has led a long and fulfilling life, and is a great example of a strong woman who shows many individuals the beauty and love this amazing life has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join Mr. VALADAO and myself in recognizing Mrs. Greta Cardoso as she celebrates her 90th birthday. She is an inspiration for all of us as she has a led a long life filled with joy, love, and happiness of Armenian to the San Joaquin Valley I call home and the entire Nation.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the Republican Budget Resolution and in strong support of the Congressional Black Caucus' Alternative Budget.

To say that the Republican Budget Resolution is dangerous is an understatement. In particular, two areas of great concern to me will be negatively impacted by this resolution.

As the Ranking Member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, I urge the Appropriations Committee to come as close as possible to maintaining the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act levels of investment in research and development and STEM education. R&D and STEM education are critical to our nation's future, and we support the topline levels in the President's FY 2015 budget request and Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative for the Federal R&D agencies as worthy of support.

Shortchanging those accounts will wind up shortchanging our future economy and quality of life. Increased investment in these areas will pay significant dividends over the long run.

As Members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), we aim to be the, "Conscience of the Congress." I feel compelled to discuss the disastrous effects the Ryan Republican Budget would have on our country's research and development enterprise, and consequently, the disastrous effect this budget would have on America's future competitiveness.

As others have pointed out, the Republican Budget cuts non-defense discretionary spending by 1.3 trillion dollars below the baseline 2014 spending level, adjusted for inflation. These are massive cuts on top of a budget that has already seen large reductions in recent years. The effects on research and development would be dramatic. The American Association for the Advancement of Science estimates that the Ryan budget would cut civilian research and development by 92 billion dollars from the current baseline and 112 billion dollars below the President's budget request.

These are striking reductions. Please keep in mind here that the National Science Foundation's total annual budget is just a little over seven billion dollars. So the Republican Budget cuts more research and development funding every year than the entire annual budget of the National Science Foundation.

Additionally, as a senior Member of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, I am incensed that this budget fails to address our nation's aging infrastructure.

Millions of Americans would be negatively impacted by this measure, leaving families, individuals and businesses with virtually no transportation options. This proposal would do away with Amtrak operating subsidies, potentially eliminating service for more than 20 million people.

Most shamefully, however, this budget includes virtually no highway or transit investment and does little to address the impending crisis facing our nation's highways. In fact, this resolution assigns a spending level of $20.95 billion for transportation and infrastructure. This is a reduction of $50.99 billion from last year and eviscerates the total transportation and infrastructure budget.

For the third year in a row, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has awarded our nation's infrastructure a "D+." Time and time again, it becomes clear that investing in our infrastructure lays the groundwork for a competitive economy. What we need now is targeted investment in our infrastructure, not draconian reductions.

Our infrastructure is too important to gamble on and the Republican Budget resolution is a roll of the dice. It would result in the loss of thousands of construction related jobs in already economically disadvantaged areas and cut public transportation funding to historically low levels.

Quite frankly, this budget is dangerous and I ask my Republican colleagues to scrap this plan and work across the aisle to craft a plan that invests in our future. A budget that ignores funding for science and technology, and fails to include targeted infrastructure investments, fails the American future.

The Congressional Black Caucus' 'budget includes $500 billion in targeted investments and programs that invest in our future. It closes tax loopholes, deductions and exceptions that only benefit the wealthy. Addressing the past wrongs of wealth inequality will help create an economy that works for every American. Passing the CBC's Alternative Budget is the first step in righting those wrongs.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our Nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said:

> Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated and that is why today I rise to pay tribute to four extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are: Aidé Meza, Josh Crook, Katherine Welbeck, and Ayanna Costley.

I wish to thank Aidé Meza, who graduated with honors from the University of Houston, for numerous and substantial contributions, including her work on H.R. 4108, "Breath of Fresh Air Act of 2014," and the highly successful "When Women Succeed, America Succeeds" leadership summit held in Houston in March of this year.

Josh Crook, a student at the University of North Texas, provided invaluable assistance to me and my legislative team in the areas of national defense and veterans affairs. In doing so, Josh continued his record of providing distinguished service to his country first begun with his enlistment in the Armed Services as an airman in the U.S. Air Force. Josh's experience and understanding of the challenges faced by veterans transitioning from active duty to the civilian sector was critical to the development of legislation I introduced earlier this year, H.R. 4110, "Helping to Encourage Real Opportunity for Veterans Transitioning from Battlespace to Workplace Act of 2014," also known as the "Heroes Transitioning from Battlespace to Workplace Act of 2014."

Katherine Welbeck came to my office from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, from which she will graduate next month and go on to a highly successful career in law and public policy. A graduate of Princeton University and former teacher in the Teach for America Corps, Katherine brought to my office a commitment to educational opportunity for all persons, especially girls and young women, and a passion for justice and fairness. Because of Katherine's initiative and skill, I was able to introduce H.R. 4112, Equal Rights and Access for the Women of South Sudan Act," legislation requiring that activities of the United States in South Sudan relating to governance, reconstruction and development, and refugee assistance support human rights and promote the active participation of women in government and civil society.

Ayanna Costley is completing her junior year at the Madeira School in McLean, Virginia and judging by the work ethic and appetite for knowledge she displayed, can look forward to a bright future as she begins her college studies next year.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like them the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead. I wish them all well.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING SEASON OF THE 2013 DICKINSON RED DEVILS MEN'S LACROSSE TEAM

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues, Rep. JIM GERLACH (PA–6) and Rep. BILL SHUSTER (PA–9), to congratulate the players and coaches of the 2013 Dickinson College Red Devils Men's Lacrosse Team of Carlisle, Pennsylvania on their incredible season which was capped by their advancement to the ''Elite Eight'' in the 2013 NCAA Division III National Championship Tournament.

The 2013 Dickinson Red Devils captured the Centennial Conference Championship for a third consecutive season en route to their appearance in the quarterfinals of the NCAA National Championship Tournament. The team was led by First-team All-American, Division III Long Pole Midfielder of the Year and Iroquois Award winner for Outstanding Player of the Year, Brandon Palladino; First-team All-American and Lt. Col. J.I. Turnbull Award winner, Brian Cannon; and First-team All-Americans Matt Cherry and Peter Zouck. Slay Sudah was named Third-team All-American and Greg Hanley and Parker Waldron received honorable mention recognition.

The Red Devils' 2013 roster included: Reid Barger, Nick Baxter, Christian Beitel, Matt Brinc—kerhoff, Greg Castro, Chris Clementi, Reiley Crosby, Eric Dircks, Draper Donley, Collin Farrell, Kobi Frankel, Nolan Funchion, Brian Gleason, Youssef Gorgi, Patrick Haig, Mattison Hamilton, D.J. Henderson, Rob Kendall, Greg Kirchner, Marek Laco, Dave Largey, Kevin Leary, Nick Leon, Chris Menard, Carter Moore, Andrew Morgan, Palmer Murray, Jack O'Connor, Brett Parker, Graham Parsons, Max Pawk, Chris Pianko, Mike Reid, Sam Rosenburgh, Reed Salmons, Andrew Salvitti, Will Scott, Mike Serpa, Nick Shepherd, Greg Shildkrout, Michael Smith, Ace Sudah, Will Trevenen, and Tyler White. The Red Devils were ably led by Head Coach David Webster, Assistant Coaches Tim Marshall and Pat March, Statisticians Emily David and Rachel Moore, Athletic Trainer Adam Richmond with dedicated administrative support by College Athletic Director Dr. Les Poolman.

Mr. Speaker, in light of their outstanding accomplishments and noteworthy season, we ask that our colleagues join us today in recognizing the players and coaches of the Dickinson College Red Devils Men's Lacrosse Team of Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 58

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 58, who celebrated their 100th Anniversary at a gala I was pleased to join on Saturday, April 12th. In 1914, IBEW Locals 18 and 271 merged to create IBEW Local 58. For the last 100 years, IBEW members helped to build the City of Detroit and Southeast Michigan, served our nation at home and overseas during wartime, engaged in volunteer activities to strengthen our communities, and have stood at the forefront of workers' rights on the job.

The rich history of Local 58 is inextricably bound with the history of Southeast Michigan and of the nation. Local 58 was created to ensure that its members have safe working conditions, receive fair wages and health and welfare benefits, and security when they retire. These vital responsibilities helped propel the men and women of Local 58 to the forefront of the labor movement in Southeast Michigan, and due to their efforts as well as those of many others, working people can achieve and thrive in the American middle class.

While building the middle class, the members of IBEW Local 58, along with their brothers and sisters in other building trades unions, literally built the City of Detroit and the Southeast Michigan region. Iconic Detroit projects such as the Ambassador Bridge, the Fisher Building, the Guardian Building, the Detroit Opera House, the Fox Theater, and the Masonic Temple were built using the skills of IBEW Local 58's members. In 1948, Local 58 wired Briggs Stadium for lights so that the Detroit Tigers could play nighttime games. As Detroit and the region grew along with the growth of the automotive industry, Local 58 workers brought electricity to the new homes being built in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties.

Local 58 members have served in the armed forces in every war our nation has fought since World War I. Beginning in World War II and in every war since then, Local 58 has ensured that those members who served in the military during wartime would have their union dues paid while they were in service, and that they could return to the union with no loss of status or seniority when their service was completed. The men and women of Local 58 also served our country at home during times of war, most notably during World War II, when Detroit was known as the ''Arsenal of Democracy'' and skilled workers were needed to retool automobile factories to produce the aircraft, tanks, and artillery needed to win the war. More than half of the tanks, 75 percent of the aircraft engines, and 92 percent the cars and trucks used by the military in World War II were built in Detroit factories.

The men and women of Local 58 have always been involved in efforts to strengthen the communities in which they live and work and to support causes important to them. From their donations to the American Red Cross, Boys Town and the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis in the 1940s and 1950s to their work on behalf of Habitat for Humanity and to local churches, community centers and schools today, IBEW members have been willing to commit their time, talents and money to help others.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent so many members and families of IBEW Local 58 in Michigan's 9th Congressional District. For the last century, they have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to excellence on the job, to the rights of working people, to the well-being of Detroit and Southeast Michigan, and to the strength of our country. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the men and women of Local 58 as they celebrate 100 years of excellence, and in wishing them continued success in their second century.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW LIVERIS

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Andrew Liveris in recognition of his 60th birthday on Monday, May 5, 2014.

Originally from Darwin, Australia, Andrew currently resides in my hometown of Midland, Michigan with his wife Paula and three children. Mr. Liveris has been an instrumental figure at The Dow Chemical Company for over 35 years, serving in a myriad of positions spanning three continents. He is currently the company's President, Chairman, and Chief Executive Officer. Under his guidance, the Company has continued unparalleled success across the globe, in addition to being a key employer in Midland. He is a true visionary and an innovative leader in the field of manufacturing.

In addition to his success at Dow, Mr. Liveris has carried on and expanded the company's culture of community outreach to improve the quality of life of all Midland residents. The company continues to play a crucial role in the vitalization of the City of Midland, sponsoring local events such as the Dow Tennis Invitational and the Midland Community Center's Dow RunWalk. With strategic planning and a focus on the lives of those within the company and the community, Mr. Liveris has taken to new heights, the important relationship, and friendship, between Dow and Midland.

On a national scale, Mr. Liveris is an advocate for expanding the important role of manufacturing in our economy and his expertise expands well beyond his work at Dow. He serves as co-chair of President Obama's Advanced Manufacturing Partnership in the United States, where he continues to present viable business policy solutions for economic growth.

As a successful business leader and community organizer, Mr. Liveris has received numerous awards including the Chemical Industry Medal by the Society of Chemical Industry, the CEO of the Year award at the Platts Global Energy Awards, and the George E. Davis Medal by the Institution of Chemical Engineers. Most notably, he has been identified for his influence in the global chemical markets as a Top Power Player by the ICIS Chemical Business magazine for several consecutive years.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize Andrew Liveris in celebration of his 60th birthday and to thank him for his continued work in Michigan, the nation, and abroad. I wish him many years of continued health, happiness, and success.

HONORING MAYOR GARY BROWN OF SALEM, MISSOURI

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Gary Brown of Salem, Missouri for his achievements and years of service to the community.

This April, Mayor Brown will have served for fourteen years as mayor of Salem. Prior to being elected mayor, he served as Alderman of the East Ward for four years. Mayor Brown has dedicated much of his life to public service. This dedication has not only been towards his local community, but also to our nation during the four years he served in the Navy.

In his eighteen years of service to the city of Salem, Mayor Brown has devoted his time to be a positive influence to the community. I am thankful for his leadership which has greatly benefitted my hometown of Salem. It is my pleasure to recognize his service and achievements before the House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF VIRGINIA ''GINNY'' TREACY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Virginia "Ginny" Treacy on her retirement as Executive Director of JNESO District Council 1 International Union of Operating Engineers AFL–CIO. Ms. Treacy has dedicated over 35 years of service to labor causes and her contributions and accomplishments are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Virginia Treacy has been an active labor member since 1977 when she organized her first campaign while a Registered Nurse looking for fair and equitable treatment. She began her labor career as a business agent for the New Jersey State Nurses Association's labor division and become Union Director in 1980. Five years later, she began an independent professional health care union under the name JNESO with the then 2,300 Registered Nurses from the New Jersey State Nurses Association. In 1992 JNESO became District Council 1—IUOE after affiliating with the International Union of Operating Engineers. Today, JNESO District Council 1—IUOE represents over 5,000 registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and other healthcare professionals and technical employees in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

In addition to her leadership of JNESO District Council 1—IUOE, Ms. Treacy is a member of the Gender Parity Council, the New Jersey Health Care Workforce Council. She has been recognized for her many accomplishments, being honored with awards from her union and other labor and nursing groups.

A graduate of New York City's Beth Israel Medical Center School of Nursing, Ms. Treacy worked at various hospitals in New York and New Jersey before entering the labor movement. She is married, a mother of two daughters, a grandmother and an avid golfer.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Virginia "Ginny" Treacy on her retirement and thanking her for her years of service.

HONORING KATE VERNEZ

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Kate Vernez as she retires after 27 years of dedicated service as the Deputy City Manager of Santa Monica.

Kate transitioned to Southern California after a successful career with the City of New York, and the City of Santa Monica has truly benefited from her presence. I have had the distinct pleasure of working directly with Kate for many years, and I have personally witnessed how crucial her participation was in cultivating the necessary cooperation and collaboration among city, county, state, and federal governments time and time again.

Kate has played an instrumental role in numerous transportation projects, including the City of Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus. My staff and I also were able to work one-on-one with her on the Expo Line project, which will ultimately connect Downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica.

In addition to improving transportation, Kate has been an integral part in addressing the issue of hopelessness, specifically among the Santa Monica veteran population. Furthermore, she has been a strong advocate for legislation at all levels of government that would provide support to veterans at our local West Los Angeles VIA campus.

Kate is a natural leader and I have repeatedly been impressed with her talent and dedication. Her record of excellence is an inspiration. With Kate in City Hall, I have always been confident that our mutual constituents in Santa Monica were being well-served at the city level.

I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the remarkable career of Kate Vernez and in wishing her all the best for the future.

FAIR PLAYING FIELD ACT OF 2014

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fair Playing Field Act of 2014. In 1978, Congress was concerned that lack of clarity as to the proper classification of some workers, increased IRS enforcement activity, and retroactive application by IRS of interpretations that were arguably new had caused hardships for some small businesses and other taxpayers and confusion as to the applicable rules.

To allow time to develop a comprehensive approach to the problem, Congress enacted section 530 of the Revenue Act of 1978 as an interim measure protecting taxpayers from liability for misclassification if the taxpayer has a reasonable basis for classifying a worker as an independent contractor and meets certain other conditions. In addition, the Act prohibited the Secretary of the Treasury from publishing regulations or revenue rulings on workers' employment tax status pending the expected near-term enactment of clarifying legislation.

During the ensuing 33 years, Congress made section 530 of the Revenue Act of 1978 permanent, however, changes in working relationships and the continued prohibition on new guidance have increased the uncertainty as to the proper classification of workers.

Many workers are properly classified as independent contractors. In other instances, workers who are employees are being treated as independent contractors. Such misclassification for tax purposes contributes to inequities in the competitive positions of businesses and to the Federal and State tax gap, and may also result in misclassification for other purposes, such as denial of unemployment benefits, workplace health and safety protections, and retirement or other benefits or protections available to employees.

Workers, businesses, and other taxpayers will benefit from clear guidance regarding employment tax status. In the interest of fairness and in view of many service recipients' reliance on current section 530, such guidance should apply only prospectively.

SUPPORT FOR CYPRUS

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my support for the people of the Island of Cyprus. The Greek Cypriots have agreed to come to the table and begin negotiations with their Turkish counterparts. The United States stands by its commitment to peace in the Eastern Mediterranean. While this is merely the beginning of what could be a very long process, it deserves our commendation. A peaceful resolution would set an example of stability in a region beset by turmoil, tumult, and upheaval.

The Turkish Cypriot people have been isolated for too long. They have desired a unified island for nearly half a century and this new start is a significant step towards their reinstatement into the political, economic, and social structure of not just the Island of Cyprus but also of the entire world.

Mr. Speaker, I restate my resolute support for the start of talks between the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots. It is important that we encourage both sides to remain at the table and negotiate in good faith. I also implore our State Department to continue to be resolute in supporting these talks. The power of diplomacy is strong. The world is watching and waiting with hopeful anticipation.

HONORING DR. ANDREW TAYLOR STILL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, who is being posthumously inducted into the Hall of Famous Missourians on April 16th.

Dr. A.T. Still is best known for his work with osteopathic medicine. Dr. Still traveled throughout Northern Missouri to spread his drugless, manipulative medicine that was officially named ''osteopathy'' in 1885. Finding he had more patients than he could handle, Dr. Still founded the American School of Osteopathy in Kirksville, Missouri in 1892. It was estimated that on any given day, over 400 people would travel to Kirksville to be treated.

While Dr. A.T. Still may be known as the father of the osteopathic profession, this is not his only accomplishment. Dr. Still was deeply embroiled in the fight over whether Kansas would be admitted to the Union as a slave State or free State, helping it be admitted to the Union as the latter. Dr. Still also fought in the Civil War, serving as a hospital steward. His outfit helped repel the Confederate forces advancing on Kansas City. Also, with his medical school and practice firmly established, Dr. Still was able to focus on mechanical inventions. He patented an improved butter churn, a smokeless furnace, and many other machines.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me, along with the great State of Missouri, in celebrating the life of Dr. Andrew Taylor Still as we induct him into the Hall of Famous Missourians.

HONORING SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE'S PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR OLDER PERSONS

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Southwestern Illinois College's Programs and Services for Older Persons and to congratulate this organization on 40 years of service. As their founders, partners and members gather to celebrate 40 years of unparalleled service to southwestern Illinois, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring this organization.

Founded by Eugene Verdu, Programs and Services for Older Persons began as a Preparation for Retirement class in 1970 at then Belleville Area College. This led to a federal grant for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program in 1973. Additional Federal, State and local grants provided a myriad of services, activities and opportunities for people over the age of 55.

Under the administrative leadership of the General Studies and Community Services division, with full support from the BAC Board of Trustees, an office for PSOP was established in late 1973. This new office was responsible for administering all college activities related to the field of aging. Today, PSOP is part of SWIC Community Services.

In the early years, PSOP was housed in a rented facility. By 1979, more space was needed, so the city of Belleville purchased the building that now houses PSOP at 201 N. Church St. A lease-purchase agreement was established between the city of Belleville and BAC and by 1999, the cost of the building was paid in full and the college now owns the facility.

Today, PSOP's mission is to provide a comprehensive program of direct and referral services to seniors and their families, designed to assist them in maximizing their health and independence. PSOP's programming is directed at healthy aging and enjoying a rewarding lifestyle for those 55 and beyond, allowing them to ''age in place'' and remain independent as long as possible. PSOP's myriad of programs and services focus on engagement in social and recreational activities as well as travel and cultural activities to stimulate lifelong learning. Multiple volunteer programs provide seniors opportunities to serve others.

Mr. Speaker, on their 40th anniversary, I am pleased to honor Southwestern Illinois College's Programs and Services for Older Persons for their service to southwestern Illinois. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this organization and wishing them continued success as they continue to serve the people of our area.

IN RECOGNITION OF DANIEL E. COHEN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS AWARD FOR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel E. Cohen, who has dedicated 45 years as a board member and as President to ProJeCt of Easton, a human service agency founded by local clergy and community leaders in response to rising tides of poverty and social unrest in 1968, that works to support poor and underserved populations. Under Mr. Cohen's leadership, ProJeCt of Easton provides emergency assistance and food programs; case management and life skills support; and educational programs including adult basic literacy, English as a second language, GED preparation, family literacy, and supplemental programs for school-age children.

Since joining ProJeCt just after its incorporation, Daniel Cohen has been a tireless advocate for the vulnerable individuals who depend on the agency. After working for Easton's needy families for decades, he became board president in 2001 and served until 2007. Leading by example, he and his wife Nancy donated the cost of a classroom to ProJeCt's Fowler Literacy Center, which now serves 25 ESL adult learners on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

Mr. Cohen has also donated his time, effort, and considerable skill set to other charitable and non-profit organizations, including the Bnai Abraham Synagogue, the Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley, and the Lehigh Valley Jewish Foundation. He also served on the boards for the Hugh Moore Canal Commission, Friends of the State Theater Inc., and the City of Easton Police Practices Commission. As a community member, he is a constant figure at events as and always eager to help out, along with his wife Nancy and his two daughters.

In recognition of his service, ProJeCt of Easton founded the Daniel E. Cohen Award in honor of Mr. Cohen and recognized him as its first recipient on April 24, 2014. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Daniel E. Cohen for this great honor and my thanks for his years of public service.

HONORING REV. FRANCE A. DAVIS OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, PASTOR OF CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary man of faith, courage, and civic engagement. Reverend France A. Davis has served as Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Salt Lake City for the last 40 years. He is a fixture in the community and a role model for many of its citizens. He is admired throughout the state as a man of integrity as he leads and inspires his congregation; as a man of compassion in his fair treatment of everyone—particularly those who are marginalized in society; and as a man of dedication to the university students he has taught and the civic community he leads.

Born on a large farm in rural Georgia, Rev. Davis learned early the value of hard work and education while working and studying alongside his eight brothers and sisters. He was blessed with caring and humble parents who dedicated themselves to their faith and family. Recognizing the value of education, young France committed himself to reading and the pursuit of academic excellence.

While attending Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, France met Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a student reporter for the school newspaper. That experience had a profound effect on him and Dr. King became a mentor. Recognizing the gross injustice of racial inequality and violence, France soon joined Dr. King in civil rights demonstrations throughout the South, including the Selma to Montgomery March and the March on Washington where Dr. King delivered his ''I Have a Dream'' speech. He was particularly moved by Dr. King's hallmark traits of nonviolence and love. It was this example that would eventually help lead him to the ministry.

After his participation in the Civil Rights Movement, France served his country honorably in the United States Air Force before returning to school to resume his studies. In the years that followed, he earned six academic degrees, in Arts and Humanities, Afro-American Studies, Rhetoric, Religion, Mass Communication, and Ministry. He has approached all facets of his life and service with this same tireless devotion.

Joining Calvary Baptist in 1972, he became Pastor in 1974. Beyond weekly preaching and counseling with members of his faithful congregation, he has become an advocate of numerous causes in the civic community. Among

dozens of other positions, Rev. Davis has served on the Salt Lake Community College Board of Trustees, the Utah State Board of Regents, the Utah Board of Corrections, the Salt Lake NAACP Board, the Governors' Policy Council, and the Salt Lake Convention and Visitors Bureau. Under his guidance, the 122–year old church built a new 47,000 square foot home a decade ago. He has led civic and welfare organizations, is a renowned public speaker, has become a resource for the governor's and mayor's offices, and after touching hundreds of students in his years as a professor at the University of Utah, is retiring this spring. An avid reader, he is also an accomplished author of four books. Perhaps most importantly, he has served as a voice of reason and sound judgment to transcend social divisions and form bonds of understanding in the community.

With his wife Willene by his side, he has raised three children and has three grandchildren and one great-grandson. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the extraordinary legacy of Rev. France A. Davis, who has been referred to as "one of Utah's human treasures," and who we honor today for his 40 years of service to Calvary Baptist Church and the Salt Lake community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, on March 5, 2014, I unintentionally opposed H.R. 2126, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2014, which passed in the House 375–136. H.R. 2126 is an important piece of legislation that will increase America's annual energy savings, create jobs, and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. I would like the record to note that I support H.R. 2126. I recognize that energy efficiency-focused legislation plays a key role in crafting a thriving, diversified national energy strategy. I am dedicated to strengthening our country's energy efficiency and look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue in the future.

WASHINGTON STATE ALLIES FOR ADVOCACY: A PROCLAMATION FOR THE DIGNITY AND RIGHTS FOR ALL HUMAN BEINGS

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to meet with individuals from my region and the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council about important issues concerning people with developmental disabilities. I support their advocacy efforts for people with developmental disabilities and programs that support them. The Washington State Allies in Advocacy has issued a Proclamation for the Dignity and Rights for All Human Beings and I am honored to submit a copy.

A PROCLAMATION FOR THE DIGNITY AND RIGHTS OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS

PREAMBLE

We believe all persons are whole human beings, regardless of ability, mobility, expression, communication, intelligence, accommodations, strengths, independence or support needs: All human beings are able to grow and develop to their full potential.

Being human, we believe and affirm that all people have absolute power to direct their own lives, with determination, dignity and meaningful choice.

We believe and affirm the basic human right to live free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation in our homes, jobs and the community, so as to be secure at all times:

1. We refuse to tolerate physical, mental, emotional or sexual violence. We deserve freedom from violence that comes from people or systems where abuse has become commonplace and is ignored.

2. Our money and resources must be safe and under our own ultimate direction.

3. We must be free from discrimination based in hate or fear, and discrimination based on good intentions. Discrimination will be determined by the effect it has on our lives and not the intentions of those who discriminate.

4. We must be free from attitudes and beliefs that talk down to us.

We believe and affirm that all human beings have the right to live free from the oppression of:

1. A transportation system that isolates us in our homes or within a community.

2. Supports that control us and our environment, talk for us, do not listen, or fail to recognize that we are the boss of our own lives.

3. The fear that we will be eliminated or left to die because the circumstances of our existence are deemed too costly, too difficult or simply not important.

4. Being imprisoned in institutions that isolate, control and segregate us. (Community housing without autonomy is like an institution.)

5. Labels given to us, used to separate, devalue or dehumanize us.

6. Societal, cultural and physical barriers that restrict full participation in communities.

7. Any system that takes it upon itself to determine who is worthy, that imposes services based on perceived, rather than real needs, or makes decisions in secret without the participation of those impacted. We have a right to services tailored to assist us by empowering our abilities.

8. Those who devalue us through medical discrimination. Every human has a right to be:

a) Free from those who deny or force medical treatment.

b) Free from those who assume we don't deserve medical treatment to improve or sustain our life.

c) Free from those who make medical decisions without our consent or voice, under the pretense of knowing better than we what is best for us.

d) Free from those who treat or alter us, without consent, for the convenience of others, society, or any system.

e) Free from parents, guardians, or other decision-makers who would override our decisions, without listening and considering our perspectives, and alter our self-determined course as human beings.

We believe and affirm that everyone has the freedom to lead a meaningful life, in which:

1. We each have a name, and choose the groups with which we identify. We reject labels, imposed by others, that minimize, specialize or segregate us.

2. We exercise the right to choose our meaningful relationships: the people with whom we spend our time, share personal details or with whom we are intimate.

3. We have the right to fail. Risk is acceptable, even if we are not successful. The quality of a choice does not determine one's value as a person.

4. Power resides within each of us. The right of people to decide for themselves is respected, celebrated and supported.

5. We have the right to direct financial decisions consistent with personal ambition. We pursue careers that enable us to grow and be promoted, with work relationships that empower us, and employment supports that protect autonomy. Meaningful careers provide us with economic stability and freedom. A job is not a career. Everyone should have the opportunity to create a life with employment that enriches the mind and spirit.

6. We are the primary drivers of our life choices and decisions.

7. We always start by presuming competence. We all have the absolute right to grow intellectually, sexually, physically, spiritually and socially to our full potential; to be who we choose to be, human beings, without pressure to alter how we speak, feel, think, or move.

8. We have the right to technology, including assistive technology, which increases our personal power through access to information, and gives us the ability to more fully, productively and effectively interact with the world.

9. All human beings rise to high expectations, to get to a place where one can achieve and strive to be all one can be. Limited or no expectations restrict our growth, advance stereotypes, and move us to a path of poverty and labeled incompetence, instead of a full life of choice and independence.

10. We reject the notion that people are on a predetermined path. We have the right to equally access an education that prepares us each to enter the working world and participate fully in our community.

11. Education directly impacts a strong society and economy. Every human has the right to a higher education. Every human has the right to learn and grow as one desires.

Whereas all of the above rights are recognized, honored and practiced, we endeavor to create and uphold opportunities to:

1. Promote the health and well-being of all people.

2. Fully, meaningfully and productively participate in civic, cultural, political, economic and social life.

3. Presume competence and uphold high expectations. Include all people regardless of communication style, mobility, race, nation of origin, religion, age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, expression, intelligence, accommodations, strengths, independence, support needs and ability.

4. Never abandon those who struggle and seek support when needed.

5. Respect each other, even in conflict.

This we say and believe.

Signed:

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF MADERA COUNTY, VICTIMS SERVICE CENTER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Community Action Partnership

of Madera County (CAPMC), Victims Service Center for the tremendous efforts they have made to help crime victims in Madera County.

CAPMC operates a multi program victim service center for Madera County that addresses the needs of victims of all crime types including: domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and homicide. CAPMC's broad range of services greatly benefits the population that they serve. In one agency, individuals can apply for a restraining order and at the same time, request shelter. Since CAPMC has all of their programs under one center, they reduce the barriers that sometimes prevent victims from accessing services. In addition, CAPMC is the only agency in Madera County that provides 24 hour crisis intervention to crime victims.

CAPMC operates the Martha Diaz Shelter, the only shelter in Madera County for battered women and their children to seek immediate safety when fleeing from abusive relationships. Women and children are provided supplies for their immediate needs including: food, medicine, toiletries, and transportation. CAPMC strives to protect families from experiencing further abuse by informing them of their rights as crime victims and advocating for their safety. Each year, they provide a safe haven for over one hundred women and children experiencing domestic violence.

In 2013, CAPMC achieved national accreditation by the National Children's Alliance (NCA), and they are now recognized as the Accredited Child Abuse Center for Madera County. CAPMC received their accreditation based on their utilization of a functioning and effective multidisciplinary team approach to work collaboratively in child abuse investigation, prosecution, and treatment. CAPMC worked diligently with law enforcement, social services, the district attorney's office, health services, and hospitals to ensure that they received the national accreditation.

Each year, CAPMC serves an average of 112 child abuse victims. CAPMC strives to provide an immediate response that identifies the victim's needs and reduces the level of trauma. They operate an aftercare program for child abuse victims and their caretakers to seek therapy, so they have a safe place to talk about their most horrifying experiences. Every family is assigned an advocate to ensure that their rights as crime victims are enforced.

As a founding member and co-chairman of the Victims' Rights Caucus, it is my honor to recognize the good work of CAPMC and to thank the board members of CAPMC for their support and activism. These individuals sincerely care about victims' rights and helping those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Community Action Partnership of Madera County, Victims Service Center for their efforts on behalf of crime victims. They have truly made a difference throughout the region and will continue to do so for many decades to come.

HONORING THE COLORADO FARM SHOW

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Colorado Farm Show on its 50th anniversary.

Each year, the three-day Colorado Farm Show in Weld County showcases agricultural successes. The Colorado Farm Show displays 350 agriculture-related exhibits and draws more than 30,000 visitors from throughout the region. The exhibitors this year were from Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana, and came to Greeley, Colorado to present state of the art machinery, farm products, and farm services. The event, which started from humble beginnings in 1964, has now grown to be one of the Nation's largest agricultural shows. It is so popular among those in the agricultural business that there is a waiting list to join.

Over 100 volunteers annually contribute to the show's successes and donate more than 8,200 hours of their time. The volunteers assist in tasks ranging from administration to maintaining buildings and grounds. One of the many great committees works directly with education and organizes thirty speakers to discuss various programs and seminars.

Further, the show is dedicated to training the next generation of people who are engaged in farming. Thus far, the Colorado Farm Show has given over $123,000 to Colorado high school seniors who are interested in careers in agriculture.

It is with great pride and honor that I recognize the Colorado Farm Show today. Please join me in congratulating them on 50 great years of tradition and continued agricultural success.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA'S REBOUNDING OYSTER INDUSTRY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to submit for the record a March 24, 2014, New York Times article featuring Travis and Ryan Croxton and their small business in the First Congressional District of Virginia, Rappahannock Oyster Company, which is building a historic family business and contributing to a healthy Chesapeake Bay.

One of the crown jewels of our nation's natural resources, the Chesapeake Bay is rich in history and also provides a way of life for so many that live in the Bay region. I appreciate the efforts of these fine Virginians creating jobs, producing a fine product, all while working to preserve the Bay and a historic way of life.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 24, 2014]

(By Julia Moskin)

A CHESAPEAKE HOMECOMING

TOPPING, VA.—When Travis and Ryan Croxton first went to New York City in 2004 to market their homegrown oysters, one of the few seafood places they had heard of was Le Bernardin, so naturally they just showed up with a cooler at the kitchen door.

''We really Forrest Gumped it,'' said Travis, 39. ''We had no idea what we were doing.''

Chesapeake oysters were so rare then that the chefs wanted to try them on the spot. But neither Croxton, both of whom had master's degrees, knew how to shuck an oyster. ''Finally the chef took it out of my hands and did it himself,'' Travis said.

Oysters had almost disappeared from the Chesapeake Bay when the Croxtons, first cousins and co-owners of the Rappahannock Oyster Company, graduated from college. And after decades of bad news about pollution, silt, disease and overfishing in the bay, many locals wouldn't eat them raw. ''A whole generation of Virginians grew up without virginicas,'' said Peter Woods, the chef at Merroir, the Croxtons' oyster bar here, where the Rappahannock River empties into the bay. ''For oyster roasts, oyster stuffing, all these traditions, you just couldn't get your hands on them.''

As he spoke, Mr. Woods was shucking a dozen just-pulled virginica oysters, the kind that grew wild on thick shoals all around the bay when the first Europeans sailed in, the wooden hulls of their ships brushing against the shells. It is the same oyster that grows in Long Island Sound and on Cape Cod and points north—and now, with modern aquaculture, as far south as Georgia.

''Now they can't get enough of them,'' said Mr. Woods, twirling the flesh into a plump and attractive ''Rappahannock roll'' that sits up high in the shell. Food styling was not part of the traditional job description for a waterman (Chesapeake-speak for fisherman), but it is just one of many ingenious ways that a new generation is trying to bring a thriving oyster trade back to the bay.

In 1899, when the cousins' great-grandfather leased five acres of nearby river bottom and started the company, the water here was still rich with the plankton and phytonutrients that oysters need to live. The bay's floor was inlaid with shell and rock, the sea grasses were tall, and the water was brackish (part salt, part fresh, ideal for oysters) like most of the coastal Chesapeake, among the world's largest estuaries with more than 11,000 miles of shoreline.

But the oyster population was already cratering under commercial and environmental pressure. The 20th century brought more-sophisticated dredging tools and more pollution: Modern farming, with its fertilizers and insecticides, dumped enough nitrogen and phosphorus into the bay to bring its life cycle to a near-complete halt, said Bill Goldsborough, director of fisheries for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, which was formed in 1967 to protect and restore the bay.

The cleanup is proceeding (slowly), and oysters play an active part. They are filter feeders, slurping 50 to 60 gallons of water a day and cleaning it as they go. ''For protecting seafood, usually you're talking about restraint: Don't eat it, don't catch it,'' Ryan Croxton said. ''But with oysters, the more you eat, the more we grow, and the more bay they can clean.''

At peak trade, around 1875, 20 million bushels of wild oysters were taken from the bay each year. By the late 1990s, the total was 20,000. Restoration of the bay's ecosystem, undertaken by multiple state, federal and private agencies, was proceeding with painful slowness, and repairing the oyster business was not a high priority.

To Tommy Leggett, a local marine scientist and environmental educator who is also a working waterman, the low point came when the governing bodies began to consider abandoning Crassostrea virginica and reseeding the bay with a disease-resistant oyster native to the South China Sea, Crassostrea ariakensis.

''That oyster grows fast and it grows strong,'' said Mr. Leggett, who was in a position to see all sides of the argument. ''It reaches market size in less than a year, so the whole industry was drooling over the thing. But it didn't belong in our bay.'' Introducing nonnative species has often led to unforeseen problems, like the proliferation of kudzu and the infamous ''walking catfish'' in the Southeast.

So Mr. Leggett, 58, became an activist for virginica farming. Although aquaculture was already well established in the Northeast and internationally, it hadn't caught on here, partly because the wild stock was so plentiful. Long after the beds up north ran out, baymen here were still pulling up enough oysters (along with blue crabs, striped bass and other valuable creatures) to make a living.

But eventually, Mr. Leggett couldn't support a family on his catch. ''First the hard clams tanked, then the oysters tanked, then the crabs tanked,'' he said. ''I could see which way the bay was going.''

Mr. Leggett set up a demonstration oyster farm for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and began to preach the advantages of aquaculture: the ability to sustain the supply, predict the harvest and control the quality of your catch by creating optimal growing conditions at each life stage. Oysters grow from tiny spat, the most juvenile stage, to market size of three inches, in about 18 months.

An oyster farm doesn't look much like a farm. The oysters grow in metal cages, eating the same food in exactly the same water as their wild counterparts. But they are groomed for market: brought into dock, sorted and tossed in a tumbler, then bagged for sale or returned to the water. The process gives each oyster room to grow a full ''cup,'' which brings a premium price, and keeps the shells looking pretty.

It's a low-tech system, but it lets growers raise oysters for high-end restaurants the way farmers raise vegetables: with consistency in shape, size, texture and flavor; with careful handling from farm to table; and with an eye to beauty and shapeliness. Aquaculture has begun to turn the tide back toward virginicas. Last year, for instance, the take from the Chesapeake was about 400,000 bushels. Anderson's Neck, Choptank Sweets and Misty Points are just a few of the euphonious new oysters to hit the market, and Mr. Leggett's own York Rivers fetch premium prices.

The Croxtons did not grow up as oystermen (Travis studied finance; Ryan, Southern literature), and neither did their fathers. ''Grandpa told them to go to college instead of messing around with oysters,'' Travis said. The boys inherited the leases on the river, and by law they had to grow oysters there or give them up.

Thus began the road to Le Bernardin, the Grand Central Oyster Bar and beyond. The two have reinvested what they've earned, opening restaurants with high visibility, one in Richmond, Va., another in the busy Union Market in Washington.

After building a steady market for their trademark oyster, the Rappahannock River, they began to build a range of flavors. Now they grow oysters in several locations, where the water varies in salinity and depth, each producing somewhat distinct flavors: crisp Stingrays in Mobjack Bay, briny Old Salts in Chincoteague Bay and the oyster for the people, the Barcat.

The Barcat is an all-purpose Chesapeake oyster, distributed and marketed along with the Croxtons' premium oysters, but at a lower price to feed the current boom in raw bars and $1 oyster happy hours. Instead of growing Barcats themselves, they hatched a new cooperative of oyster farmers, mostly current or former watermen, that serves as an entry point to aquaculture. The members can grow as few or as many as they like but still go fishing and crabbing on the bay.

These watermen, Travis said, have seen that farming helps sustain both the bay and their businesses. In the last decade, all the Chesapeake fisheries have become more tightly controlled, and law enforcement more persistent. Illegal fishing in protected waters, or at night, or out of season, was a low-risk income stream for generations of watermen. Now, it's far more difficult. This month, Maryland's Natural Resources Police scored its first conviction for oyster poaching based on evidence from a state-of-the-art surveillance system it shares with the Department of Homeland Security.

Under these conditions, the peaceful, lucrative life of the oyster farmer grows ever more attractive. ''Even the roughest, meanest water guys notice when their friend is driving a new truck,'' Travis said. ''Suddenly, they get interested.''

THE RYAN REPUBLICAN BUDGET: DANGEROUS TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY AND DANGEROUS TO OUR SAFETY IN NATURAL DISASTERS

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to the severely regressive Paul Ryan Budget Proposal, a radical and erosive bill that undermines our national security by slashing funding for essential emergency assistance and jeopardizes our preparedness and safety in natural disasters.

The Ryan Budget would be a fiscal wreck to high-growth states and states affected by natural disasters. In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, states and local areas often depend on help from the Federal Government. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) helps people affected by the disaster get food, water, and shelter, and helps with search-and-rescue missions and providing electric power. FEMA also helps states and local governments repair or replace public facilities and infrastructure, which often is not insured.

Last year New York was completely devastated by Hurricane Sandy. Sandy's impact included the flooding of the New York City Subway system, many communities, the closure of all road tunnels entering Manhattan except the Lincoln Tunnel, and the closure of the New York Stock Exchange for two consecutive days. Thousands of homes and an estimated 250,000 vehicles were destroyed during the storm. Economic losses across New York were estimated to be at least $18 billion. In my district, it was nothing less than a miracle that the section of the Shore Parkway connecting Sheepshead Bay with Canarsie was not destroyed; which by coincidence, a National Park Service project had placed a huge amount of soil near the bridge, which effectively saved it.

The Federal Government's ability to respond to natural disasters, like Hurricane Sandy would be significantly hindered under Chairman RYAN's Budget Proposal and shift very substantial costs to states and localities forcing them to make do with less during difficult times of disaster.

House Republicans continue to push for devastating cuts that threaten the safety net designed to provide the most basic needs for millions of Americans at their most vulnerable time. It is for these reasons that I will vote ''no'' on this budget and I ask my colleagues to oppose this budget as well.

RECOGNIZING THE SAN JOAQUIN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation as they celebrate their 100th year anniversary.

The San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation was formed in 1914; it began with 650 members and 14 Farm Centers. In 1919, the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation helped hold the County's first fair, located in Oak Park. By 1931, SJFB was the largest Farm Bureau in the United States with 2,301 members.

The SJFB soon outgrew their building and dedicated their new, larger building in 1938. During this time, their vision created structure. Subcommittees comprised of local farmers were established in every area of the county. They were charged with mapping out and organizing the sections. The idea behind the plan was to prevent sabotage and fires, provide information, develop a cooperative use of farm implements and labor, as well as to assist in any national food production plan.

During World War II, the Farm Bureau devoted a major part of war emergency to defense work.

The top 10 priority issues declared by the Farm Bureau in 1952 were: economy, good government, citizenship, schools and school costs, international trade, adequate labor, inflation, water, terminal market waste, and a better understanding of the relationship between the farm bureau and the consumer.

In the mid-1950s, there were many changes to the local politics and organizations. The Farm Bureau took a hard stance opposing a certain State Assembly bill relating to gun control, citing that it would drive firearms underground. During this time, the San Joaquin County Agri-Center was formed. A year later, the California Division of Water Resources was set up; it abolished several State boards and commissions. The Young People's Department was approved by the board, which served as the forerunner for the Young Farmers and Ranchers Program. Shortly after, two land use policies were passed. One addressed the protection of agricultural lands from annexation and another to prevent the use of top soil for road and other construction fills.

In the 1960s, the SJFB made changes to the Cow Testing Association and created the San Joaquin County Dairy Herd Improvement. Farm Bureau records and funds were turned over to the new cooperation. The SJFB took a hard stance in 1964 by opposing the Delta Peripheral Canal, which would have cut a large swath through some of the county's

most valuable farm land. Toward the late 1960s, the County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution for the establishment of agricultural preserves for the county.

The current San Joaquin Farm Bureau Office was dedicated in 1972.

There were many changes during the 80s for the San Joaquin Farm Bureau. They reinforced the importance of the dairy industry to the county when the SJFB Board of Directors voted in sharp disagreement with the California Farm Bureau Federation when they asked for $.29 per hundred weight drop in Class One milk. In addition, the president of Zenith announced its purchase of CalFarm Insurance. The partnership between the Farm Bureau and CalFarm began to materialize.

The Immigration Reform Act of 1986 came through a joint effort by the agricultural interests of California and Congress. The Alien Legalization for Agriculture program was formed in 1987 as a result of immigration legislation that passed in Congress. The SJFB contracted with federal officials to provide local agriculture workers the ability to gain citizenship through the amnesty program that was granted at that time. Thousands of workers were able to utilize this program to become U.S. citizens. At the end of the process, excess funds were used to help start the SJFB Foundation for Agricultural Education.

In 1988, the Environmental Affairs Committee was formed and immediately set out to work on the Endangered Species Act, San Joaquin Air Basin Air Quality, and pesticide regulation and enforcement.

The 1990s brought the advent of many "new town" proposals, self-contained urban areas that would not become incorporated cities. Only one of these new town proposals, Mountain House, was supported by the San Joaquin Farm Bureau and remains an active, growing community in the county.

Efforts were made to create a rural crime task force under the Sheriffs Department to ensure adequate personnel would be allocated to counter crimes impacting agricultural operations. The SJFB initiated policy language at the State Farm Bureau Convention to prioritize metal theft, and to require recyclers to adhere to strict guidelines when accepting metal. Their efforts led to legislation that passed the California State Legislature the following year.

The 2000s enabled the SJFB to work with the county on what is now known as the Cabral Agricultural Center which houses the Agricultural Commissioner, U.C. Cooperative Extension, and the Office of Emergency Services.

San Joaquin Farm Bureau members and staff have advanced the concept of providing an "Ag Venture" program, which helps 13,000 3rd grade students from throughout the county attend one of three "Ag Venture" days. The program gives students the opportunity to learn more about where their food comes from and the benefits of eating local crops.

They have also advanced a "Farmers Market" program that educates 4th grade students in low income schools on the benefits of eating specialty crops that come from the region. At the end of the 4 session program, students are given the opportunity to purchase fresh produce for 10 cents each to bring home fruits and vegetables.

In the past two years, the SJFB was recognized by the American Farm Bureau Federation under their "Counties Activities of Excellence" program. The San Joaquin Farm Bureau's advocacy efforts, agricultural education, and safety training programs all have contributed to their being recognized under this program. The SJFB was selected as the County of the Year in 2013 by the California Farm Bureau Federation.

The San Joaquin Farm Bureau has accomplished a number of commendable things within the community. They have also maintained a county legislative committee that has worked with the State Legislature, and an economic committee that has made progress in enforcement of State realty laws. The San Joaquin Farm Bureau has also assisted the Federal Land Bank to provide funds to farmers, and have campaigned for reapportionment of the State Legislature. In addition to this, the SJFB has maintained a cow-testing association, sponsored 4H activities, cooperated with the extension service in educational programs, and have represented livestock men in demanding dog law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating with the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation for their significant contributions, not only to agriculture, but to the community, and the State of California. Congratulations on the past 100 years, and I wish you the best success in the years to come.

HONORING THE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MID AMERICA BANK IN MISSOURI

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mid America Bank and recognize the contribution the institution has made to communities in Missouri during its 100 years of operation. Since April is Community Bank Month, it is fitting to celebrate the anniversary of one of Missouri's finest financial institutions. On April 27, 1914, this community bank was founded as the People's Bank of St. Thomas. It was then relocated to Meta, Missouri in 1951, where it operated as the sole location for 27 years and was renamed the Meta State Bank. In 1978, the name Mid America Bank was adopted as the bank grew and opened a second branch in Linn, Missouri. Mid America Bank has continued to expand and currently has five branches throughout the state that allow the people of Missouri access to the financial tools that provide stability and security in their daily life.

The longevity of Mid America Bank is not only a testament to its success and knowledge of the financial services industry, but also its commitment to our Missouri communities. Community banks such as Mid America Bank have a desire to help their customers improve their lives and realize their dreams, all while valuing the customer and respecting the vital role of relationship banking.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing all the employees of Mid America Bank our sincerest thanks and appreciation for their service to the men, women and families of Missouri. Congratulations on 100 years and best wishes for continued success in the next 100 years.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF MARIA DE LA MILERA AND CONGRATULATING HER ON A WELL DESERVED RETIREMENT

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to celebrate the long and successful public service career of Maria De La Milera and congratulate her on a well-deserved retirement. Her commitment to our community and our nation is exemplary and we are all forever grateful for her service. With over 30 years of experience and countless accolades and accomplishments over such an expansive career, South Floridians are truly losing an invaluable member of the fabric of our community.

Maria was born in Holguin, Oriente, Cuba, the oldest of three daughters. After the brutal dictator Fidel Castro seized power, Maria came with her younger sister to the United States in the largest exodus of unaccompanied children from the regime—known as "Pedro Pan." She then spent four years in a Los Angeles orphanage until her parents were finally able to join her in the United States.

As an adult, Maria moved to Miami and began her career helping our South Florida community through public service, working as a constituent service representative for Senator Richard Stone. She continued her career in the office of Senator Paula Hawkins, focusing primarily on immigration cases where she earned a reputation as a caring and compassionate advocate on behalf of all those needing a helping hand. Her commitment to others allowed her to positively shape the lives of many individuals.

Maria then spent a few years in the political realm as Executive Director of the Republican Party of Miami-Dade County, and then joined the government of Miami-Dade County, where she spent the last 23 years supporting our local residents. She has long been known for inspiring those around her, people who will undoubtedly carry on her legacy of professionalism and commitment. There is no greater reward than the satisfaction gained through serving others, and Maria embraced this most noble of endeavors with remarkable principle.

It is my distinct pleasure to join Maria's family; her children Beatriz Maria, Maritza Isabel and Raul De La Milera, Jr.; her grandchildren Michael, Mathew, Madison, Mark, Laenie and Rachel; as well as friends and peers as they honor her many accomplishments and outstanding career. Maria, thank you for your exceptional public service. I wish you only the best in any challenge you choose next to accept.

ON RECOGNITION OF THE OPENING OF SAINT JOSEPH MERCY OAKLAND HOSPITAL'S SOUTH PATIENT TOWER

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize the opening

of Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital's South Patient Tower. The South Patient Tower is an eight-story, contemporary-styled facility that features 208 private, technologically integrated and enhanced patient care rooms, which provide ample space for the family and friends who we know are vital to the healing process. This patient-centered and technologically advanced addition highlights this hospital's dedication to administering a high-quality health care experience to members of our community.

Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital is an award-winning facility that has provided expert and compassionate care to the citizens of the Pontiac area for more than 85 years. In that time the hospital has chosen to focus its efforts on quality, patient safety and cost-efficiency. In doing so it has become nationally recognized for the high level of care that it provides and as a leader in Cardiology, Critical Care, Women's Health and Orthopedics. The South Patient Tower builds on that tradition, and illustrates Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital's longstanding commitment to providing the best care possible to the community.

This South Patient Tower is the culmination of the Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital's ongoing commitment to medical excellence. A major feature of the tower is the deployment of the most advanced integrated medical technology, which will transform the future of health care. The Intelligent Care System technology that this facility will employ creates the most technologically advanced health environment in the country. In doing so, hospital staff will be empowered to bring a new level of responsive, proactive, collaborative and innovative care to the patients that they serve.

Additionally, Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital has chosen to invest in efforts to enhance every aspect of a patient's health care experience through their Healing Arts program. By recognizing that the physical environment is an integral part of the hospital experience, Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital has taken efforts to create a calming atmosphere and restorative environment for patients through the integration of intentional art, architecture and esthetic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly proud to celebrate and recognize the opening of Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital's South Patient Tower. This institution is dedicated to putting patient care at the forefront of its mission and efforts, and by choosing to invest in the future of health care Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital continues its commitment to being an exceptional place to come for healing of body, mind and spirit.

RECOGNIZING BRIDGESTONE AMERICAS WILSON, NORTH CAROLINA FACILITY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bridgestone Americas, one of our nation's leading tire manufacturers, as it celebrates the 40th anniversary of its passenger and light truck tire plant in my hometown of Wilson, North Carolina.

I have represented the Wilson plant for nearly ten years and am reminded each time I pass it on my way to Washington, DC the impact it has had on the City of Wilson and Wilson and Edgecombe Counties, and indeed the state of North Carolina.

For 40 years, the Wilson plant has built a reputation for producing superior, high quality products that help protect drivers, passengers, and pedestrians in my state of North Carolina, across the country, and throughout the world.

The Wilson plant produced its first tire on March 1, 1974. Since then, Bridgestone Americas' Wilson plant has grown to be Wilson County's second largest employer and has provided good paying, stable jobs for thousands of people that call eastern North Carolina home.

Bridgestone Americas' Wilson facility is massive, spanning some 500 acres with two and a half million square feet of workspace. In January 2014, the plant received the highly sought and prestigious "Zero Waste to Landfill" certification by Underwriter Laboratories.

Bridgestone Americas is committed to environmental sustainability so much so that the men and women who work at the Wilson plant developed the land surrounding the facility into the Freedom Wildlife Habitat and Refuge. The area was certified as a "Corporate Lands for Learning and Wildlife at Work" site by the U.S. Wildlife Habitat Council. I am particularly proud of the Wilson employees who contributed their time and resources to make our region a better place to live and work.

Without question, Bridgestone Americas and their facility in Wilson, North Carolina have contributed greatly to our state and national economies. The Wilson plant is an integral part of our community and a great corporate partner for our region.

I am so pleased to recognize Bridgestone Americas' 40th year of manufacturing passenger and light truck tires in their Wilson facility and look forward to sharing in many more of their achievements.

HONORING BESS ENLOE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bess Enloe who was honored last night at the 2014 Southern Methodist University Meadows School of the Art's benefit gala located at the Meyerson Symphony Center. A graduate of Southern Methodist University, Ms. Enloe currently chairs the Executive Board of the SMU Meadows School for the Arts and is a Life Trustee of the Dallas Theater Center. She is currently the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the AT&T Performing Arts Center, where she co-chairs the Development Committee. Previously, she chaired the Facilities Committee for the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre.

Ms. Enloe's contributions have enriched the Dallas-area's culture. The fine arts is a key component in improving learning throughout all academic areas. Evidence of its effectiveness in reducing student dropout, raising student attendance, developing better team players, enhancing student creativity, and producing a more prepared student for the workplace. In Congress, I have always advocated for sustained investments in the arts and humanities.

Ms. Enloe has been an energetic leader and supporter of many of Dallas' arts groups throughout the years and deserves to be commended for her contributions to the community. Over the years Ms. Enloe has been the recipient of several prestigious awards in recognition of her work, including the TACA Silver Cup Award in 1993, the TITAS Award for Excellence in 2007 and the Dallas Historical Society's Award for Excellence in the Arts in 2009. Mr. Speaker, our country is a better one because we have a Bess Enloe.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEBBI O'DONOHUE FOR HER THIRTY YEARS OF SUCCESS AND SERVICE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding small business headquartered in the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri, which I have the honor and privilege of serving. Awards & T–Shirts Specialists, Inc. is celebrating thirty years of successful business. Their founder and owner, Debbi O'Donohue, is the driving force behind this nationally recognized company.

As elected leaders, it is important for us to salute successful businesses such as Awards & T–Shirts Specialists, Inc. The entrepreneurial spirit of Debbi and her company is truly what makes our country great.

Their founder and owner, Debbi O'Donohue, started Awards & T–Shirts on March 3, 1984 as a trophy business in her parents' basement. It rapidly expanded three months later to offer screen-printed apparel and custom-made awards. Today, this company is the premier provider of American-made and union-decorated promotional products in the United States, having customers in all fifty states and Canada.

Debbi was a trailblazer in 1986 when Awards & T–Shirts Specialists signed their first union contract. She became the first female owned and operated contractor in the Greater Kansas City Building and Construction Trades Council. Specializing in serving the unions' niche and related companies and organizations, Awards & T–Shirts has continued to expand and enhance its high- quality American and union made products, outstanding service, and creative image designs over the past thirty years.

Awards & T–Shirts' impressive record of delivering proven results has elevated their company to become a national leader in the promotional marketing industry that is highly sought after for conferences, special events, golf tournaments, and workforce motivational programs.

The amazing thirty years of success of Awards & T–Shirts Specialists can be directly attributed to Debbi and her boundless energy and captivating personality. She leads by example, inspiring dedication and determination in her staff.

It is one thing for a business to be successful; it is another milestone to achieve thirty years of success. Probably the greatest good is demonstrated by what a person gives back to the community. Debbi and Awards & T–Shirts have always demonstrated a commitment to supporting our community through sponsorship of youth sports teams, donations to community organizations, and a dedication to charitable giving by being the lead sponsor for the Annual Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Labor Day Softball Tournament and Bowl-A-Thon.

Awards & T–Shirts' 30th Anniversary Celebration on April 26th continued this dedication to giving back through a benefit for the Autism Society—The Heartland. It was my pleasure and honor to join Debbi, her family, and team along with customers from around the country for this worthy endeavor.

If the Speaker and my colleagues will indulge me, I would like to highlight one of my personal experiences with Debbi and her team. She and her dedicated staff came to the rescue of our Congressional Art Competition by producing the awards ribbons for the event at a moment's notice. As a woman owned business and a union signatory contractor that provides a full benefit package to their employees, Awards & T–Shirts Specialist, Inc. is a model for all small businesses in our country. The company's legacy is reflected in their customers, and I am proud to have benefitted from their outstanding craftsmanship, innovative and creative designs, and extraordinary dedication to the highest quality products.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me, as I am honored and proud to be saluting and applauding Debbi O'Donohue and Awards & T–Shirts Specialists, Inc. for thirty years of successful business.

RECOGNIZING THE ROUND LAKE AREA SCHOOLS 2014 FINE ARTS EXTRAVAGANZA

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Round Lake Area Schools' commitment to quality education and the arts. The Round Lake Area Schools, located in the suburban Chicago district I represent, will host its first annual Fine Arts Extravaganza. This program will offer an area-wide exhibition of student artwork, highlighting the extraordinary talents of our young people.

Including visual and performing arts, dance, drama and music, the Fine Arts Extravaganza is a showcase for the creative and artistic expressions of Round Lake Area students. The school district includes more than 7,000 students attending five elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school.

The study and appreciation of the arts is a bedrock quality of an expansive, well-rounded education fostering independent thought and self-expression. Our children's future prospects, and the future of our communities, are enriched when we all understand and appreciate the arts.

In the student art competition that I host, I am consistently struck by the excellence and thoughtfulness of the submitted works, and I know that our community is filled with outstanding artists at every grade level. The 2014 Round Lake Area Schools Fine Arts Extravaganza offers another exciting opportunity to showcase much of that talent and cultivate a breeding ground for future artistic endeavors.

I am grateful for the Round Lake community's commitment to the arts and to student artists, and I am excited for many future Fine Arts Extravaganzas.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY 2014

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today is Yom Ha'Shoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. It is a day to commemorate the millions of Holocaust victims and heroes.

In the United States, Yom Ha'Shoah is observed with events in cities and states around the country. In the Los Angeles area, home to approximately 10,000 survivors, the Museum of the Holocaust held a Walk of Remembrance and a day of activities at its memorial in Pan Pacific Park.

In Washington, DC, Yom Ha'Shoah is commemorated as part of the Days of Remembrance sponsored by U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The theme of this year's event is, ''Confronting the Holocaust: American Responses.'' As we reflect on our country's action and inaction in the face of genocide, we study how to recognize extremism and respond before it is too late.

Holocaust Remembrance Day comes this year amidst recent acts of anti-Semitism, both at home and abroad. Earlier this month in Kansas City, three people were killed by a gunman in a tragic shooting outside of the Jewish Community Center.

In Ukraine, as the interim government attempts to return stability and democracy to its borders, we have seen groups exhibiting violence, intimidation and propaganda towards Ukrainian Jews. The international community's condemnation has been swift and unequivocal. Nevertheless, these incidents and others serve as a poignant reminder that our obligation to teach the history of the Holocaust and fight intolerance remains ongoing.

As Congress prepares to assemble for the Days of Remembrance memorial service, we rise today to honor the lives of the victims and heroes of the Holocaust. We pay tribute to them by proclaiming that the American response will forever be, ''Never again.''

HONORING THEODORE DAY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a small-town hero. After 20 years of exceptional service, Theodore Day has earned his Life Membership to the Gales Ferry Volunteer Fire Company.

Ted became a volunteer fire fighter with the department in 1994. Since then he has logged in 21,000 hours serving the residents of the village of Gales Ferry and the town of Ledyard, Connecticut. Ted has responded to over 1,700 emergencies, including fires, motor vehicle crashes and hazardous materials releases. His skills and sharp instincts have been an asset to the department, enabling Ted to save lives and minimize damage to property. His courage and dedication earned him the title of Fire Fighter of the Year for 2002 and 2003.

In 2007, Ted was named Deputy Fire Chief. A strong advocate for the Gales Ferry Volunteer Fire Company, Ted has applied for grants and relentlessly pursued all avenues to save the department money. In tight budget years, Ted was able to keep the fire company running smoothly without sacrificing public safety.

In addition to his work with the Gales Ferry Volunteer Fire Company, Ted Day is a dedicated husband to this wife Tiffany and father to their children, Mason and Lia. I ask that my colleagues join with me in honoring Theodore Day for his dedication and outstanding service to the Gales Ferry Volunteer Fire Company and the community it serves.

RECOGNIZING THE FLORIDA CUSTOMS BROKERS AND FORWARDERS ASSOCIATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Florida Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association (FCBF) on its successful 55th Annual Gala.

FCBF was founded in 1960 by several Miami brokers and forwarders. Since then, it has thrived as a positive forum for the interchange of ideas; a promoter greater industry knowledge and ideals; and a powerful advocate on behalf of brokers and forwarders.

From these humble beginnings, FCBF has grown into one of the most influential and active members of the Florida freight forwarding and customs brokerage community. FCBF's active and experienced volunteer professionals have been at the forefront of matters that directly affect their industry, encouraging the development of common sense international trade policies that can help our nation thrive and protect our fragile economic recovery. Its professionals are equally committed to fostering positive working relationships amongst the trade community and federal agencies, creating a healthier environment for economic development and job creation in our state and our nation. Small business owners like customs brokers and forwarders are vital to our South Florida economy and it will be through their success that we will be able to realize true private sector jobs growth.

FCBF's annual gala celebrated over half a century of accomplishment and included the induction of John Ballestero of PortMiami, Lilly Cabrera of Lilly & Associates, Nelly Yunta of Customized Brokerage, Raymond Jones of Florida East Coast Railway, and Jorge Rodriguez into its hall of fame. FCBF was also proud to recognize the contributions of both Florida East Coast Railway and Florida Governor Rick Scott.

Congratulations again to the Florida Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association on its

recent gala and I wish all of its members continued success in the years to come.

STOP TARGETING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I voted on Thursday, April 10, in favor of H. Con. Res. 96, authored by Budget Committee Chairman PAUL RYAN, because it is my belief that Congress has a responsibility to address our nation's fiscal crisis. This proposal is simply a way forward in the budgetary process so we can continue the debate about the financial challenges our country faces.

Like last year's proposal, the House budget plan for FY 2015 calls for significant reductions in discretionary spending, reduced taxes and the full repeal of the President's costly health care reform law. It proposes a balanced budget in the next 10 years and recognizes that we can no longer ignore the trillions of dollars in mandatory spending on entitlement programs that almost completely consume our nation's budget.

This year's plan also asks Members of Congress to again lead by example by cutting their own pay, benefits and office budgets in the quest to reduce our debt and put this nation on sound financial footing.

Further, the Ryan plan protects our nation's defense and security forces. I have repeatedly said that we must get serious about the national security threats that exist in this world and what is required of our forward presence and response forces.

Reality is that we live in a 15 aircraft carrier world. The United States Navy has 10 right now and the law says we have to have 11. We need 11 carriers in our Navy. These are mobile, sea based, warships that can sail around the globe to project power and protect our global trade and commerce.

This budget keeps 11 carriers in the fleet, giving the United States the flexibility and capabilities that are essential to the rebalance of our security posture toward the Asia Pacific, our enduring security commitments in the Middle East, and the need to respond to contingency operations around the globe.

Our nation has no greater asset than the folks who have served and are currently serving our nation, both military and civilian alike. Their dedication and service to our nation is unwavering and it is important that Congress provide the best equipment, training, and compensation so these men and women can meet their duties in full. The Ryan budget plan restores national security spending and helps our defense maintain its current strength.

These are all measures that I have and will continue to support; however, it is disappointing that this proposal, just as in past budget proposals, unfairly targets only one group of Americans for additional sacrifices: the civilian federal workforce. I have serious concerns that this resolution again forces federal employees to contribute more towards their retirement, which is the equivalent of a pay cut, and ends their defined benefit retirement plan for deficit reduction purposes.

America's First District is full of hardworking and dedicated citizens who serve the people of this nation every day, such as on the front lines of the War on Terror or in support roles for our military. Still others provide invaluable services at places such as VA hospitals, cancer and Alzheimer's research laboratories, and law enforcement agencies such as the FBI and DEA. And yet, federal civilian employees continue to see their pay cut and their benefits reduced on multiple occasions.

Federal employees have endured a pay freeze since 2010; furloughs due to sequestration; and, most recently, were required to not work because of indecision and political gamesmanship that resulted in a government shutdown for 16 days. Enough is enough.

I am fully ready and willing to enact deeper cuts to my own salary, benefits and congressional operations, which are provisions included in this year's Ryan budget, but we must stop singling out federal employees simply because Congress continually fails to address the out-of-control spending.

There is no question that our nation must get its spending in order, and federal employees are certainly willing to do their part to help in this effort. Their daily contributions to their fellow citizens and to the cause of freedom are simply innumerable, and yet during deficit reduction debate over the last few years, federal employees have been asked to contribute much more than their fair share. Our federal civilian employees live a life of selfless service, and they deserve our appreciation.

Mr. Speaker, I voted in support of the Ryan budget because it is Congress' constitutional duty to budget and appropriate. This budget proposal is a means for Congress to further discuss our country's fiscal challenges, but I am hopeful that deficit reduction efforts going forward will focus more realistically on addressing the true drivers of our debt, rather than targeting those who are trying simply to serve their nation every day.

HONORING THE GREELEY CHORALE

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Greeley Chorale, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year. The Chorale, which originated in 1964 as a community chorus, performs a variety of choral masterpieces from classical to contemporary and sacred to secular. Since its inception, it has been led by several directors who have each worked diligently to garner international exposure and develop the talents of the group's ninety-four singers.

The Greeley Chorale has conducted eight international tours. In 1985, the Chorale completed a tour of Germany, the Netherlands, England, and Wales. Three years later, the Chorale was invited by the governments of the United States and Australia to sing at the opening ceremony of the World's Fair in Brisbane, Australia. In 1992, Greeley Chorale was selected as one of only three choirs to perform in the Vienna International Choral Festival, and during their 1996 tour of Scotland and England, the chorale performed the inaugural concert for the renovation of the Chapel Royale in Stirling Castle in Scotland. More recently, the Chorale has visited China, Italy, and Ireland. They performed a series of concerts in each country.

At home, the Greeley Chorale works to engage the community by providing citizens with the opportunity to experience the performance of choral masterpieces as both artists and patrons. The continued vision of the Chorale in promoting classical, innovative and educational opportunities is extremely valuable to this region and to all of Colorado. Please join me in congratulating the Chorale for its fifty years of success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Cancer Support Community for their decade of service to the Greater Lehigh Valley area. Since 2004, this organization has provided support, hope, and a sense of control to 26,400 people struggling with cancer in seven counties, including Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, and Schuylkill Counties in Pennsylvania as well as Warren County in New Jersey.

The Cancer Support Community offers free programs, educational classes, and support groups to patients and their families as they undergo the difficult stages of this terrible disease. Through their works, the Cancer Support Community of the Greater Lehigh Valley ensures no one has to face cancer alone. I extend my personal gratitude to the members of the board of directors, staff, and volunteers for their invaluable service to patients and their families in these communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTRAL JERSEY CLUB OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEGRO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS, INC.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Central Jersey Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. as its members gather to celebrate its 50th Annual Founders' Day. This milestone is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

The Central Jersey Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (NANBPWC) was established in 1964 by 18 local women in the business community and other professional fields. Since that time, the Central Jersey Club has continued to advance the mission of the NANBPWC to promote the interests of African American business and professional women while striving to improve the quality of life for its fellow citizens.

The 50 members of the Central Jersey Club represent and serve both Monmouth and Ocean Counties of New Jersey. They work to improve the social conditions of the community through volunteerism and community involvement. The Central Jersey Club provides resources to promote opportunities for local youth, through academic scholarships, mentoring and tutoring. In this endeavor, its members work closely with area schools, the Sisters Academy in Asbury Park and the Asbury Park location of the Boys and Girls Club of Monmouth County. The Central Jersey Club also serves as a member of Meridian Health's Partners in Health advisory committee for minority health and diversity issues.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating the Central Jersey Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. on its 50th Anniversary. The Central Jersey Club has paved a successful path for its members and future generations of women in business and continues to provide outstanding service to its community.

HONORING JAY SHEETS

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jay Sheets of Farmington, Missouri. Jay recently was a contestant on the NBC reality show, ''The Biggest Loser.'' Over the course of the four month competition, he lost an astonishing 114 pounds.

Jay was chosen out of more than 250,000 applicants for a spot on The Biggest Loser television series. He certainly made the most of his opportunity. By following a rigorous diet and workout plan, Jay went from 297 pounds to weighing a lean 183 pounds. Jay, the father of two, said his biggest goal was to show his kids to reach for every goal and dream. Undoubtedly, he accomplished this goal.

After finishing ''The Biggest Loser'', Jay teamed up with The Farmington Civic Center to sponsor a weight loss program called, ''Spring into Fitness with Jay Sheets.'' The program has 113 registrants and focuses on promoting fitness in the community. Jay serves as a tremendous example of what hard work, dedication and a healthy lifestyle can accomplish. It is my privilege to recognize his accomplishments today before the House of Representatives.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the terrible tragedies that began on April 7, 1994, and endured for 100 days after, in which Hutu militias ordered the country's Hutu majority to exterminate the Tutsi ethnic group. Neighbors attacked neighbors, teachers killed students, and in mixed-ethnicity marriages, husbands handed over wives to be killed.

In total, 800,000 people, mostly ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus, died at the hands of Hutu extremists during a 100-day period. 10,00 victims were killed each day—7 per minute on average. To make matters even worse, hundreds of thousands of victims were infected with HIV as Hutu extremists used rape as a tool of violence. The terrible violence only ended when Tutsi rebel forces attacked and retook the country. Even now, the international tribunal created in the wake of these atrocities has delivered only 49 total convictions out of 95 indictments since 1995.

We must remember the victims of this horrific event in world history, honor those that survived the tragedy, and vow to never allow something like this to ever happen again.

We must look to the progress that Rwanda has made 20 years later. Life expectancy has almost doubled and economic growth continues to flourish and improve every year.

We can see hope in Rwanda now where before there was torment. To keep on this path of prosperity, we must dedicate ourselves to peace and work to actively eliminate violent extremism. This event will forever stand as a testament to the horror that can result when human beings give in to the dark side of their nature, and we must learn from this very tragic lesson in history so that it never happens again.

HONORING DALLAS AREA NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize several of the best and brightest students in the Dallas area who have recently received National Merit Scholarships. The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.5 million entrants each year. Less than 8,000 students are selected as finalists for this prestigious award.

I want to commend these students for their efforts. I also want to comment on the high quality education the students in these school districts and other schools like it are receiving, they can have the opportunity to live the American dream, to do anything they want to do, to go on to a great college or university of their choice, and to pursue any career path that sparks their interest.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to invest in education to help us out-educate, out-innovate, and out-build the rest of the world. We must identify ways to help improve schools like these that provide educational excellence to my community. We must not waver in our commitment to our children, their children, and the future of this country. With encouragement and support from their principals and teachers, the following students are achieving remarkable success:

ARLINGTON

Timberview High School—Justice I. Njoku, National Achievement NMSC Scholarship.

Summit High School—Ireoluwawamiwa Olagbami, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

Oakridge School—Olubunmi A. Solano, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

CARROLLTON

Hebron High School—Catherine D. Leigh, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

DALLAS

Richardson High School—Melody Iro, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

Talented and Gifted Magnet School at Townview—Miranda N. McClellan, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

DESOTO

Science and Engineering Magnet School at Townview—Wesley J. Runnels, Honorary Achievement Scholarship.

FORT WORTH

Paschal High School—Ihoma C. Owhonda, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

FRISCO

Hockaday School—Dominique Danielle Cooper, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

Heritage High School—Ivie Imhonde, National Achievement Walgreen Co. Scholarship.

Centennial High School—Devon Olivia Lewis, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

GARLAND

Garland High School—Keshawn M. Ivory, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

PLANO

Plano West Senior High—Bradley George Hamilton, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

Plano East Senior High—Michael O. Oluwole, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

RICHARDSON

Richardson High School—Nanette N. Elufa, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

ROWLETT

North Garland High School—Olatunde A. Badejo, National Achievement $2,500 Scholarship.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF TONY COELHO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Tony Coelho. Tony, a former U.S. Congressman, has led a life devoted to public service, and he deserves to be commended for all of his efforts in making the Central Valley as well as our nation a better place.

Tony was born and raised in Merced County. He grew up in a Portuguese immigrant family and learned the value of hard work helping on his family's dairy farm. Obtaining a college education was a priority for Tony, so he moved to Southern California to attend Loyola University of Los Angeles. In 1964, he graduated with a Bachelors of Arts degree. He hoped to study for the priesthood, but his plans were interrupted when he was diagnosed with epilepsy, and canon law in the Catholic Church precluded anyone with epilepsy from entering the priesthood. He ultimately found a new ministry—public service—and it took him to Washington, DC.

Tony served as a staff member for Congressman Bernie Sisk for 13 years, ultimately becoming his Chief of Staff. As staff, Tony honed his political skills and his knowledge of water and agricultural issues in the Central Valley. When Congressman Sisk announced his retirement, Tony ran to succeed him and won the seat in 1978.

After serving just one term in office, in 1981, Tony was selected to be chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee whose main job was to help get Democrats elected to Congress. He professionalized the campaign committee raising more money than had ever been raised before from traditionally Republican interests as well as Democratic interests to support worthy Democratic candidates. He also developed the permanent infrastructure comprised of pollsters, speech writers, and fundraising staff to enable Democrats to be competitive in races. Due to his success, in 1986, Tony was the first-elected House Majority Whip, third in line to the House Speakership. As Majority Whip, Tony secured the votes needed to pass the Democratic legislative agenda.

One of Tony's greatest accomplishments in Congress was serving as the primary sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This legislation has provided people with disabilities equal access to employment, public facilities, and transportation and has made it possible for them to become a full participating member of society. Since the passage of the law in 1990, millions of Americans have found employment that had previously known only discrimination. It is considered the most important piece of civil rights legislation in the past 30 years.

Although Tony resigned from Congress in 1989, he continued to dedicate time to public service and has remained deeply committed to his work in the disabilities movement. For many years, Tony has worked closely with the Epilepsy Foundation of America, serving as a national spokesperson, Board President, and fundraiser. He was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve as Chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, and Vice Chair of the National Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities as well as Co-Chair to the U.S. Census Monitoring Board. Tony also served as the U.S. Commissioner General to the 1998 World Exposition in Lisbon, Portugal.

Tony also has stayed very active politically. In 2000, he served as chairman of the Gore presidential campaign and continues to serve as an informal adviser to numerous Members of Congress and elected officials at all levels of government.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize a mentor and friend to many of us, Tony Coelho. He has made a lasting difference in our nation, and we must thank him for his unwavering commitment and service.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial anniversary of the City of Stuart, Florida, which I am so proud to have located in my Congressional District.

The City of Stuart, with its ideal location bordering the St. Lucie River and West of the Indian River, has long been a key destination for those looking to connect with the water, whether through fishing, boating, or other activities. Famed for its Sailfishing and other types of sport fishing, Stuart is known as the ''Sailfish Capital of the World.'' The city offers a scenic and historic downtown, with museums, live music, and numerous dining and shopping options.

For the past 100 years, the City of Stuart has worked to promote and advance the interests and well-being of its residents and of the environment. Stuart has played a leading role in protecting and restoring local waterways from pollution, understanding that this issue impacts the community's entire way of life. Stuart's water treatment facility has received numerous awards for its efforts and dedication to protecting our waters, including the Operations Excellence Award from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Medium Public Water System of the Year award from the Florida Rural Water Association.

I am incredibly honored to represent the City of Stuart in Congress. This is a city whose beauty is paralleled only by the work ethic and dedication of its people, creating jobs and boosting economic growth. This is a city that knows the importance of protecting our environment, and is working to preserve it for our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I again congratulate the City of Stuart on their centennial anniversary, and I wish them many more milestones to celebrate.

THE DALLES READINESS CENTER

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take the opportunity to recognize the newly completed Fort Dalles Readiness Center in The Dalles, Oregon. For the past fifteen years, the Oregon Military Department, Columbia Gorge Community College, The Dalles Outreach Team, and other local, state, and federal officials have worked tirelessly to bring this innovative project to life. The Readiness Center will be home to the Oregon National Guard's Alpha Company, 3–116 Cavalry and replaces the original unit armory built in 1951. What makes this building so unique is its dual-use capability and its state-of-the-art construction. Situated on the campus of the Columbia Gorge Community College, the Readiness Center complex will host not only the unit's 150 soldiers during regular monthly drills, but also share a large portion of its nearly 63,000 square foot space with the college for use as a lecture hall and workforce training center for students, and flexible rental space for the community at large. The Readiness Center is likely the first armory in the country to achieve ''net zero'' energy consumption, meaning it will produce as much energy on site as it uses, and will serve as an example of efficiency for Oregon Military Department's future armory projects. The building's solar panels, sod roof, and geo-thermal heat pump system also will serve as a working classroom for the college's Renewable Energy Program.

I would be remiss to not point out the Center's special relationship with Columbia Gorge Community College. Throughout his tenure as college president, Dr. Frank Toda, a 30-year veteran of the Air Force, has maintained his commitment to his fellow veterans and the local citizen-soldiers of the Oregon National Guard. This dedication was reflected in Columbia Gorge Community College being recognized as among the top fifteen percent of schools nationwide in helping returning veterans acquire needed job skills.

The Fort Dalles Readiness Center will be officially dedicated to the public on April 17, 2014. While I cannot be there to help the community celebrate its success, I believe it fitting to recognize the years of hard work and steadfast devotion by all of those involved.

OPPOSE THE PAUL RYAN BUDGET

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in opposition to the severely regressive Paul Ryan Budget Proposal a ''slash and burden'' bill written on the backs of programs and tax cuts that grievously affect low-income and middle-class Americans.

The Ryan plan proposes a pathway to American prosperity by attempting to balance our nation's budget through vicious cuts to programs that working people rely on, paired with cuts to taxes for the wealthy. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, sixty-nine percent of Ryan's cuts would come from low-income programs while the richest one percent of Americans would enjoy nearly a fifty percent tax cut.

One of the many low-income programs that would feel the sharp effects of the Ryan Budget proposal is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also referred to as SNAP. SNAP funding would be cut by $137 billion over ten years effectively starving millions of families and children and furthering the economic instability of Americans.

These cuts would force states to decide whose benefits to reduce or terminate. They would have no good choices; the program already provides an average of $1.40 per person per meal primarily to poor children, working-poor parents, seniors, people with disabilities and others struggling to make ends meet.

These proposed cuts rest on inaccurate claims about how the SNAP program discourages work and encourages waste, fraud and abuse. Chairman Ryan claims that SNAP doesn't encourage recipients to work. Yet, among SNAP households with at least one

working-age, non-disabled adult, more than half work while receiving SNAP and more than eighty percent worked in the year prior to or the year after receiving SNAP. The rates are even higher for families with children; more than sixty percent work while receiving SNAP, and almost ninety percent worked in the prior or subsequent year.

Chairman Ryan and House Republicans continue to push for devastating cuts that virtually eliminate assistance for millions of low-income Americans, instead of working to help lift them out of poverty AND away from government assistance by refusing something as fair and practical as raising the minimum wage.

The Ryan budget threatens the most basic needs of millions of Americans already struggling to make ends meet. It significantly increases hunger, poverty and hardship. It is for these reasons that I will vote NO on this budget and I ask my colleagues to oppose this budget with me.

RECOGNIZING THE PENSACOLA ICE FLYERS AS 2013–14 SOUTHERN PROFESSIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE PRESIDENT'S CUP CHAMPIONS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pensacola Ice Flyers on winning their second consecutive Southern Professional Hockey League President's Cup Championship. This outstanding achievement is evidence of the hard work and dedication of the entire Ice Flyers' organization.

Northwest Florida has a long and storied history as the ''Cradle of Naval Aviation,'' and the Ice Flyers name was chosen to honor this legacy. Since joining the Southern Professional Hockey League in 2009, the Ice Flyers have been consistent contenders—reaching three straight President's Cup Championship finals and bringing two championships home to Pensacola.

This season, the Ice Flyers experienced unparalleled success also winning the Coffey Trophy as the league's best regular season team. En route to these titles, the Ice Flyers set several Southern Professional Hockey League records, including the most wins, most points, highest winning percentage, most road wins, fewest regulation losses, and longest road winning streak. The Ice Flyers boasted the league's best offense scoring more than 200 goals, while also allowing the fewest goals in the league. The Ice Flyers regular season was so outstanding that they posted a better regular season record on the road than any other team in the league had on home ice.

The Ice Flyers did not allow their regular season dominance to engender complacency, and when the playoffs began, the Ice Flyers raised their game to another level. The team averaged four goals per game while giving up just over one, and the deeper that they went into the postseason, the better the Ice Flyers performed. They posted an impressive 6–1 postseason mark, setting the playoff record for the highest road winning percentage. The Ice Flyers, however, proved to be truly clutch performers, saving the best for the President's Cup Championship, where they set the playoff record for most goals in one game, most goals in one series, and largest winning margin.

In addition to their tremendous success on the ice, the Ice Flyers fans also proved that they are the most dedicated fan base in the Southern Professional Hockey League. The team shattered the league's attendance record, with more than 114,000 fans attending games at the Pensacola Bay Center, and three busloads of fans made the trip to watch the Ice Flyers defeat the Columbus Cottonmouths to clinch their second straight President's Cup Championship.

On behalf of the United States Congress, it is my privilege to congratulate the Ice Flyers players—Ryan Salvis, Steve Bergin, Shaun Arvai, Brett Lutes, Ross MacKinnon, Malcolm Lyles, Tyler Amburgey, Drew Baker, Keegan Flaherty, Paul Rodrigues, Joshua Turnbull, Mitchell Good, Steve Whitely, Joe Caveney, Adam Pawlick, Corey Banfield, Peter Di Salvo, John Dunbar, Jeremy Gates, and Joe Bueltel—and their staff of Majority Owner Greg Harris, Head Coach Rod Aldoff, President Chuck McCartney, Group Sales Manager Patrick Casey, Merchandise Manager Josh Kersh, Communications Manager Geoff Nichols, Director of Ticketing Tom Reading, Manager of Corporate Partnerships and Fan Experience Brittany Tindell, Athletic Trainer Jen Lorenzo, and Equipment Manager Mark Bradtmueller on a fantastic season and another championship success. My wife Vicki and I are proud to have the Ice Flyers call Pensacola home and to honor our long and proud history as the Cradle of Naval Aviation with their name, and we wish them continued success and many more championships to come.

COLONEL GEORGE McDOWELL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, to live to be 100 years old is in and of itself a remarkable accomplishment. But, to do what Colonel George McDowell has done in his life is truly impressive. His patriotic legacy of military service is one of the best examples of a founding member of the Greatest Generation.

Born in Detroit, Texas on August 27, 1913, McDowell grew up like most rural Texas children. At the age of 17, he enrolled in North Texas Agricultural College (now the University of Texas at Arlington). In the 1930s, this college served primarily as a military academy. In less than two years, McDowell graduated and decided to attend a third year to command D Company. This decision proved to be life-changing: in 1933, he earned a competitive appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point where he eventually served as president of his class. He graduated four years later, in 1937, as a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery.

McDowell started his military career at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in the 18th Field Artillery, a horse-drawn artillery unit. There, he trained with new long range guns, participated in the development of bomb handling equipment and worked with specialized vehicles that would be used during World War II. He learned the fundamentals of how to support the U.S. Infantry with close fire support.

In Oklahoma, McDowell's friend from West Point, Lt. William Westmoreland (Class of 1936), later the Vietnam Commander, set him up on a blind date with Rae Woods. Rae, an Army ''brat'' of an Artillery Officer also stationed at Fort Sill, would soon become Mrs. McDowell.

Two years later, with the mechanization of the Army, McDowell was transferred to the Ordnance Department for duty with the Air Corps. He attended the Aviation Ordnance School at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland and at Langley Field in Virginia. There, he served as an instructor and participated in developing bomb-handling equipment and specialized vehicles that were used in World War II.

With the Germans invading across Europe and the Japanese seeking to gain ground in Asia, the U.S. Army and Air Corps were expanding quickly. Under this expansion, McDowell was assigned positions at Ordnance Officer at Bowman Field, Kentucky, Ireland Task Force, New Orleans Air Base and at Birmingham Air Base in Alabama as Ordnance Officer, Third Support Command.

By the summer of 1942, McDowell was ordered to Washington D.C. to serve in the redesignated 12th Air Support Command of the Western Task Force to prepare for the North African campaign under the command of General Patton. McDowell was in charge of logistical planning, including movement of units and equipment, in the invasion of French Morocco called Operation Torch.

General Patton and his troops, along with McDowell, arrived in Morocco at the port of Casablanca aboard the USS *Augusta* in the fall of 1942. Within three days, Casablanca fell, providing the U.S. a strong military port. This Campaign built up the power of the U.S. Armed Forces leading into World War II by eventually pushing the German forces out of North Africa.

McDowell then spent two years overseas in North Africa and Italy. There he was responsible for the logistics for arms and equipment necessary for both the Royal Air Force and the U.S. Tactical Air Support for the Fifth and Eighth Army Operations. In 1944, two years after deploying, McDowell was assigned to the War Department general staff where he was responsible for standardizing and approving procurement of newly developed small arms, ammunition, and specialized vehicles for the Army and Air Corps units.

Upon returning home from World War II, part of America's Greatest Generation, McDowell wanted to do more with his life. He took his experience and knowledge from West Point and his military service and enrolled at Harvard Business School where he earned an MBA degree in 1948. After Harvard, McDowell was then transferred from the Army to the Air Force, and he served at the Air Force's Headquarters at the Pentagon and at Wright Patterson Air Force Base from 1948–1955. He signed the procurement order and oversaw the installment of the first four UNIVAC computers for the Air Force, the Navy, the Bureau of Census, and Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

McDowell then studied for one year at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and reassigned from 1958–1960 to the Air Force's

ballistic missile program, first in California and then as a project officer and commander of the Thor Missile Force in England. In England, McDowell contributed to training the Royal Air Force crews, who manned the Thor Missile Force of 60 missiles with atomic warheads—a mission that helped counter the Soviet Union's missile threats. He was later assigned to the Pentagon in the Office of Secretary of Defense's Weapons System Evaluation Group.

In 1961, Colonel McDowell retired from the Air Force and a 24 year career as a commissioned officer in both the Army and Air Force. For his distinguished service, Colonel McDowell received the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

After retirement, McDowell moved home to Houston, Texas with his wife, Rae. There, he became a successful real estate entrepreneur and formed Clark McDowell & Kic, Inc., which has grown to become one of the leading residential property management firms in the Houston area. He and his wife, Rae, raised two children in Houston—Larry and Linda. Regrettably, in 2006, his wife, Rae, passed away at the age of 90. They were married for 70 years.

After an admirable career in the military and a successful business, Colonel McDowell still wanted to give back: he served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Houston Continuing Education School for nine years, as the first president of the Houston Chapter of the Military Officers Association of North America and as president of the West Point Society of Greater Houston. True patriot and citizen, Colonel McDowell has also served on three grand juries. Colonel McDowell is currently the fifth oldest, living graduate of West Point.

Our nation is indebted to Colonel McDowell for his service, and our local community is privileged and grateful to call him a fellow Houstonian and hero. At 100 years old, he continues the good fight. It is with great pleasure that I recognize and honor Colonel George McDowell, for his service to our country and for continuing to give back to our community through a lifetime of service. Without his service, we would not be the greatest country the world has ever known.

George McDowell's 7 Rules to Live By:

Rule 1: Stay Mentally Challenged Every Day

Rule 2: After age 70, associate only with younger people

Rule 3: Forget any rocking chair concept of retirement—stay active, exercise, walk

Rule 4: Get at least 7 hours sleep each night

Rule 5: Schedule an hour's nap each afternoon

Rule 6: On getting up from a nap, mix a good bourbon Old Fashioned to drink before dinner

Rule 7: When leaving the doctor's office, if he does not shout "whatever you are doing, keep doing it", get a new doctor and a second opinion

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE ACTIVISM OF WOMEN'S FAST FOR FAMILIES

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courageous actions taken throughout March and April by women participating in the Women's Fast for Families. Representatives of this group held a series of events on the National Mall earlier this month, marking the end of their month long campaign to raise awareness about the need for comprehensive immigration reform that addresses the needs and includes the voices of women and families.

Beginning on International Women's Day, over 1,200 women across the country engaged in a series of 24-hour fasts to raise awareness about and push for change related to these important issues. In early April, over 100 of these women were present on the National Mall here in Washington D.C., to end their campaign with a 48-hour fast.

I had the privilege of meeting with several of these fasters on the National Mall during their fast, and I was inspired by each and every woman I had the privilege of speaking with. I believe that their devotion to the cause of meaningful immigration reform that treats women and families fairly will keep this issue moving forward until we are able to pass a comprehensive solution into law.

I would like to thank each and every one of them for taking a stand and working to make the change that they believe in a reality.

COMMEMORATING THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of "Yom HaShoah" or the day commemorating the victims of the Holocaust.

The six million Jewish victims and the millions of others who perished during those dark and horrible days will never be forgotten.

The Jewish community and individuals across the world have committed themselves to the memories of those lost but also to the strength of those who survived.

As we mark another Holocaust Remembrance Day, and more time passes since those unspeakable atrocities were committed, we should never forget the precursors, context and attitudes that allowed such crimes to be committed.

Never again will peoples of free, liberal, open democracies stand idly by and watch an aggressor perpetrate crimes against humanity.

Today, we remember those that rose up and overcame and I stand with them.

RECOGNIZING KNIT WITS II

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, because volunteers are essential to our community and institutions as they go about helping people in need, congratulations to the Knit Wits from Ann's Choice in Bucks County for donating their skills and time to the cause of our wounded veterans. Since early this year, the members have created more than 140 hand-knit stockings for military veterans, specifically those injured in combat and now recuperating at Walter Reed Medical Center, where I had the privilege of meeting some of the soldiers and heard their strong message of hope and confidence. Together, the volunteers have made the stocking gifts in all patterns and sizes and generously donated them to the hospitalized soldiers. Thanks to all involved in this worthy cause for recognizing the contribution and sacrifice of our veterans in this way. The gift of love that goes into this particular project has not gone unnoticed by the families and friends of the most deserving young men and women. And in the course of this ongoing project, the small and faithful group of knitters has set an example for others to follow.

RECOGNIZING FRANK M. KALDER

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Frank M. Kalder on the occasion of his retirement, having served for nearly 15 years as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). In total he provided nearly 31 years of distinguished service to our country.

Mr. Kalder began his career in federal service in 1983 as a budget examiner with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in the Presidential Management Intern program. After OMB, he helped establish the newly-created Office of National Drug Control Policy in 1989. Mr. Kalder went on to serve in important management positions with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Justice Management Division and Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys.

For the past 15 years, he has served as DEA's CFO, where he has been the recipient of three Presidential Rank Awards. My subcommittee has had the pleasure of working with Frank in this capacity, and can attest to his hard work in communicating DEA's budget needs to ensure the agents have the necessary resources to continue their fight against drug trafficking in this country and the rest of the world.

During his time at DEA, Frank ushered in countless improvements and reforms to DEA's financial management practices. Not only was he instrumental in leading the implementation of two updated financial systems, but he also ensured that DEA had a clean financial audit year after year. Because of his efforts, DEA was able to avoid employee furloughs during the recent budget sequester through an innovative rethinking of how DEA allocates funds

internally—a process known as zero based budgeting. Frank has served as an inspiration to those who have had the privilege to work for and with him during his tenure.

Frank's contributions also extend beyond his role as CFO at DEA. He is an active member of his church, where he has served in various leadership roles throughout the years. He is also an adjunct professor at Northern Virginia Community College, educating future leaders for careers in public service

Mr. Speaker, Frank Kalder has left a tangible, lasting imprint on financial management at the DEA and was a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars. He will be remembered for his many contributions to DEA's outstanding reputation in the federal financial management community. I wish Frank, his wife Stacy and their family continued success as he enters this next stage of his life, and I ask my colleagues to join us in expressing our appreciation for his tremendous contributions to federal service, our Nation and the Northern Virginia community.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the City of Milton Fire Department. For 100 years, the Milton Fire Department has served the local community and its citizens, and I am proud to have such a first-class fire department in Florida's First Congressional District.

The City of Milton Fire Department traces its roots back to April 21, 1914, when, following the third of a series of devastating fires that destroyed downtown Milton, the Town Council decided to establish the Milton Volunteer Fire Department. The town ordered three hand-drawn hose reels and 1,500 feet of hose, nozzles and wrenches for the new fire department, and a group of local citizens signed up as the first firefighters in Milton. Although they were an all-volunteer fire department, the residents of Milton were dedicated to providing state-of-the-art firefighting equipment, and to help carry out the department's mission, Milton purchased a 1914 American La France Chemical Engine on a Ford Chassis, which was the first automobile fire truck in all of Northwest Florida. The Milton Volunteer Fire Department served the Town of Milton and surrounding areas for 13 years at their original location on Grace (now Caroline) Street before moving in 1927 to Milton's newly constructed Town Hall on the corner of Berryhill and Broad Streets.

In 1954, the department began the shift towards a professional firefighting department when it hired a ''Nighttime Firefighter'' and a ''Weekend Firefighter.'' The department became a 24 hour firefighting operation in 1960 when they hired a ''Daytime Firefighter.'' With these changes, the department moved to a new fire station at Susan (now Bruner) and Berryhill Streets in 1962, and by 1965, the department had grown further, establishing two full-time firefighting shifts. A third-full time shift was created in 1974, and the City of Milton Fire Department has grown today to a full-time force consisting of 16 career members, including the Fire Chief and three shifts of a Captain, Lieutenant, and three Firefighters to provide fire suppression, emergency medical response, fire prevention and public fire safety education to the citizens of Milton.

On September 11, 2009, the City of Milton Fire Department began operating from its modern facility located at 5321 Stewart Street. The department currently operates with three pumpers, a midi-pumper rescue vehicle, two staff vehicles, and a rescue boat, and thanks to the hard work and dedication of the personnel, the fire department consistently exceeds national safety standards, while upholding their core values of Respect, Integrity, Accountability, Responsibility, and Professionalism. Today, the department boasts more than 165 combined years of firefighting experience with an impressive average response time of less than four minutes. Whether they are fighting fires or providing excellent first-response medical care, the residents of Milton all rest well knowing that the City of Milton Fire Department always stands ready in their hour of need.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to recognize the 100th anniversary of the City of Milton Fire Department. All of the residents served by the department are thankful for their exceptional service to our community. My wife Vicki and I wish them all the best as they continue to serve Northwest Florida for the next hundred years and beyond.

REMEMBERING WORKERS WHO WERE KILLED OR INJURED ON THE JOB

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today—the 25th observance Workers' Memorial Day—in memory of the thousands of men and women, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers who got up one morning, got dressed, kissed their loved ones goodbye, and never returned home.

We owe those workers—the pillars of our modern economy—and their families more than mere remembrance. We owe them more than just our thoughts, prayers, and sympathies. We owe them something that is far too rare in this town: we owe them action.

Anyone who remembers the history of workplace safety would tell you that the problem has improved since the labor movement first coalesced around safer workplaces. In 1970, their hard work finally paid off. Congress came together—Democrat and Republican—to pass the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Even then we did not see eye to eye on this issue; the process was long, and fraught with setbacks. However, we knew that 13,800 workplace fatalities every year—18 for every 100,000 workers—was something we could not in good conscience allow.

We knew that we could not sit idly by while so many died—so we put aside differences, worked together, and saved the lives of thousands of Americans, and protected the health and well-being of millions more. We cut workplace fatalities, from 18 out of every 100,000 employees to 4 out of 100,000. We cut total yearly workplace fatalities, from over 13,000 to almost 4,000, despite massive growth in the size of total national workforce. We did what Congress is supposed to do: pass legislation that improves peoples' lives.

However, with time and neglect the vitality of our workplace safety protections has waned. Enforcement actions are rarely undertaken. Our criminal penalties are paper tigers. Civil penalties have been flat since before the Clinton administration, after being raised only once since 1970. It would take hundreds of years to inspect all our workplaces at current funding levels. We have failed to act, and our failures are measured in lost lives and wrecked bodies.

We spend too much time debating whether employers can risk their workers' lives without consequence. We spend too much time arguing about the cost of regulation—when the median penalty for killing a worker is only $5,175 dollars.

Today, I hope my colleagues will remember that a human life is worth more than that. I urge my colleagues to consider the multiple pieces of legislation that would enhance workplace safety protections introduced this Congress. We should start with the Protecting America's Workers Act, which would strengthen the penalties for workplace safety violations, index them for inflation, and provide for additional penalties for the most callous violators.

The time has come to address the shortcomings in our workplace safety system. The time has come to ensure that more fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters return home to the people they love.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY 2014

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity on Holocaust Remembrance Day to pay a solemn tribute to the six million Jewish victims and millions of other victims who perished during the Holocaust. As we pledge to ''never forget'' the Holocaust, we must also pledge to do more to ensure that the world never again allows the conditions to arise that contributed to this horrific era in history. As the representative of a Congressional District in the New York City area, I have heard the stories of those lost in the Holocaust and I have also heard stories of survival and heroism. Holocaust Remembrance Day is a time to stop and remember those lost and salute those who stood up to the Nazis. I thank my colleague from Illinois, BRAD SCHNEIDER, for taking this Special Order for Members of Congress to make official statements on this important day.

There are those who deny the facts and the lessons of the Holocaust. The nations of the world and the people of those nations must continue to keep the memory of those dark days alive. Unfortunately, genocide did not end in 1945 and we have seen many examples of crimes against humanity in the years since the end of World War II. Tolerance is a

value that must be learned by each generation. The United States must continually commit itself to leading the world in the fight against intolerance and oppression of people because of their religious beliefs, their ethnic heritage, of their race.

Today the Holocaust will be remembers throughout this country with events at schools, workplaces, churches, synagogues, and museums. In Israel, where many Holocaust survivors settled after the war, Yom Hashoah is noted with a two-minute sounding of sirens, religious services, and flags flown at half-staff in tribute to those who were murdered by the Nazis.

Mr. Speaker, although the horrors of the Holocaust are slipping from current memory, the lessons are clearer than ever. I am hopeful that with teaching through our schools, churches, synagogues, and museums, we can prevent future genocides and ingrain tolerance in our culture and around the world. Teaching the lessons of the Holocaust is a task we take on to honor the millions killed during World War II. ''Never forget'' and ''never again'' are not just words, but a solemn vow to do all we can to educate our children about the horrors of the Holocaust. I urge all Americans to take a moment on this Holocaust Remembrance Day to honor the victims of the Holocaust.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on April 9 and 10, 2014, I was unavoidably detained attending to representational activities in my congressional district, including attendance at the memorial services for the victims of the tragic shooting at Fort Hood, and thus unable to return in time for rollcall votes 171 through 177.

Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

1. On rollcall No. 171 I would have voted ''no'' (April 9) (H. Con. Res. 96, Mulvaney of South Carolina Substitute Amendment No. 1).

2. On rollcall No. 172 I would have voted ''yes'' (April 9) (H. Con. Res. 96, Congressional Black Caucus Budget (Rep. Moore of Wisconsin Substitute Amendment No. 2).

3. On rollcall No. 173 I would have voted ''yes'' (April 9) (H. Con. Res. 96, Progressive Caucus Budget (Grijalva of Arizona Substitute Amendment No. 3).

4. On rollcall No. 174 I would have voted ''no'' (April 9) (H.R. 4414, Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014).

5. On rollcall No. 175 I would have voted ''no'' (April 10) (H. Con. Res. 96, Woodall of Georgia Substitute Amendment No. 4).

6. On rollcall No. 176 I would have voted ''yes'' (April 10) (H. Con. Res. 96, Democratic Alternative Budget (Rep. Van Hollen—Budget)).

7. On rollcall No. 177 I would have voted ''no'' (April 10) (H. Con. Res. 96, Republican Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Resolution (Rep. Ryan—Budget)).

RECOGNIZING YOM HASHOAH—HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Yom HaShoah—Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Almost 70 years ago, the worst genocide in modern human history was exposed to the entire world and the murder of six million Jews and other political, religious, and social minorities was forever seared into the collective memory of humankind. In the face of such an unimaginable tragedy, many individuals, including myself, have vowed to not only never allow something so heinous to occur again—we promised to never let the spirit of those victims fade from our hearts and from our minds.

It is in that vein that I have personally and professionally dedicated myself to issues such as providing Holocaust survivors with adequate financial and social services so that they may live in dignity, the dignity that was stolen from them decades ago. As a Jew, a policymaker, and a representative of one of the largest survivor populations in the United States, I have undertaken such issues with pride and humility.

This week is a particularly moving one as we engage in the National Remembrance Days here at the U.S. Capitol, and look forward to the planting of a sapling from the horse chestnut tree that was visible to Anne Frank and about which she wrote so poignantly in her diary while in hiding. Such a meaningful ceremony is particularly fitting in light of this year's Remembrance Days theme: Confronting the Holocaust: American Responses. What better way to further our American response than by planting a sapling that inspired her during her darkest days at the seat of our democracy? The tree will remind Members, staff, and the millions of annual visitors to the Capitol that life, liberty, and freedom from persecution are enduring ideals of our common humanity that we will never cease fighting for and protecting.

2014 VICTIMS' RIGHTS CAUCUS AWARDS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 30th Anniversary of the passage of the Crime Victims' Rights Act, and we celebrated that great achievement during National Crime Victims' Rights Week with our 2014 Victims' Rights Caucus Awards. We honored 6 amazing individuals and organizations who are changing the lives of victims of crime.

Fellow Houstonian Sheriff Adrian Garcia of Harris County, Texas, received the Suzanne McDaniel Memorial Award for Public Awareness. For the past 6 years, Sheriff Garcia has headed the largest sheriff's department in the state of Texas and the third largest department in the nation. He has been on the forefront of using social media to help fight crime. His department has created an app that allows residents to report crime immediately and anonymously, if necessary. This has been especially beneficial in the fight against human trafficking. Sheriff Garcia has made cracking down on human trafficking a top priority within his department. Under his leadership, the Sheriff's Department works hard to close illegitimate businesses and to arrest those exploiting the vulnerable. The impact of Sheriff Garcia's work is far reaching. He truly is a hero whose efforts are felt in our community and homes each and every day.

Congressman SCOTT PERRY honored Mrs. Jane Tucker, the co-founder of ACCESS York with the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award. As a survivor, Jane Tucker knew more services were needed for victims in York, Pennsylvania, so together with likeminded individuals, ACCESS-York was created. ACCESS-York is a program for victims of domestic violence that continues to provide free and confidential emergency shelter, transitional housing, medical and legal advocacy, individual and group counseling, life skills training, and a 24–hour hotline for all victims seeking help. Ms. Tucker has served ACCESS-York for thirty years, and continues to volunteer to this day. She has used her story and her work with other victims to advocate on behalf of programming for domestic violence survivors.

Congressman JOHN LEWIS honored Ms. Jessalyn Dorsey, Victims' Advocate at The Crime Victims Advocacy Council (CVAC) with the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award. In 1999, Ms. Dorsey's only son Terrence Green was shot and killed by teens after a neighborhood party. She was devastated by the crime and eventually attended CVAC's support group for homicide survivors. As she began to heal, she started to help co-facilitate the groups. Now she runs support groups as a professional victims advocate for CVAC. She served as CVAC's President for three years and won the award for CJCC's Volunteer of the year. During her tenure, she and her team have helped over 7500 crime victims. Ms. Dorsey used what she learned from her personal tragedy to help others in similar circumstances.

The Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy was awarded to Community Action Partnership of Madera County, Victim Service Center (CAPMC) by VRC co-founder and co-chair, Rep. JIM COSTA. CAPMC operates a multi-program victim service center for Madera County, California that addresses the needs of domestic violence victims, sexual assault victims, child abuse victims, homicide victims, and victims of all types of crime. CAPMC's broad range of services greatly benefits the population that they serve. CAPMC's programs are all in one center, which reduces the barriers that can prevent victims from accessing services. In addition, CAPMC is the only agency in Madera County that provides 24 hour crisis intervention to crime victims. Congresswoman ANN WAGNER awarded Mrs. Kimberly Ritter, Director of Development of the Exchange Initiative, with the Allied Professional Award. Ms. Ritter has used her involvement with the conference and hospitality industry to raise awareness of the role that this industry can play in combatting human trafficking. She is a resource for law enforcement and hotels in the St. Louis area and around the country for training and awareness purposes, and has been the driving force behind many large hotels signing of the ECPAT Code of Conduct.

She brought together the knowledge from her career with her knowledge of human trafficking to make a real difference in stopping this crime and saving victims.

Rep. ERIC SWALWELL awarded District Attorney Nancy E. O'Malley of Alameda County, California with the Lois Haight Award for Innovation and Excellence. D.A. O'Malley is a leader in fighting for victims of crime throughout her career. As District Attorney, she created the first unit in the country to focus exclusively on rescuing child victims of human trafficking and prosecuting those who exploit these children, called the Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) unit. From this work, she has created a blueprint, so other communities can create similar programs. In addition, she created a diversion program for sexually exploited girls in the juvenile justice system. DA O'Malley has lead efforts for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. She is a true champion for victims at the local, state, and federal level.

These wonderful survivors and advocates stand up for victims and make life better for them every day. They cannot be commended enough.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April as Fair Housing Month. April 11, 2014 marked the 46th anniversary of the passage of the U.S. Fair Housing Act, which enunciates a national policy of fair housing and bars discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status or disability. Decent, safe, and affordable housing is part of the American dream and a goal of all Illinois residents.

This year also marks the 35th anniversary of the Illinois Human Rights Act, which bars discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, physical or mental disability, familial status, age, ancestry, marital status, disability, military status or sexual orientation (including gender-based identity).

Acts of housing discrimination and barriers to equal housing are repugnant to a common sense of decency and fairness. Federal and state laws affirm the right of every person to equal housing opportunity. Economic stability, community health, and human relations in all communities and the State of Illinois are improved by diversity and integration. Stable, integrated and balanced residential patterns are threatened by discriminatory acts and unlawful housing practices that result in segregation of residents and opportunities in Illinois communities.

The hard work and commitment of grassroots and non-profit organizations, housing service providers, housing professionals, financial institutions, elected officials, state agencies and others must be combined to promote integration, fair housing, and equal opportunity and to address the immense challenge of ensuring that every person in Illinois has access to affordable housing.

Again, I would like to recognize April 2014 as Fair Housing Month in commemoration of the signing of the U.S. Fair Housing Act and the Illinois Human Rights Act. These critical laws help establish the United States as an open and inclusive country committed to fair and equal housing opportunities for all.

RECOGNIZING SISTER FRANCESCA ONLEY, PH.D.

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Sister Francesca Onley, Ph.D., served as president of Holy Family University for 32 years—from 1981 to 2014—and is widely recognized as an outstanding and effective administrator. She was the driving force behind the expansion of the institution in northeast Philadelphia, while maintaining the integrity of its educational philosophy and academic programs. Scholar, educator, innovator, and astute businesswoman, Sister Francesca guided Holy Family to its University status in 2002, expanded enrollment and grew the endowment fund from thousands to $16 million in 33 years. Sister Francesca also attained leadership positions in many educational associations, including charter president of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Consortium for Higher Education, the prestigious International Association of University Presidents, and the United Nations Commission on Disarmament Education, Conflict Resolution and Peace. She addressed the commission's goal to nurture concepts of peace through education, organizing peace conferences in areas of conflict, establishing outreach programs in Africa, and integrating technology into the teaching of English. In 2012, she was named Chair Emerita. Sister Francesca is honored today for a life of faith, grace, and achievement. Her family of friends and associates look forward to the future accomplishments of a most remarkable woman.

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, April 29, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 30

9:30 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 Forest Service.
SD–124

Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine reform of the defense acquisition system in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD–G50

10 a.m.
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 Army.
SD–106

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Education.
SD–192

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine lessons learned from the Boston marathon bombings, focusing on improving intelligence and information sharing; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session.
SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Drug Enforcement Administration.
SD–226

Committee on Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine how undisclosed money and post-McCutcheon campaign finance will affect the 2014 election and beyond.
SH–216

Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine overmedication, focusing on problems and solutions.
SR–418

Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the first step to cutting red tape, focusing on a better analysis.
SR–301

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine Afghanistan beyond 2014.
SD–419

2 p.m.
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 Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service.
SD–138

2:15 p.m.
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine exploring the perils of the precious metals market.
SD–562

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the National Nuclear Security Administration.
SD–192

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Transportation Security Administration, focusing on confronting America's transportation security challenges.
SR–253

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 2132, to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005.
SD–628

MAY 1

10 a.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Subcommittee on Jobs, Rural Economic Growth and Energy Innovation
To hold hearings to examine the importance of regional strategies in rural economic development.
SR–328A

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 National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
SD–192

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 Carlos Eduardo Mendoza, and Paul G. Byron, both to be a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Darrin P. Gayles, and Beth Bloom, both to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, James Walter Frazer Green, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, Department of Justice, and Elisebeth Collins Cook, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.
SD–226

10:30 a.m.
Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine exploring social impact bonds, focusing on investing in what works.
SD–608

11 a.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the President's 2014 Trade Policy Agenda.
SD–215

2 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To receive a closed briefing on the Ukrainian crisis and Russia.
SVC–217

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine shortages on gas, focusing on a look into propane shortages this winter.
SD–366

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

MAY 6

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense proposals relating to military compensation.
SH–216

12 noon
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To receive a briefing on Georgia 2008, and Ukraine 2014, focusing on if Moldova is next, and to examine Russia's intentions with regard to Transnistria and Moldova.
CVC–268

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce
To hold hearings to examine a more efficient and effective government, focusing on cultivating the Federal workforce.
SD–342

MAY 7

10 a.m.
Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the economic outlook.
SH–216

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 1603, to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E–Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians, S. 1818, to ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, S. 2040, to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, S. 2041, to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and S. 2188, to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the

authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes.

SD–628

MAY 14

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine wildfires and forest management, focusing on how prevention is preservation.

SD–628

MAY 20

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Airland

Business meeting to markup 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 markup 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 markup 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 markup 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 markup 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 markup 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 markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SR–222

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on the Bureau of Indian Education.

SD–628

MAY 22

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to continue to markup 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 markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SR–222

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2409–S2426

Measures Introduced: Eight bills were introduced, as follows: S. 2257–2264. **Page S2424**

Measures Reported:

Reported on Friday, April 25, 2014, during the adjournment:

Special Report entitled ''Pushing the Envelope: Publishers Clearing House in the New Era of Direct Marketing''. (S. Rept. No. 113–153)

Reported on Monday, April 28, 2014:

S. 2260, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions. (S. Rept. No. 113–154)

S. 2261, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make technical corrections, to remove provisions that are no longer applicable. (S. Rept. No. 113–155) **Page S2424**

Measures Considered:

Minimum Wage Fairness Act-Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2223, to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

Pages S2409–10, S2419–20

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, April 30, 2014.

Pages S2418–19

Lipman, Bastian, Shah, Crabtree, Bashant, Levy Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 29, 2014, notwithstanding Rule XXII, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nominations of Sheryl H. Lipman, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, Stanley Allen Bastian, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Manish S. Shah, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Daniel D. Crabtree, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, Cynthia Ann Bashant, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, and Jon David Levy, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine; that if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations, all post-cloture time be considered expired, and that following the series of votes, Senate resume Legislative session; that on Wednesday, April 30, 2014, at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Republican Leader, Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; and that there be two minutes for debate prior to each vote and all roll call votes after the first vote in each sequence be ten minutes in length. **Page S2418**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations: By 51 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 108), Michelle T. Friedland, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Pages S2415, S2426**

By 51 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 110), David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

Pages S2418, S2426

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 109), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S2415–18**

Katherine M. O'Regan, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. **Pages S2418–19, S2426**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S2422, S2425**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2422–24**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2424–25**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2421–22**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S2425**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—110) **Pages S2415, S2416, S2418**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 7:09 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 29, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2426.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 19 public bills, H.R. 4488–4505; 1 private bill, H.R. 4506 were introduced. **Page H3240**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3241–43**

Reports Filed: A report was filed on April 11, 2014 as follows:

Referral to the Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr. Attorney General, of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois G. Lerner for possible criminal prosecution for violations of one or more criminal statutes based on evidence the Committee has uncovered in the course of the investigation of IRS abuses (H. Rept. 113–414).

A report was filed on April 14, 2014 as follows:

Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives find Lois G. Lerner, Former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, in Contempt of Congress for Refusal to Comply with a Subpoena Duly Issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (H. Rept. 113–415).

Reports were filed on April 17, 2014 as follows:

H.R. 4486, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–416) and H.R. 4487, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–417).

Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4192, to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia'' to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed (H. Rept. 113–418);

H.R. 4194, to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements (H. Rept. 113–419);

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 (H. Rept. 113–420);

H.R. 4120, to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date (H. Rept. 113–421); and

H. Res. 555, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4414) to clarify the treatment under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of health plans in which expatriates are the primary enrollees, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–422). **Pages H3239–40**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Petri to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3201**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:13 p.m. and reconvened at 4:10 p.m. **Page H3203**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014: S. 994, to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending; **Pages H3203–07**

Amending the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia" to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed: H.R. 4192, amended, to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia'' to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 367 yeas to 16 nays, Roll No. 178; **Pages H3207–09, H3219–20**

Government Reports Elimination Act of 2014: H.R. 4194, amended, to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements; **Pages H3209–12**

Directing the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate the significance of the Mill Springs Battlefield located in Pulaski and Wayne Counties, Kentucky: H.R. 298, amended, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate the significance of the Mill Springs Battlefield located in Pulaski and Wayne Counties, Kentucky, and the feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System; **Pages H3212–14**

New Philadelphia, Illinois, Study Act: H.R. 930, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the archeological site and surrounding land of the New Philadelphia town site in the State of Illinois; **Pages H3214–15**

Huna Tlingit Traditional Gull Egg Use Act: H.R. 3110, amended, to allow for the harvest of gull eggs by the Huna Tlingit people within Glacier Bay National Park in the State of Alaska; **Pages H3215–16**

North Texas Invasive Species Barrier Act of 2014: H.R. 4032, amended, to exempt from Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers by the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority; **Pages H3216–17**

Amending the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date: H.R. 4120, to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 384 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 179; and **Pages H3217–18, H3220–21**

Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument Preservation Act: H.R. 1501, amended, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Park, in the New York City borough of Brooklyn, as a unit of the National Park System. **Pages H3218–19**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:51 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H3219**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Grimm, wherein he resigned from the Committee on Financial Services. **Page H3221**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H3202–03.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3219–20, H3220–21. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Committee Meetings

EXPATRIATE HEALTH COVERAGE CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2014

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 4414, the "Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014. The Committee granted, by voice vote, a closed rule for H.R. 4414. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representatives Nunes and Carney.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D395)*

S. 404, to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Signed on April 15, 2014. (Public Law 113–99)

S. 2195, to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests. Signed on April 18, 2014. (Public Law 113–100)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: to hold hearings to examine driving innovation through Federal investments, 2:30 p.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force 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, with the Select Committee on Intelligence, to hold a joint closed hearing to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 1217, to provide secondary mortgage market reform, and the nominations of Stanley Fischer, of New York, to be Vice Chairman, Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, and Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, all to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Gustavo Velasquez Aguilar, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary, and Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Secretary, both of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and J. Mark McWatters, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, to hold hearings to examine workers' Memorial Day, focusing on if existing private sector whistleblower protections are adequate to ensure safe workplaces. , 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Julia Akins Clark, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights, to hold hearings to examine law enforcement responses to disabled Americans, focusing on promising approaches for protecting public safety. , 10 a.m., SH–216.

Select Committee on Intelligence: with the Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to hold a joint closed hearing to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of April 29 through May 2, 2014

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday,* at 11 a.m., Senate will vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Sheryl H. Lipman, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, Stanley Allen Bastian, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Manish S. Shah, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Daniel D. Crabtree, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, Cynthia Ann Bashant, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, and Jon David Levy, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine. If cloture is invoked on any of the nominations, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations on *Wednesday*.

On *Wednesday*, unless an agreement is reached, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2223, Minimum Wage Fairness Act.

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 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: May 1, Subcommittee on Jobs, Rural Economic Growth and Energy Innovation, to hold hearings to examine the importance of regional strategies in rural economic development, 10 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Appropriations: April 29, to hold hearings to examine driving innovation through Federal investments, 2:30 p.m., SD–G50.

April 30, Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Forest Service, 9:30 a.m., SD–124.

April 30, Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Education, 10 a.m., SD–192.

April 30, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Army, 10 a.m., SD–106.

April 30, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service, 2 p.m., SD–138.

April 30, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the National Nuclear Security Administration, 2:30 p.m., SD–192.

May 1, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 10 a.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: April 29, to hold hearings to examine the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

April 29, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, with the Select Committee on Intelligence, to hold a joint closed hearing to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

April 30, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine reform of the defense acquisition system in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

May 1, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on the Ukrainian crisis and Russia, 2 p.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: April 29, business meeting to consider S. 1217, to provide secondary mortgage market reform, and the nominations of Stanley Fischer, of New York, to be Vice Chairman, Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, and Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, all to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Gustavo Velasquez Aguilar, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary, and Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Secretary, both of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and J. Mark McWatters, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: May 1, to hold hearings to examine exploring social impact bonds, focusing on investing in what works, 10:30 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: April 30, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Transportation Security Administration, focusing on confronting America's transportation security challenges, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: May 1, to hold hearings to examine shortages on gas, focusing on a look into propane shortages this winter, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: May 1, to hold hearings to examine the President's 2014 Trade Policy Agenda, 11 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: April 30, Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs, to hold hearings to examine Afghanistan beyond 2014, 10:30 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: April 29, Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, to hold hearings to examine workers' Memorial Day, focusing on if existing private sector whistleblower protections are adequate to ensure safe workplaces, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: April 29, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Julia Akins Clark, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

April 30, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine lessons learned from the Boston marathon bombings, focusing on improving intelligence and information sharing; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: April 30, to hold hearings to examine S. 2132, to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on Judiciary: April 29, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights, to hold hearings to examine law enforcement responses to disabled Americans, focusing on promising approaches for protecting public safety, 10 a.m., SH–216.

April 30, Full Committee, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Drug Enforcement Administration, 10 a.m., SD–226.

May 1, 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 Carlos Eduardo Mendoza, and Paul G. Byron, both to be a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Darrin P. Gayles, and Beth Bloom, both to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, James Walter Frazer Green, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, Department of Justice, and Elisebeth Collins Cook, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Rules and Administration: April 30, to hold hearings to examine how undisclosed money and post-McCutcheon campaign finance will affect the 2014 election and beyond, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: April 30, to hold hearings to examine overmedication, focusing on problems and solutions, 10 a.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: April 29, with the Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to hold a joint closed hearing to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

May 1, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: April 30, to hold hearings to examine exploring the perils of the precious metals market, 2:15 p.m., SD–562.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, April 29, Subcommittee on Horticulture, Research, Biotechnology, Foreign Agriculture, hearing to review current research and application of management strategies to control pests and diseases of pollinators, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

April 30, Subcommittee on Livestock, Rural Development, and Credit, hearing entitled ''To review the State of the Livestock Industry'', 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, April 29, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing on Department of Treasury FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

April 29, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing on Cybersecurity FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., H–405 Capitol. This is a closed hearing.

April 29, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, hearing on United States Assistance in Africa FY 2015 Budget, 10:30 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

April 30, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, markup on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill FY 2015, 9:30 a.m., H–140 Capitol.

Committee on the Budget, April 30, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''A Progress Report on the War on Poverty: Lessons from the Frontlines'', 10:30 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, April 29, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Reviewing the President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Proposal for the Department of Education'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, April 29, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, hearing entitled ''The Chemicals in Commerce Act'', 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

April 29, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Examining the Growing Problems of Prescription Drug and Heroin Abuse'', 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

April 29, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2689, the ''Energy Savings Through Public-Private Partnerships Act''; H.R. 4092, the ''Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2014''; and H.R. 6, the ''Domestic Property and Global Freedom Act'', 4 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 1, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2689, the ''Energy Savings Through Public-Private Partnerships Act''; H.R. 4092, the ''Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2014''; and H.R. 6, the ''Domestic Property and Global Freedom Act'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 1, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Telehealth to Digital Medicine: How 21st Century Technology Can Benefit Patients'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, April 29, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the SEC's Agenda, Operations, and FY 2015 Budget Request'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

April 29, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, meeting to consider a resolution authorizing the issuance of subpoenas, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

April 30, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled ''Examining How Technology Can Promote Consumer Financial Literacy'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

May 1, Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises, hearing entitled ''Legislative Proposals to Enhance Capital Formation for Small and Emerging Growth Companies, Part II'', 9:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, April 29, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled ''The Administration's FY 2015 MENA Budget Request: Priorities, Objectives and Challenges'', 10 a.m., 2200 Rayburn.

April 29, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade; and Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, joint subcommittee hearing entitled ''U.S.-Russia Nuclear Arms Negotiations: Ukraine and Beyond'', 1:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

April 29, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''Effective Accountability: Tier Rankings in the Fight Against Human Trafficking'', 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

April 30, Full Committee, markup on legislation regarding the United States International Communications Reform Act of 2014; H.R. 4028, to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom; H. Res. 520, calling for an end to attacks on Syrian civilians and expanded humanitarian access; and H. Con. Res. 51, Immediate Establishment of Syrian War Crimes Tribunal Resolution, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

April 30, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing entitled ''Assessing U.S. Foreign Assistance Priorities in South Asia'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

May 1, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''The Central African Republic: from ''Pre-genocide'' to Genocide?'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, April 29, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, hearing entitled ''Stakeholder Assessments of the Administration's National Preparedness Grant Program Proposal'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

May 1, Full Committee, markup on the following legislation: H.R. 3283, the ''Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2013''; H.R. 4007, the ''Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014''; and H.R. 4228, the ''DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act'', 9:30 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, April 29, Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice, hearing entitled ''The Original Meaning of the Origination Clause'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

April 29, Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law, hearing on H.R. 1129, the ''Mobile Workforce State Income Tax Simplification Act of 2013'', 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

April 30, Full Committee, markup on the following legislation: H.R. 3530, the ''Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2013''; H.R. 3610, the ''Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act of 2013''; H.R. 4225, the ''Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation Act of 2014''; H.R. 776, the ''Security in Bonding Act of 2013''; and, H.R. 306, for the relief of Corina de Chalup Turcinovic, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, April 29, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''American Energy Jobs: Opportunities for Skilled Trades Workers'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

April 29, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled ''The Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs' spending and the President's Fiscal Year 2015 budget request for the Office''; and H.R. 4296, to amend Public Law 94–241 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands; and H.R. 4402, the ''Guam Military Training and Readiness Act of 2014'', 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

April 29, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulations, hearing on H.R. 3687, the ''Military LAND Act''; and H.R. 4458, the ''Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake Security Enhancement Act'', 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

April 30, Full Committee, markup on the following legislation: H.R. 4315, the ''21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act''; H.R. 4316, the ''Endangered

Species Recovery Transparency Act''; H.R, 4317, the ''State, Tribal, and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act''; and H.R. 4318, the ''Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, April 30, Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Health Care and Entitlements, hearing entitled ''Examining the Effect of Liquefied Natural Gas Exports on U.S. Foreign Policy'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

May 1, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Benghazi, Instability and a New Government: Success and Failures of U.S. Intervention in Libya'', 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, April 29, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 4486, the ''Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015''; and H.R. 4487, the ''Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2015'', 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, April 29, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4412, the ''National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014'', 1:30 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

April 30, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled ''An Overview of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, April 30, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''SBA-created Initiatives: Necessary or Redundant Spending?'', 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, April 29, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled ''A Review of Recent United States Army Corps of Engineers Chief's Reports and Post Authorization Change Reports'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

April 29, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime; and Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, joint hearing entitled ''Confronting Transnational Drug Smuggling: An Assessment of Regional Partnerships'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

April 30, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled ''Air Service to Small and Rural Communities'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, April 29, Full committee, markup on the following legislation: H.R. 4058, to prevent and address sex trafficking of youth in foster care; H.R. 4429, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the subpart F exemption for active financing income; H.R. 4438, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify and make permanent the research credit; H.R. 4453, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations; H.R. 4454, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent certain rules regarding basis adjustments to stock of S corporations making charitable contributions of property; H.R. 4457, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes; and H.R. 4464, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the look-through treatment of payments between related controlled foreign corporations, 10:15 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

April 30, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Ideas to Improve Medicare Oversight to Reduce Waste, Fraud and Abuse'', 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, May 1, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Ongoing Intelligence Activities'', 9 a.m., 304–HVC. This is a closed hearing.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: April 30, to hold hearings to examine the first step to cutting red tape, focusing on a better analysis, 10 a.m., SR–301.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, April 29

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 11 a.m.), Senate will vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Sheryl H. Lipman, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, Stanley Allen Bastian, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Manish S. Shah, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Daniel D. Crabtree, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, Cynthia Ann Bashant, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, and Jon David Levy, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine.

(Following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jon David Levy, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine, Senate will recess until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, April 29

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of the following measures under suspension of the rules: 1) H.R. 4488—Gold Medal Technical Corrections Act of 2014; 2) H.R. 627—National Park Service 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, as amended; and 3) H.R. 4167—Restoring Proven Financing for American Employers Act, as amended. Consideration of H.R. 4414—Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014 (Subject to a Rule).

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