EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LAKOTA WEST GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lakota West Girls Basketball team in West Chester, Ohio.

On March 21, 2015, the Firebirds became the 2015 OHSAA Division I State Basketball Champions, defeating the Toledo Notre Dame Eagles 44–38.

I commend all 14 members of the 2015 Firebird team for their hard-fought journey to capture the school's first women's basketball state title and the team's 21st consecutive victory, setting a new Lakota school district record.

A special congratulations goes to Lakota West's coach, Andy Fishman. Coach Fishman joined Lakota West as head coach when the school first opened in 1997. Thank you Coach Fishman for your dedication to the remarkable athletes of Lakota West and for your leadership to develop a top-notch program, that is now the best in the state.

With my friends and neighbors in West Chester and on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I applaud our Lady Firebirds and the community of Lakota West for their well-deserved victory.

HONORING THE CHUCK WAGON GANG OF ODESSA

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Chuck Wagon Gang of Odessa, Texas. This year, the Chuck Wagon Gang of Odessa is celebrating their 75th anniversary!

The group was founded on March 5, 1940, when thirty three local businessman came together to promote the good word and charity of their beloved town with their BBQ. These men modeled their new initiative off the chuck wagon cooks that traveled the open cow trails of Texas.

For 75 years, the Chuck Wagon Gang has served as ambassadors for the Odessa community by dishing out their legendary BBQ to millions of people worldwide with their renowned "feeds". Through the years, the gang has served their amazing meals and love for Odessa with presidents, members of Congress, governors, foreign dignitaries, country music stars, and famous athletes. This unique gang has spent countless hours away from their families, businesses, and homes to help show the world why Odessa is so special.

Aside from promoting their adored city, the Chuck Wagon Gang hosts many charitable initiatives throughout the nation. The gang has hosted numerous "feeds" that have supported programs that assist disabled children, veterans, and many other non-profits.

The Chuck Wagon Gang has been the premier public relations representatives for Odessa. The group has left a lasting impact wherever they have catered. These 250 volunteers of the Chuck Wagon Gang truly capture and spread the essence of West Texas.

It is an honor to stand before the House today to recognize the Chuck Wagon Gang of Odessa for their seventy-five years of service. I am proud to represent individuals who take pride in their communities and promote the qualities we value in West Texas.

ALYSSA GOMEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alyssa Gomez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alyssa Gomez is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5–8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alyssa Gomez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alyssa Gomez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize an important milestone in the United States relationship with Taiwan.

On April 10, 1979, President Jimmy Carter signed the Taiwan Relations Act. Since that historic date, we have watched Taiwan contribute greatly to international security. As you know, Taiwan's location makes it a key strategic security partner in the Asia-Pacific region. Relieving cross-strait tensions has been a security priority of the United States, and I am pleased that Taiwan has worked hard to increase economic engagement with China in an effort to ease tensions. These economic engagements have gradually been working, improving security and cooperation in the region. Additionally, Taiwan has been a close partner in the United States counterterrorism strategy, ensuring cargo is screened before shipping to U.S. ports.

Throughout the past 36 years, Taiwan has shown a willingness to cooperate and negotiate with the U.S. to maintain our relationship. Going forward, I hope we can continue this important relationship, which benefits the citizens and businesses in both the United States and Taiwan.

HONORING U.S. ARMY CAPTAIN JOSEPH GOURYEB

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable young man from my district, U.S. Army Captain Joseph Gouryeb. Captain Gouryeb is returning home to Cinnaminson, New Jersey to spend time with his family after a recent deployment to Afghanistan, where he earned a Bronze Star. He earned another Bronze Star during his deployment in Iraq.

Captain Gouryeb truly exemplifies the values that make not only a good soldier, but a good citizen and a good man. After helping to rescue four U.S. National Guard Soldiers who fell off a bridge into water, Captain Gouryeb was recognized by the Army and received one of his two Army Medals of Commendation. He certainly deserves these honors.

Welcome home, Captain Gouryeb, and thank you for your service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, on March 18, 2015 the House voted on final passage of H.R. 1030 and I intended to vote "no" on rollcall vote No. 125. I strongly oppose this bill that undermines the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to use the best science available in carrying out its responsibility to protect public health.

CONGRATULATING PEGGY TROY ON BECOMING CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Peggy Troy, President and CEO of Children's Hospital Wisconsin, and to congratulate her on becoming the chair of the Children's Hospital Association Board of Trustees.

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin is the region's only independent health care system dedicated solely to the health and well-being of children. The hospital, with locations in Milwaukee and Neenah, serves the children of the 8th Congressional District and is recognized as one of the leading pediatric health care centers in the United States. In fact, Children's Hospital is ranked fourth in the nation by Parents magazine and ranked in nine specialty areas in U.S. News & World Report's 2013–14 Best Children's Hospitals report.

The Children's Hospital Association represents more than 220 children's hospitals and is the voice of children's hospitals nationally, as well as the premier resource for pediatric data and analytics driving clinical and operational performance of member hospitals.

Peggy's more than 40 years in health care, including working on the front lines as a bedside nurse and in a variety of hospital leadership positions, make her an ideal person to lead the Association's board. I have had the pleasure of working with Peggy over the years and am always impressed with her commitment to keeping the needs of kids at the center of every action. This is exemplified by the hospital's mission that children deserve the best.

Congress will consider many policies this year to ensure that our health system is structured to provide high quality, cost effective care. I look forward to working with Ms. Troy, and the rest of the children's hospital community, to advance policies to improve the health of our nation's kids.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RECYCLING, INC.

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rocky Mountain Recycling, Inc. for receiving the 2014 Commerce City Pam Downs Lilac Award for Leadership.

The Pam Downs Lilac Award for Leadership honors businesses or individuals that have been a catalyst toward economic vitality in Commerce City through creative leadership, innovation, facilitation, collaboration or through contribution of resources. Rocky Mountain Recycling buys and recycles all scrap metals and ferrous metals. The owners of Rocky Mountain Recycling have made significant investment into the community in recent years as the business has grown. In addition to investing in the business, the company also invests in the community, annually providing a $20,000 scholarship for a graduate of Adams City High School.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Rocky Mountain Recycling for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

CONGRATULATING SHERIFF THOMAS TEMPLETON

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheriff Thomas J. Templeton who was recently elected President of the Illinois Sheriffs' Association and will be sworn in to his new position on March 30, 2015.

Sheriff Templeton has served his community for decades, beginning his service at the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy in 1973 following his service in the United States Air Force. He was named the Illinois State Bar Association's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year in both 1996 and 2005. Throughout his career, Tom's exemplary service has been recognized by the Ottawa Jaycees, the DEA, and the Police Hall of Fame, among many others. In addition, Sheriff Templeton has taken it upon himself to educate the next generation of Illinois law enforcement, both as an instructor at the Illinois Valley Law Enforcement Commission and Illinois Valley Community College.

It is not surprising given Sheriff Templeton's admirable and dedicated years of service that he would be selected by over one hundred of his peers to serve as the President of the Illinois Sheriffs' Association. Founded in 1928, this non-profit was designed to improve communication and cooperation among Sheriffs, and has since expanded to offer extensive professional training and development for all the Sheriffs and their teams serving throughout Illinois.

Today, I am honored to join with the LaSalle County Sheriff's Department, the Illinois Sheriffs' Association, and all of Tom's family and friends in expressing my sincere thanks for the hard work and dedication Sheriff Templeton has shown throughout his long career in public service. Without question, to be chosen by his equally accomplished and committed peers in the Illinois Sheriffs' Association speaks volumes about Tom's personal character, passion for serving his community, and ability to lead.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our sincere thanks for all of the work Sheriff Templeton and all the members of the Illinois Sheriffs' Association have done to keep our families and communities safe. I congratulate Sheriff Thomas Templeton on his well-deserved leadership position.

COMMEMORATING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 36th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act and recognize the long-standing U.S.-Taiwan relationship. On April 10, 1979, President Jimmy Carter signed TRA and it has served to define the relationship that the United States has shared with Taiwan ever since.

Since the signing of the Taiwan Relations Act, we as a nation have supported the Taiwanese efforts over the last three and a half decades by fostering commercial exchange. Over that time, Taiwan has grown to become a significant security and trading partner to the United States. It is critical that we continue to explore the beneficial connections between our nations and work to promote it at every opportunity.

Taiwan continues to be an economic powerhouse in the Asia Pacific and a beacon of democracy. The United States recognizes Taiwan's unfailing determination to promote a free and fair democratic society. However, because of Taiwan's ambiguous international status they have been left out of many international organizations that the rest of the world uses to make global decisions. I believe that if allowed to participate more fully, Taiwan would be a valuable asset to organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO).

Taiwan has already contributed significantly to humanitarian relief worldwide. In 2013, they provide shelters and supply to refuges in Jordan and Iraq. In 2014, they donated supplies and money to help treat Ebola in West Africa. Those are just a couple of examples in a long list of humanitarian work by Taiwan, all without being fully allowed to join international organizations.

In the coming years, I hope that Taiwan's hard work and contributions will be rewarded with a place in the global conversation. I hope we can continue to strengthen our unique relationship with Taiwan and its people.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAIME ERNA STRIEBER SHEPPERD

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Maime Erna Strieber Shepperd. Maime passed away in January, just weeks after celebrating her ninety-seventh birthday.

Bright from a young age, Maime graduated high school as class valedictorian at the age of fifteen and enrolled in the University of Texas at Austin Journalism School. It was at the University of Texas where she met her husband of 51 years, the late John Ben Shepperd. They were married shortly after her graduation.

Maime and John raised four children together, living in both Austin and Odessa

throughout their marriage. She was first-lady to John's political career, first as Texas Secretary of State and then as Attorney General. When the family moved to Odessa, Maime got involved with many cultural, philanthropic, and political organizations. She served on the board for the West Texas Rehabilitation Center and founded the Crystal Ball, an annual benefit event. She was also involved as a board member for the Midland-Odessa Symphony, and was tapped by the New York Metropolitan Opera to serve as their West Texas representative.

During Lyndon Johnson's campaign for president in 1964, Maime served as the Chairman of the Ladies for Lyndon West Texas committee. She also joined Lady Bird Johnson on the whistle-stop Lady Bird Special train as it toured eight southern states.

Maime's legacy also extends to the University of Texas Permian Basin's library. As the Odessa chairman of the book drive which founded the library in the early 1970s, she helped obtain over 300,000 books to start the collection that students at the University of Texas Permian Basin still use to this day.

Maime's dedication to her many cultural and philanthropic pursuits were admirable, as was the stable and loving home she provided for her family. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Alfred and Honey Shepperd, her daughter and son-in-law, Suzanne and Gary McIntosh, nine grandchildren, and twenty great-grandchildren. Please join me in remembering the extraordinary life of Maime Shepperd.

THE BATTLE WAGES ON: SECURING EQUAL VOTING RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY for hosting this important Special Order. I appreciate your leadership in organizing today's important discussion.

Last weekend, I had the honor of joining more than one hundred members of Congress, faith leaders and activists, to honor Bloody Sunday and the march from Selma to Montgomery.

We gathered in Selma to celebrate and honor the courage of ordinary Americans willing to face tear gas, billy clubs, and risk their lives to ensure equal treatment under the law.

The march from Selma to Montgomery helped change the course of history. They faced extreme opposition and their actions that day on Edmund Pettus bridge proved that non-violent change is possible.

Ten days after the march from Selma to Montgomery, President Lyndon Johnson sent to Congress the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a cornerstone of our democracy.

In the 50 years since Bloody Sunday, our nation has made significant progress. To deny this progress, as the President mentioned in his speech in Selma, is to rob us of our own agency, our own capacity, and what we can do to make America better.

As we pause to mark this important anniversary and reflect on its effect on history, we know that the battle for full voting rights wages on.

When the Supreme Court struck down the pre-clearance formula, states can change their election laws without prior federal approval—the ruling gutted the heart of the Voting Rights Act.

The Voting Rights Act pre-clearance requirement afforded millions of voters confidence that roadblocks will not be thrown in their way as they try to exercise their fundamental right to vote.

It provided voters with the knowledge that the federal government can be a backstop against oppressive laws and prevent voter discrimination before it happened.

Now voter suppression is once again rearing its ugly head in the form of registration restrictions, voter ID laws, decreased access to early voting and racially-motivated redistricting that is stopping people from their right to vote.

Now, I was born and raised in Texas and I vividly remember the days of Jim Crow, segregation, and poll taxes.

The tactics being used today may be more subtle; but they serve the same purpose: to prevent Americans from exercising their fundamental right to vote.

Mr. Speaker—Enough is enough.

As the heirs of the civil rights movement, we cannot allow these assaults to stand.

We must be defiant.

We must stand up to those that want to turn back the clock and restrict our right to vote. We have come too far to go back now.

Sadly, voting rights is not the only place that inequality exists.

More than 45 million Americans are still living in poverty. African Americans have a poverty rate that is nearly three times the poverty rate of white Americans.

The 10.4 percent unemployment rate among African Americans is nearly twice the national average.

Discrimination and racial bias remains endemic in our justice system.

We can start to address these issues this year—by working to restore the Voting Rights Act. One hundred members of Congress visited Selma to commemorate Bloody Sunday and as President Obama eloquently stated, we must go back to Washington and gather four hundred more.

We can restore this law by passing a bipartisan bill, H.R. 855, The Voting Rights Amendment Act, which I am a proud cosponsor.

This bill will help undo some of the damage done by the Supreme Court's decision.

Just as Congress acted 50 years ago after the stirring events in Selma, Congress must act today to address the issues facing our nation.

Mr. Speaker—We cannot afford to backslide on the progress we have made.

We cannot afford to lose the prize that our forefathers and mothers fought, bled and died to obtain and preserve.

We must stand together—stronger than ever—to raise our voices, march in the streets, and cast our ballots to demand change.

I am reminded of Dr. King's "Two Americas" speech on April 14th, 1967 at Stanford University, when he said:

> We must come to see that social progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and the persistent work of dedicated individuals.

We must rededicate ourselves to persistently working for progress, equality and justice.

The American dream of equality, freedom, liberty, justice and life for all can and should be more than just words.

It should be a promise to all Americans, regardless of the color of their skin or where they were born.

SECRET SCIENCE REFORM ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1030) to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible:

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chair, I would like to submit the following quotes and excerpts:

Representative PETE WELCH in a press release dated February 14th, 2008 stated "President Bush needs to dust off this copy of the Constitution. Congress has a constitutional obligation to conduct oversight of the executive branch and we will not shrink from this responsibility" in regards to his yes vote of contempt against George W. Bush's administration officials, Harriet Miers and Josh Bolten.

Representative JOHN CONYERS (D–MI), then chairman of the Judiciary Committee, after announcing the committee vote on contempt on February 13th, 2008 stated "if the executive branch can disregard Congressional subpoenas in this way, we no longer have a system of checks." He goes on further to pose a question during an oversight hearing with Mr. Gonzales, the senior Senator from Pennsylvania on July 24th, 2007, "Do you think the constitutional government in the United States can survive if the president has the unilateral authority to reject Congressional inquiries?"

In a letter dated June 13th, 2008, Henry A. Waxman, then chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee informed the Honorable Susan E. Dudley, then the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, "I regret that your failure to produce responsive documents has created this impasse, but Congress has a constitutional duty to conduct oversight of the executive branch. Therefore, unless the documents are provided to the Committee or a valid assertion of executive privilege is made, the Committee will meet on June 20 to consider a resolution citing you in contempt. I strongly urge you to reconsider your position and comply with the duly issued subpoena."

Henry A. Waxman further goes on to state in a letter dated June 13th, 2008, on behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to the Honorable Stephen L. Johnson that "the documents reviewed by the Committee also indicate that the rulemaking was drafted through an insufficiently open process, that regional technical staff were given only the briefest opportunity to comment, and that even the strongest objections of the staff were disregarded." Furthermore, Representative

Waxman in the conclusion states that ''Congress needs to be able to rely on the technical and scientific information provided by federal agencies. It is hard to do so, however, when technical and scientific data that has been carefully assembled over several years is suddenly cast aside as soon as it becomes inconvenient or embarrassing.''

Senator BARBARA BOXER during the 110th Congress hearing before the Committee on Environment Public Works dated January 24th, 2008, on the Oversight of EPA's Decision to Deny the California Waiver stated, ''There remains much work to be done as we work to uncover the facts behind this decision. EPA has failed to fully respond to our request for information, which I will go into in the question time. I have never seen anything like it. We asked for the documents. First we didn't get them when they were promised.'' She then says that ''the mission of the EPA is to protect human health and the environment. The Administrator's decision does neither. The people who pay the Administrator's salary have a right to know how he came to a decision that is so far removed from the facts, the law, the science, the precedent, States' rights and all the rest that goes with it.''

COMMEMORATING THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, later this year, the nation will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of Medicare, one of the most consequential acts of social justice in American history.

Today, we mark the fifth anniversary of the enactment of the Affordable Care Act, which will surely take its place in the pantheon of America's greatest laws, alongside the Social Security Act, the GI Bill, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Like those great achievements, the Affordable Care Act, or ''ObamaCare,'' was vehemently opposed and derided by its adversaries, who said it was too costly, would not work, was unnecessary, or would change the character of America for the worse.

Like the critics of Social Security, Medicare, and the GI Bill, all of whom are silent now, they are wrong.

The Affordable Care Act has been an unqualified success.

This historic legislation has extended affordable health coverage to tens of millions of Americans, and has helped to bring peace of mind to many of those for whom relief seemed far out of reach.

The Affordable Care Act was driven by a simple premise: that citizens of the most prosperous nation on earth should not be forced to choose between their health and their financial security.

Since the passage of the ACA in 2010, the number of uninsured Americans has fallen by nearly one third, or roughly 16 million people.

These Americans come from all walks of life.

They are women, who can no longer be denied coverage or be forced to pay exorbitant amounts for coverage simply because of their sex.

They are nine million seniors and people with disabilities, who have saved $1,600 each on expensive and lifesaving prescription medication.

And they are this country's most at risk citizens; people who are working hard and struggling make ends meet while living in near-poverty, and who have been covered by Medicaid expansion in 27 states and the District of Columbia.

These benefits have been felt across the country, especially in my home state of Texas.

In Texas alone:

10,695,000 individuals with pre-existing conditions such as asthma, cancer, or diabetes—including up to 1,632,000 children—will no longer have to worry about being denied coverage or charged higher prices because of their health status or history.

4,889,000 uninsured Texans have new health insurance options through Medicaid or private health plans in the Marketplace.

5,198,000 individuals on private insurance have gained coverage for at least one free preventive health care service such as a mammogram, birth control, or an immunization in 2011 and 2012.

In the first ten months of 2013, 233,100 seniors and people with disabilities saved on average $866 on prescription medications.

357,000 young adults have gained health insurance because they can now stay on their parents' health plans until age 26.

In addition to the tangible healthcare benefits for millions of families, the ACA has had powerful effects on the financial state of our nation.

Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, we have extended the solvency of the Medicare Trust fund by more than a decade, and helped save taxpayers $116 billion through new Medicare efficiencies.

The Department of Health and Human Services has estimated that hospitals saved more than $5.7 billion in costs that would have normally gone unpaid by patients without insurance.

Contrary to the claims of the law's critics, private insurance companies have leapt at the opportunity to compete for business among the newly insured, and the healthcare industry has boomed.

Through all of these successes, however, House Republicans remain obsessed with destroying this law, and with unraveling the security it provides to millions of Americans.

With 56 votes to repeal or undermine the Affordable Care Act, Republicans have repeatedly ignored the evidence and failed to suggest workable alternatives.

It is time for Republicans to abandon their fixation and join with us in celebrating the health and economic security that this landmark law affords every American.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF A RULE SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to voice my strong support for S.J. Res. 8 and I plan to vote yes today.

Late last year, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) finalized a new rule empowering unions with the ability to hold ''ambush elections.'' Whereas the current median amount of time to prepare for union elections is 38 days, this rule dramatically lowers the time to as few as 11 days. This does a great disservice to both employers and workers, who would have little time to adequately prepare for elections, much less to communicate and understand the pros and cons of such a move.

Even more dangerously, the ambush elections rule also requires employers to hand over workers' personal information without their consent, including cell phone numbers, email and home address, and work schedules. This is a grave breach of privacy, with inadequate protections for how that information is handled, and could subject workers who oppose joining the union to intimidation tactics at all hours of the day, no matter where they are.

I strongly support this joint resolution of disapproval and want that support to be made part of the record. I hope the President realizes the folly of this misguided and dangerous regulation and signs this resolution into law now that it has passed both the House and Senate.

LOCKHEED MARTIN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and applaud Lockheed Martin for their leadership and pioneer attitude within Jefferson County and our global economy.

Lockheed Martin is a global security company that employs 112,000 people worldwide and is engaged in research, development, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services. Lockheed Martin Space Systems, headquartered in Jefferson County, is one of five Lockheed Martin business areas and has demonstrated significant and sustained growth to Jefferson County and Colorado's economic success.

Most recently, Lockheed Martin and Jefferson County made history with NASA's Orion test launch on December 5, 2014. Orion is the next-generation spacecraft designed to transport humans to destinations beyond low Earth orbit, going 15 times deeper into space than the International Space System at 3,600 miles from Earth.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Lockheed Martin for their well-deserved Pioneer Award. I know we will see great things from them in the future.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY D. HICKEY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kelly D. Hickey of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for achieving the rank of an Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Kelly planted three Autumn Blaze Maple Trees around the perimeter of the College View Elementary preschool playground. The work ethic Kelly has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes about his commitment to serving his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Kelly and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

HONORING THE SHUBERT THEATER OF NEW HAVEN ON ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Shubert Theater of New Haven as they mark their 100th Anniversary. Nationally renowned and locally beloved, this community treasure has been bringing the magic and beauty of theater to generations of patrons. The ''Birthplace of the Nation's Greatest Hits,'' the Shubert is the heart of New Haven's arts community and its century of success is a reflection of the incredible contributions the Shubert has made—not only in Connecticut but across the country.

Designed by New York architect Albert Swazey and built by New Haven's H.E. Murdock construction company, Lee and JJ Shubert opened the doors of their newest theater Friday, December 11, 1914. Theatergoers and critics alike were not only impressed with the opening show but with the playhouse itself. It quickly became a favorite among the theater community as well, often sought after to try out shows before bringing them to Broadway.

Away We Go, later renamed Oklahoma!, Carousel, South Pacific, The King and I, The Sound of Music, and Tennesee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire all had their world premieres at the Shubert. It is also where countless actors received their first professional acclaim—Marlon Brando, Humphrey Bogart, Katherine Hepburn, Gene Kelly, Robert Redford, Shirley MacLaine, Sidney Poitier, James Earl Jones, Liza Minnelli, and former First Lady Nancy Reagan just to name a few.

While the Shubert has had its share of ups and downs, even threatened with destruction, in 1976, the local community has fought to protect this invaluable piece of our arts community. Today, in addition to Broadway offerings and performances of dance, cabaret, popular music and entertainment, the Shubert also runs comprehensive education and outreach programs. The Shubert is a cornerstone of New Haven's arts community and as such it also seeks to support local artists and organizations. In fact, just recently, the Shubert collaborated with the local theater company, A Broken Umbrella Theatre, to bring Seen Change! to stage. Written, directed, produced, and starring a variety of local actors, it was a wonderful celebration of the Shubert, its remarkable history, and the magic and wonder the theater brings to its audiences.

The Shubert Theater of New Haven is a beloved local treasure that has left an indelible mark on our community as well as the world of the performing arts. Today, as it marks its centennial anniversary, its leadership can be very proud of all that it has accomplished and continues to contribute to our community. I have no doubt that the Shubert will remain a beacon of Broadway for generations to come—its ghost light never darkened. Happy 100th Anniversary and best wishes for another century of success.

CELEBRATING THE WATERBURY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 125 years of the Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Today, we recognize the Waterbury Regional Chamber for its influence in stimulating the economy in Greater Waterbury and helping businesses thrive for well over a century. The Chamber continues to act as a strong advocate for local businesses in the 5th Congressional District. The ever-changing world that we face today requires a Chamber of Commerce that guides local businesses through the opportunities and challenges of an increasingly global economy, and the Waterbury Regional Chamber has demonstrated its capacity to meet these needs.

The City of Waterbury and surrounding region boast a highly-skilled workforce, thriving businesses, a well-renowned history of manufacturing, and a diverse cultural background. I thank the Chamber for working with these strong economic influences to meet the demands of a 21st century economy. This year's celebration of 125 years of community involvement is a true testament to the positive impact and long-term planning of the Waterbury Regional Chamber.

The Waterbury Regional Chamber's current President and CEO, Lynn Ward, has led the organization for over 30 years. She does a tremendous job bringing resources to the businesses of Greater Waterbury and raising the region's profile in our state. I am proud to work with her to advocate for our community's businesses.

Thank you and congratulations to the Board of Directors, staff, and members of the Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce. I look forward to many more years of your continued success.

HONORING JEREMY ROMERO

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeremy Romero, a man of great integrity who has dedicated his life to protecting our communities in New Mexico.

From a young age Jeremy wanted to be a cop; his father and two uncles were police officers and his younger brother started attending a police academy in North Carolina. It is, and has always been Jeremy's dream to join his family and make it his career to protect the public, and serve our great State of New Mexico. In August, 2011, Jeremy had that opportunity. He was hired into the New Mexico Department of Public Safety's prestigious Special Investigations Division (SID) as an undercover agent.

For Jeremy it was a dream come true, and yet only two months into the job, all that would come to an end. Jeremy witnessed a crime being committed by a fellow officer. He knew the risk of being a whistleblower, but firmly believed in his commitment to upholding and preserving the law.

Jeremy reported the issue to his superiors, and shortly after, lost his job. In an interview with the Albuquerque Journal, Jeremy explained the strain it put on his daily life, and how he applied to more than 20 different law enforcement agencies before eventually being hired at the Laguna Police Department and later the Corrales Police Department.

On January 21, 2014, Jeremy's life would forever change. While on an early-morning patrol, Jeremy noticed two fugitives speeding down the street in a stolen car. Jeremy quickly followed in pursuit, speeding up in an attempt to ascertain the license plate numbers. Before Jeremy could get a reading on the license plate, his car slipped off the road and collided into a guide rail, telephone pole and adobe wall.

The crash was devastating for Jeremy—he burst a vertebra in his lower back that nearly paralyzed him, had to have pastes made to sculpt a new vertebra, and underwent several emergency surgeries. Doctors predicted that Jeremy would never walk again. Jeremy knew they were wrong; he may have broken some bones, but that did not mean his spirit was broken. In an interview, Jeremy explained: ''If you tell me I'm not going to do something, I'm going to work twice as hard to prove you wrong.'' Jeremy did exactly that. In the face of adversity, Jeremy prevailed.

Jeremy is now using revolutionary robotics to help him walk again and continues to break barriers with the technology. Jeremy's story is

remarkable; his dedication to safeguarding the public, deep moral character, and persistence and determination will continue to be an inspiration for future generations.

RECOGNIZING LELAND A. STROM

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Leland A. Strom for his completion of a distinguished tenure of service on the Board of the Farm Credit Administration.

Leland Strom was nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on December of 2006 as a Member of the Board of the Farm Credit Administration (FCA). In May of 2008. President Bush designated Mr. Strom Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, an office he held until November of 2012. He recently became the longest serving FCA board member since the three board member structure was adopted in the mid 1980's.

Mr. Strom has more than 35 years of professional experience in the agriculture industry, from production and finance to local food systems and agribusiness. Throughout his career he has promoted a strong agriculture industry in his home state of Illinois, the United States, and abroad. He has traveled extensively in a variety of capacities, with a focus on promoting sustainable food production, rural development, and growing markets. He has engaged in discussions with government officials in the United States and abroad, as well as business and finance leaders.

During the period following the financial crisis of 2008, Mr. Strom was frequently engaged in discussions with members of Congress and senior officials of the United States Treasury and Department of Agriculture. His leadership of the oversight of the Farm Credit System, along with his extensive knowledge of the agriculture industry, proved invaluable during the extreme market volatility which occurred during the 2008–2009 financial crisis.

In his various leadership roles, Mr. Strom has been a strong supporter of diversity and inclusion for women and minorities. During his tenure, the Farm Credit Administration issued a proposed rule to identify and broaden diversity and inclusion within the Farm Credit System. Under his leadership at the Agency, FCA earned a top five placing as a "Best Places to Work in the Federal Government" in the small agency category awarded by the Partnership for Public Service for 2011.

In his home state of Illinois. Mr. Strom worked closely with Kane County officials in helping develop a farmland preservation program, with his home farm being the first dedicated to permanent agriculture use. The County's Farmland Protection Program is the first and only funded county-based agricultural conservation easement program in Illinois.

In 2011, for his efforts in protecting and managing the assets of America's agricultural industry, Mr. Strom was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Northern Illinois University. A lifelong Republican. Lee has developed an excellent reputation as an individual who is willing to work across the aisle to find consensus in resolving difficult issues.

In sum, Leland Strom's contributions to the agriculture industry through his service and leadership of the Farm Credit System, have helped to make today's agriculture, one of the strongest industries in the United States and the world.

ANDREW TAFOYA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Andrew Tafoya for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Andrew Tafoya is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5–8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Andrew Tafoya is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Andrew Tafoya for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, last week I missed three roll call votes and I wish to state how I would have voted had I been present:

Roll Call No. 113–Yes
Roll Call No. 114–Yes
Roll Call No. 115–Yes

RECOGNIZING NACDS RxIMPACT DAY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Seventh Annual NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill. This is a special day where we recognize pharmacy's contribution to the American healthcare system. This year's event, organized by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, takes place on March 25–26. Nearly 400 individuals from the pharmacy community—including practicing pharmacists, pharmacy school faculty and students, state pharmacy leaders and pharmacy company executives—will visit Capitol Hill. They will share their views with Congress about the importance of supporting legislation that protects access to community and neighborhood pharmacies and that utilizes pharmacists to improve the quality and reduce the costs of providing healthcare.

Advocates from 45 states have travelled to Washington to talk about the pharmacy community's contributions in over 40,000 community pharmacies nationwide. These important healthcare providers are here to educate Congress about the value of pharmacists and protect access to the essential services they provide as part of our healthcare delivery system. And just as these providers travelled to meet with us, Members of Congress and their staff have toured retail chain pharmacies in our own communities more than 325 times since 2009.

Patients have always relied on their local pharmacist to meet their healthcare needs. The local pharmacist is a trusted, highly accessible healthcare provider deeply committed to providing the highest quality care in the most efficient manner possible.

As demand for healthcare services continues to grow, pharmacists have expanded their role in healthcare delivery, partnering with physicians, nurses and other healthcare providers to meet their patients' needs. Innovative services provided by pharmacists do even more to improve patient healthcare. Pharmacists are highly valued by those that rely on them most—those in rural and underserved areas, as well as older Americans, and those struggling to manage chronic diseases. Pharmacy services improve patients' quality of life as well as healthcare affordability. By helping patients take their medications effectively and providing preventive services, pharmacists help avoid more costly forms of care. Pharmacists also help patients identify strategies to save money, such as through better understanding of their pharmacy benefits, using generic medications, and obtaining 90-day supplies of prescription drugs from local pharmacies.

Pharmacists are the nation's most accessible healthcare providers. In many communities, especially in rural areas, the local pharmacist is a patient's most direct link to healthcare. Eighty-nine percent of Americans reside within a five-mile radius of a community pharmacy. Pharmacists are one of our nation's most trusted healthcare professionals. Utilizing their specialized education, pharmacists play a major role in medication therapy management, disease-state management, immunizations, healthcare screenings, and other healthcare services designed to improve patient health and reduce overall healthcare costs. Pharmacists are also expanding their role into new models of care based on quality of services and outcomes, such as accountable care organizations (AC0s) and medical homes.

Mr. Speaker, as we refine healthcare reform and seek new strategies to improve patient care, pharmacists will play a critical role. I believe Congress should look at every opportunity to make sure that pharmacists are allowed to utilize their training to the fullest to provide the services that can improve care and lower costs. In recognition of the Seventh Annual NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill, I would like to congratulate pharmacy leaders, pharmacists, students, executives, and the entire pharmacy community represented by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, for their contributions to the good health of the American people.

MICHELLE FOKAM OF KATY, TX DISTRICT 19–6A MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Michelle Fokam of Katy, TX for claiming the honor of District 19–6A Most Valuable Player during the 2014–2015 basketball season. Ms. Fokam and the Seven Lakes girls' basketball team continue to lead Katy ISD in excellence and determination.

Ms. Fokam is a junior at Seven Lakes High School, and was voted District 19–6A's MVP thanks to her key contributions as one of the leagues best inside defenders and rebounders, as well as her formidable offensive player skills. This honor comes after an exciting season as the Seven Lakes girls' basketball team won its fourth consecutive district championship and its second undefeated season.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Michelle Fokam for being honored as the District 19–6A Most Valuable Player, and to the Seven Lakes girls' basketball team for your continued victories. We look forward to seeing what you will accomplish in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call 119, 120, and 121. I would like to indicate that I would have voted ''No'' on roll call 119, ''Aye'' on roll call 120, and ''No'' on roll call 121.

THANKING JOHN WRIGHT FOR SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank John Wright for over thirty-three years of outstanding service to this House in a number of administrative and support roles. He lives in Maryland's Fifth District, and I am proud to represent him here in Congress.

John—or ''Turk,'' as he is known among his friends and colleagues—is retiring after having lent his skills and talents to the House of Representatives for over three decades. He began his career in January 1982 under House Clerk Benjamin Guthrie as an Office Equipment Attendant for Office Equipment Services. After working in the labor room and the House drapery shop, John was promoted to Inventory Control Clerk in 1987, where he was responsible for the delivery, movement, and pickup of equipment for House offices. He also assisted with Congressional transitions, an arduous process entailing the physical movement of inventory and systems for hundreds of Member offices within a one-month timeframe.

Eager to learn and to help with other duties, John was promoted in 2000, to the position of Vendor Management Counselor for Office Systems Management under the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). His assignments included the payment of purchase orders for equipment, supplies, and furniture for Members, Committees, Officers, and support offices of the House of Representatives. He processed a large volume of payments swiftly and formed long-lasting friendships with his customers and coworkers. He offered his services and expertise during each Congressional transition by volunteering extra time to assist with office moves.

John's enthusiasm, experience, and resources made him an invaluable asset to the CAO organization, providing excellent customer service to Members and staff. His outgoing personality, positive attitude, and sense of humor have endeared him to many colleagues and friends. John greeted everyone with a big smile and referred to his coworkers as family. He shares his pride in serving the House just as his late mother, Tillie Wright, did during her illustrious forty-one year career in the catering division of the House Restaurant system.

I congratulate John and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his distinguished service to the House and the nation it serves. I wish him and his family all the best as John begins this new chapter in his life.

SUNCOR ENERGY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Suncor Energy for receiving the 2014 Commerce City Business of the Year Award.

The Business of the Year Award is given to a company showing leadership within its industry and the community. Suncor's refinery is the only petroleum refinery in Colorado and one of the largest refineries in the Rocky Mountain region, employing 440 workers. It is a major supplier of gasoline and diesel fuel and is the state's primary producer of asphalt.

This refinery is committed to invigorating the community by volunteering and supporting local organizations in Commerce City and in the Denver metro area. Since 2003, Suncor contributed more than $2.8 million to numerous organizations directly serving the Commerce City community, including Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver and the Adams 14 Education Foundation.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Suncor Energy for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMARTER APPROACH TO NUCLEAR EXPENDITURES (SANE) ACT OF 2015

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures (SANE) Act of 2015, a bill that would enable the U.S. to maintain a strong nuclear deterrent without shortchanging combat readiness and operations.

The SANE Act would allow the U.S. to adopt a more practical and stable nuclear deterrent, while at the same time reducing costs and risks without compromising our security or that of our allies. This is achieved by strategically sizing our nuclear weapons programs, all while saving approximately $100 billion over 10 years and staying within the New START Treaty warhead levels.

President Obama has committed to completely rebuilding all three legs of our nuclear triad—strategic bombers, intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), and nuclear-armed submarines (SLBMs). The SANE Act does not challenge whether the United States should maintain a triad. It does, however, inject fiscal responsibility and strategic reality into the administration's nuclear weapons planning, which many current and former officials have acknowledged is unaffordable. For instance, in 2013 former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General James Cartwright, said of U.S. nuclear weapons modernization plans, ''The challenge here is that we have to recapitalize all three legs [of the nuclear triad] and we don't have the money to do it.''

The Pentagon's 2013 ''Report on Nuclear Employment Strategy of the United States'' declared ''that we can ensure the security of the United States and our Allies [and] partners and maintain a strong and credible strategic deterrent while safely pursuing up to a one-third reduction in deployed nuclear weapons from the level established in the New START Treaty.'' Other experts, including a commission chaired by former, General Cartwright, said the U.S. could go even lower without jeopardizing security.

Despite these facts, U.S. nuclear weapons planning calls for spending $350 billion over the next decade, according to the Congressional Budget Office, and up to $1 trillion over the next 30 years, to build a nuclear force that will far exceed what the President, the Pentagon, and security experts have said will be needed to effectively deter a nuclear threat. Such spending is not only problematic for taxpayers concerned about fiscal responsibility, but those deeply committed to strong and capable military.

Choosing to rebuild a nuclear triad with such capacity excesses means choosing not to invest in other areas. The recent National Defense Panel report called these plans ''unaffordable'' and a threat to ''needed improvements in conventional forces.'' Frank Kendall, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, has echoed similar sentiments, stating in December 2014 that ''[w]e've got a big affordability problem out there with those [nuclear modernization] programs.''

America must reconcile the facts: our Defense budget is already squeezed, a nuclear

deterrent is irrelevant to current international security challenges such as ISIS, the Ebola virus in Africa or even Russian aggression in Ukraine, and yet a nuclear deterrent is still a national security imperative nonetheless. It's time for the U.S. to procure what it needs, and what it can afford.

The SANE Act deals with the coming fiscal and strategic reality scaling back and limiting new nuclear weapons programs now rather than waiting for ''disarmament by default.''

The SANE Act of 2015 is critical to securing a nuclear deterrent without undercutting critical investments in readiness and other essential programs.

HONORING NANCY J. DINARDO FOR HER OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect and deep admiration that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding leader and my dear friend, Nancy J. DiNardo. Tonight, family, friends, and colleagues gather to express our thanks and appreciation to Nancy as she marks the end of her decade long tenure as Chairman of Connecticut's State Democratic Party. As the first woman to hold the office, Nancy has shattered glass ceilings while her tenacity and commitment has earned her respect from Democratic and Republican political leaders alike.

Nancy's desire to give back to her community led her to public service. She was first elected to public office over forty years ago as a member of the Trumbull Town Council and she went on to serve on several other local boards and commissions by both election and appointment. Nancy has also served as the local Chairperson of the Trumbull Democratic Town Committee for thirty years. She dedicated her professional career to education, serving in the Bridgeport public school system as a teacher, school psychologist, and later Director of Psychological Services.

Central to Democrats ideology is our belief that we, as individuals and as a society, are greater together than we are on our own—that our communities and our nation are most successful when everyone gets a fair shot, when everyone does their fair share, and when everyone plays by the same rules. Nancy's dedication to these values led her to seek a more active role in Connecticut's Democratic Party. She sought and won election to the Connecticut Democratic State Central Committee in 1998 and has been an active member ever since, even serving as Finance Chair from 2002 to 2004.

In January of 2005, Nancy was the first woman to be elected Chair in the history of the Connecticut Democratic Party. She brought a renewed focus to both the position and the Party. She re-engaged local town chairs and committees, created special caucuses under the Party umbrella to ensure a broader voice was being heard, and provided new opportunities for younger people to get involved. As Chair, Nancy supported candidates on the municipal, state, and federal level—often spending a majority of the day criss-crossing the state to attend events and functions. Under her tenure, Democratic candidates enjoyed great success including bringing an entirely Democratic federal delegation to Washington and winning back the Governor's office after more than two decades.

Though Nancy stepped down from the Chairmanship, she continues to remain involved in the Democratic Party on both the state and national level. Earlier this year, she was unanimously elected Vice Chair of the State Party and continues to serve on the Democratic National Committee where she has been elected twice to serve as Chair of Eastern Regional Caucus and is a member of the Executive Committee.

Nancy J. DiNardo left an indelible mark on the office of State Party Chair and I could not be more proud to stand today to pay tribute to her remarkable dedication and extend my heartfelt thanks for her outstanding public service. I, like so many others, cannot thank her enough for her continued friendship and support. We are more than friends—we are kindred spirits. I know that she will continue to make a difference and wish her the best for continued success in all of her good work.

HONORING MADELINE HOSKINS-CUMBEY

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from Illinois' 14th Congressional District who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service to the community. Madeline Hoskins-Cumbey of Oswego has been named one of the top honorees in Illinois by The 2015 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Madeline Hoskins-Cumbey is being recognized for founding a nonprofit organization, along with her younger brother, that seeks to engage young people in promoting healthy eating, accessible clean water, and other essentials for healthy living.

Given the challenges we face today, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions that these young citizens have made. Youth volunteers like Madeline are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

This youth program was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example.

Ms. Hoskins-Cumbey should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I heartily applaud Madeline for her initiative in seeking to make our community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

RECOGNIZING DR. SPIRO SPIREAS

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Spiro Spireas, a local resident who serves as the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Sigmapharm Laboratories. Dr. Spireas founded Sigmapharm Laboratories in 2005. He is the inventor and author of more than 70 international and domestic patents and 200 scientific papers, books, and other publications in the fields of industrial pharmacy, biopharmaceutics, pharmacokinetics, pharmaceutical technology and analytical chemistry.

He holds Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in Pharmaceutics and Industrial Pharmacy from St. John's University, and a B.S. in Pharmacy from the Hellenic National University of Athens, Greece. Prior to forming Sigmapharm Laboratories, Dr. Spireas served for 6 years as the Vice President of Research and Development for URL Pharma, Inc. At URL Pharma, he developed various unique products including Felodipine extended release tablets, which remained for several years as the only marketed generic equivalent to Astra Zeneca's Plendil ER tablets.

In addition, Dr. Spireas taught several graduate and undergraduate courses of pharmaceutical sciences and conducted extensive research producing more than 20 Ph.D. and M.S. dissertations as a Professor of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Technology at the Arnold & Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy of Long Island University. Several of his graduate students went on to work with Dr. Spireas at Sigmapharm, and have helped shape the company into what it is today. Dr. Spireas embodies an entrepreneurial and innovative spirit that is unmatched. His contributions to the pharmaceutical industry are greatly admired and appreciated by myself, and my constituents. Dr. Spireas has helped develop products that save lives and keep us healthy, while training a new, young, and eager workforce ready to make contributions to the betterment of society.

It is an honor and privilege to recognize Dr. Spireas today. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 128 due to a death in the family, I was unable to make the vote on S.J. Res. 8. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

ACT UNDERGROUND, LLC

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud ACT Underground, LLC for receiving the 2014 Commerce City Entrepreneurial Spirit Award.

The Entrepreneurial Spirit Award recognizes a company or entrepreneur that demonstrates a pioneer spirit towards new product development, a business start-up, or growth into new markets. ACT Underground, LLC is a franchisee of Badger Daylighting Corporation and has operated in Commerce City since 2007.

ACT Underground has a combined workforce with over 90 years of experience in the hydro-excavation industry. They operate from the northern edge of Wyoming to Breckenridge in the west, New Mexico south and Kansas and Nebraska out east. Through their acquisition of a new facility in 2014 they have expanded their fleet and created 37 new jobs.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the ACT Underground, LLC for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

HONORING DR. VICKY CAROL PERSONS

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of the late Dr. Vicky Carol Persons who entered into eternal rest Monday, March 2, 2015. Dr. Persons was well known for the joy she got out of helping others, her love for gardening, caring for animals and cooking.

A native of Bainbridge, Georgia, Dr. Persons received her PhD in Special Education from Florida State University and became a devoted educator of 15 years. Dr. Persons previously worked at McIntosh County Academy as a special education teacher, and in 2012, she decided to run for the McIntosh County School Board. In April 2013, Dr. Persons began her career at West Chatham Elementary School as a 5th grade special education teacher where many of the faculty and parents will truly miss her dedication to her school and students. Dr. Persons was also very involved in her community. She was a member of the Darien Rotary Club, Cairo Rotary Club, and the Professional Association of Georgia Educators.

Today, it is my privilege to recognize the life of Dr. Vicky Persons. As a wife, mother and friend, Dr. Persons will forever be remembered.

INTRODUCING THE A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING DR. ELMIRA MANGUM AS THE FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT OF FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing Dr. Elmira Mangum as the First Female President of Florida A&M University. A trailblazer in higher education and model of academic success, Dr. Mangum has broken gender barriers by becoming the first permanent female president of one of our nation's most distinguished Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU).

Dr. Elmira Mangum is a born leader. Growing up in North Carolina, she always went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure she excelled academically and socially. She earned her bachelor's degree in geography and education from North Carolina Central University and graduated with honors from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with two master's degrees, one in public policy and public administration and another in urban and regional planning. Dr. Mangum furthered her studies and earned a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy from the University at Buffalo. It was here that she received distinction for her work on leadership in higher education.

Never one to settle for less, she attended the Harvard Graduate School of Education Management Development Program, was in the inaugural class of the Millennium Leadership Institute, and completed Cornell's Administrative Management Institute. Extremely civically minded, she is a life member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and the National Council of Negro Women.

Her path to becoming the 11th president of my prestigious alma mater, Florida A&M University, has led her through some very notable positions. She has been Assistant Dean, Associate Provost for Resource Management, a Vice Provost, Senior Associate Provost, and Vice President at other noteworthy institutions, such as Cornell University and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

I am extremely proud of Dr. Mangum's accomplishments and am certain that she will carry out her vision of grandeur for one of the nation's most premier HBCUs. She has already made extraordinary progress in advancing the institution and this is only the beginning.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Elmira Mangum is paving the way for women across the country to continue to realize their dreams and achieve greatness. She is a trailblazer who serves as a role model for men and women alike. I urge my colleagues to support the Resolution to Recognize Dr. Elmira Mangum as the First Female President of Florida A&M University.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, last week, March 16–19, I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on #113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 121, 125, 126, 127, and 128. Additionally, I would have voted "NAY" on #120, 122, 123, 124, and 129.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state that on March 18, 2014, I missed one roll call vote. Had I been present I would have voted:

NO—Roll Call Vote 125—H.R. 1030—To prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible.

I would have cast my vote in opposition to this bill because it undermines the scientific integrity of the EPA's Science Advisory Board and hurt the agency's ability to use the best available science to protect the air we breathe and the water we drink when setting public health safeguards.

ARATI LAMICHHANE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Arati Lamichhane for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Arati Lamichhane is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5–8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Arati Lamichhane is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Arati Lamichhane for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

BEN PEREZ OF ROSENBERG, TX, HEB EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Ben Perez of Rosenberg, TX on being named a finalist in the HEB Excellence in Education Awards Program. Mr. Perez serves as the principal of Ray Elementary School in Rosenberg, TX.

Mr. Perez began his career as a teacher's aide at the age of eighteen while simultaneously taking courses at the University of Houston-Downtown. After serving both as an elementary school teacher at Pink Elementary and as assistant principal at Ray Elementary, Mr. Perez was named principal after years of hard work and commitment to his school and his students. Mr. Perez was selected for this award due to his tireless work ethic, educational accomplishments, and passion for teaching. Both his fellow teachers and students are excited about his nomination, and eagerly await the program's decision.

Mr. Perez is one of five exceptional elementary school principals who were nominated for this award, and the winner will be announced in Austin on May 2. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Mr. Perez for being recognized as an outstanding principal.

HONORING CHIEF DOUGLAS DORTENZIO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the deepest respect and admiration that I rise today to join the Town of Wallingford and particularly its police force in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to Douglas Dortenzio as he celebrates his retirement after twenty-four years of dedicated service as Police Chief and a forty-two year career in law enforcement. His retirement marks the end of a distinguished career in law enforcement and the Department will simply not be the same without him.

Chief Dortenzio began his career in the New Haven Police Department. During his eighteen year career with the NHPD, he rose through the ranks and was a major when he was selected to serve as Chief of the Wallingford Department. For the last twenty-four years he has served the Department, his officers, and the Wallingford community with honor and distinction.

Throughout his career, Chief Dortenzio dedicated himself to ensuring the protection and safety of the Wallingford community. He is a staunch believer in the concept of community policing and under his tenure he has focused the Department's efforts towards building a strong relationship between the Department and the community. As head of the Wallingford Police Department, Chief Dortenzio made the men and women of the Department his highest priority—always ensuring that they had access to the most current technologies and equipment. He has always fought for the resources, programs, and services he believes are in the best interest of the members of his Department and would most benefit the community.

Chief Dortenzio's efforts to create a parents' guide for sober teen celebrations have been recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and he has been involved in its Red Ribbon Campaigns and National Sobriety Checkpoint Week. He has served as a member of the State of Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council, the State of Connecticut Emergency Management & Homeland Security Coordinating Council, the U.S. Attorney's Office Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council, and the FBI—Joint Terrorism Task Force. He is a past President of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association and was a member of the Police Chiefs' delegation invited to Washington, D.C. to watch then President Bill Clinton sign a national crime bill.

With all of his work, at the Department and in the community, Chief Dortenzio still made time to be of great assistance to myself and my staff. He has been an invaluable resource to us all and I want to extend my deepest thanks and sincere appreciation for all of his many years of support and friendship.

Chief Douglas Dortenzio has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment and has left an indelible mark on the Town of Wallingford—he will be missed. As he celebrates his retirement, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join his wife Pat and daughter, Christine, as well as family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him the very best for many more years of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCREDITATION OF THE ST. SIMONS LAND TRUST

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the St. Simons Land Trust for becoming accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. The St. Simons Land Trust's accreditation status is the result of a rigorous and lengthy process, and I am proud of their efforts to meet such high standards for private, non-profit land conservation.

Since 2001, the St. Simons Land Trust has acquired and permanently preserved close to 776 acres on St. Simons Island in southeast Georgia. Cannon's Point Preserve, which contains 609 acres of maritime forest, salt marshes, and tidal creeks, is one of the many successful preservation projects of the Trust. With its new accredited status, the St. Simons Land Trust may display with pride a special seal that shows it fulfills national standards for excellence in land conservation.

The work of the St. Simons Land Trust helps to permanently protect wildlife habitat, water quality, green space, working farms and ranches, and healthy communities. By achieving accreditation, the Trust has demonstrated its commitment to conservation both today and long into the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commend the St. Simons Land Trust for their latest accomplishment. I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of the St. Simons Land Trust to helping preserve the beauty of St. Simons Island and southeast Georgia. I would like to thank the Trust for their devotion to my district, and wish them the best with their future projects.

ZIGGI'S COFFEE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ziggi's Coffee for receiving the 2014 Commerce City Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses that have brought new employment to Commerce City. Ziggi's Coffee opened its first drive-thru and café combination in December 2014, adding 15 employees at the location.

With their growth in Commerce City, they also have a strong commitment to community involvement. Ziggi's donates to hundreds of causes and supports local schools. Their commitment is year round, raising thousands of dollars through their annual back-to-school fundraiser and donating hundreds of gift cards to local nonprofit organizations throughout the year.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ziggi's Coffee for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONSISTENT, EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY SERVICE DISPLAYED BY CITIZEN SCHOOLS FOR TWENTY YEARS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Citizen Schools for providing twenty years of outstanding community service and educational enrichment programs. Citizen Schools offers extended learning programming for middle school-aged students in urban, at-risk areas by partnering with public middle schools. Citizens Schools offers free educational classes and programs to urban academic institutions, giving students a wealth of choices during the important after school hours.

Citizens Schools was founded in 1995 by Eric Schwarz and Ned Rimer. Since then, the organization has offered educational opportunities for children who cannot otherwise afford them. The results are impressive. According to Citizen Schools, 71% of students involved in these programs graduate high school and many of those go on to post-secondary institutions. These impressive results are a combination of careful program planning, and the tireless efforts of volunteers who help teach these

aspiring students. The volunteers work closely with students to help maximize their experience. Their work is so well received that the organization has expanded beyond Boston to different states around the country like California, Texas, North Carolina, New York, and others. Citizen Schools aims to provide at-risk students with valuable educational experiences that they may not otherwise have access to due to conditions out of their control.

I salute the efforts of Citizen Schools over the past twenty years and thank them for the positive impact they have had on so many students.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF DENNIS RAYMOND

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dennis Raymond of Waterbury, Connecticut.

On March 21, 2015, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local #677 honored Mr. Raymond for his achievements and service to Teamsters and the labor movement.

He has been a Teamster for forty-four years, rising through the ranks to become Secretary Treasurer for Teamsters Local 677.

Mr. Raymond began his career in 1970 as a route sales representative for the former Raymond Baking Company. He was soon appointed as Steward representing mechanics, transport drivers and breadmen. Mr. Raymond later served as the Recording Secretary and then the Business Agent for Local 677, a position he held for twenty-eight years. Most recently, he was appointed as Director for the Bakery and Laundry Conference USA & Canada.

For all of these contributions and more, Mr. Raymond will be honored at a retirement dinner. I wish to offer my congratulations to him for his retirement and my many thanks for his dedication and service to Teamsters and the labor movement.

ALEXANDRA ARRIAGA RODRIGUEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alexandra Arriaga Rodriguez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alexandra Arriaga Rodriguez is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5–8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alexandra Arriaga Rodriguez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alexandra Arriaga Rodriguez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING BRIANNA CAREY

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from Illinois' 14th Congressional District who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service to the community. Brianna Carey of Geneva has been named a Distinguished Finalist in Illinois by The 2015 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Carey is being recognized for founding a website to help teens all over the world with their emotional struggles called ''A Cutter's Guardian Angel,'' which has grown into an organization that helps those in need via social media, the internet, and community events.

Given the challenges we face today, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions that these young citizens have made. Youth volunteers like Brianna are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

This youth program was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example.

Ms. Carey should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I heartily applaud Brianna for her initiative in seeking to make our community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my warm, personal greetings to the people of Taiwan, to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act—which provides the institutional framework and legal basis for our unofficial relations with Taiwan, and to call for greater support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations where it cannot be a member, due to its unique political status.

As you know, Taiwan is an important economic and security partner, and as an advanced industrial economy, has much to contribute to the world, from global efforts to fight disease to securing our skies from dangers and threats to safety. As a result of its own efforts, the actions of the Congress and successive administrations, and other World Health Assembly member states, Taiwan has enjoyed observer status at the WHA since 2009. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for Taiwan's participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

This House is on record in support of Taiwan's observer status at the ICAO. While Taiwan was invited to attend the 38th Session of the ICAO Assembly in Montreal by the then-ICAO president in 2013 as his guest, this is not a permanent solution for what is an integral part of the global aviation network. Taiwan, a democracy of 23 million people, is located in the busiest section of airspace in East Asia. Tens of millions of passengers and over a million-and-a-half tons of cargo pass through the Taipei Flight Information Region each year. And yet, Taiwan is excluded from ICAO meetings and activities, and is forced to make extra efforts to adhere to the frequent updates of ICAO's flight safety and security standards to which Taipei is committed.

As we celebrate this 36th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, let us recommit ourselves to supporting this important friend in the Asia-Pacific, strengthening our unofficial relations, and progressing Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations, which is to the benefit of the safety and security of people everywhere.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 122 I was not present due to being unavoidably detained.

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

CONGRATULATIONS MR. BILLY M. BOLTON ON 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COMMUNITY SPIRIT BANK, THE CITY OF RED BAY, AND THE STATE OF ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize and honor Mr. Billy M. Bolton for 50 years of service to Community Spirit Bank, the City of Red Bay, and the State of Alabama. I am honored to recognize this individual for his accomplishments.

When looking for model public servants, one need not look any further than Billy Bolton of Red Bay, Alabama. For 50 years he has been involved with and held leadership roles in local, regional, and statewide organizations

that have impacted the lives of countless Alabamians. He served on the Red Bay City Council before being elected twice as Mayor of Red Bay, leading the town to some of its most prosperous years. He has served on various regional committees such as the Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments and the Northwest Community College Scholarship Board. His efforts have also had a statewide impact from his time with the Alabama Bankers Association, the Bear Creek Development Authority, and the Alabama division of the American Heart Association. Arguably though, Mr. Bolton's greatest service is that to his country. He served with honor in the United States Army from 1966–1968, during a period of our Nation's history when military service was not always considered popular.

Professionally, the name Billy Bolton has been synonymous in Northwest Alabama with Community Spirit Bank since 1965. Mr. Bolton, as Chairman, President, and CEO, has played a leading role in the bank's growth and success to become one of the strongest and most recognized financial institutions in the region. Community banks are deeply involved in local affairs, as some of the biggest supporters of schools, civic organizations, and town projects. Through Mr. Bolton, Community Spirit Bank has been a staple in Red Bay and Northwest Alabama, bringing economic stability and promoting the arts and cultural growth to citizens and visitors alike.

Of all his accomplishments though, he would say his greatest has been his strong relationship with God and his devotion to family. Mr. Bolton is a faithful member of First Baptist Church in Red Bay where he serves as a deacon and on various committees. He and his wife Judy have been married for 50 years. They have three children: Tammy Montgomery, Karla Wright, and Brad Bolton; and six grandchildren. Mr. Bolton has instilled in his family the importance of service and they are all respected citizens in the Red Bay area.

Mr. Bolton was honored on March 18, 2015 at the Red Bay Arbor Day Celebration with a Sunset Red Maple tree planted in his honor. This tree will be a visible reminder to all who see it of his contributions and the importance of Mr. Bolton's public service. I am proud to call Mr. Bolton a fellow Alabamian and to represent him in the United States Congress. He is truly deserving of this recognition.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF MALLORY PEARCE

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the 80th birthday of the artistic and intellectual Mr. Mallory Pearce of Tybee Island.

Mr. Pearce is a dedicated public servant and environmentalist. He founded the Tybee Land Trust which is dedicated to the preservation of Coastal Georgia's Natural Beauty. Mr. Pearce authored "The Low Country," a guide to the natural history of Coast Georgia. He has served as a member of his local Georgia government for 10 years and has acted as ambassador for the Georgia Coast with this book, bird calls and caricatures. Mr. Pearce has maintained and protected his own unique Maritime Forest. While he is an artist, Mr. Pearce is also an educator having taught 18 years at Armstrong State University. Mr. Pearce continues to strive to make Georgia and the world a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I join his family and friends in wishing Mr. Mallory Pearce a very happy and blessed 80th birthday. We thank him for his generous contributions to his community, the State of Georgia and our nation.

BEN ALVEAR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ben Alvear for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Ben Alvear is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5–8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ben Alvear is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ben Alvear for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELDER JUSTICE ACT

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, March 23rd, marks the 5th anniversary of the signing into law of the bipartisan Elder Justice Act. I was proud to have been the sponsor of the House version of this bill with my former colleague Rahm Emanuel. I also note the strong leadership of Senator HATCH, former Senator Lincoln, and Senator GRASSLEY on the Senate bill, which ultimately became law.

The Elder Justice Act was passed for an important reason: to allow us to approach the growing problem of elder abuse with a more coordinated and comprehensive federal response. This has been accomplished to a certain degree over the past 5 years through some initiatives including the Elder Justice roadmap and the work of the Elder Justice Coordinating Council. We have a new Office of Elder Justice in the Department of Health and Human Services.

Yet much of the Elder Justice Act remains unfulfilled because of an ongoing struggle for appropriate funding for its provisions. On this occasion I rededicate myself to seeing that the Act is reauthorized and that we invest adequate resources to its work. I am proud to be the author of H.R. 988 to renew the EJA and I commend my colleagues Representatives LUJAN GRISHAM, SWALWELL, SCHAKOWSKY, COHEN, BLUMENAUER, FRANKEL, GRAYSON and HONDA for joining me as co-sponsors.

At this point, I wish to submit a statement issued by the bipartisan, 3,000-member Elder Justice Coalition which has been steadfast in its leadership on behalf of elder justice for more than 10 years. I am pleased to work closely with the Coalition and its national coordinator Robert Blancato and look forward to our continued work to help ameliorate the national outrage of elder abuse.

STATEMENT FROM THE ELDER JUSTICE COALITION

(Bob Blancato, National Coordinator)

March 23, 2015 marks the fifth anniversary of the bipartisan Elder Justice Act being signed into law by President Barack Obama.

This law is historic as it represented the most comprehensive legislation ever enacted to address the growing national crisis of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. Five years later, we still find ourselves in the grip of elder abuse with an estimated one in ten persons over 60 as victims. Elder financial abuse is especially rampant with victims losing a minimum of $3 billion a year and perhaps as high as $35 billion per year based on new research.

It is important, however, to mark this fifth anniversary noting that significant progress has been made as a result of the passage of the EJA. This includes:

The Elder Justice Act receiving $4 million in first-time direct funding in FY 2015.

President Obama's FY 2016 budget request including $25 million to continue the Elder Justice Initiative and a previous request including $5 million for the long-term care ombudsman program.

The 2015 White House Conference on Aging including elder justice as one of its four priority issues.

A Global Summit planned for 2015 to observe the tenth anniversary of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD).

The creation of a new Office of Elder Justice and Adult Protective Services (APS) in the Administration for Community Living (ACL).

The renewal of both the National Center on Elder Abuse and the APS Resource Center by the Administration.

A data collection project from ACL with APS.

Increased work of the Social Security Administration to combat elder financial abuse.

Ongoing education and outreach work in the Office of Older Americans in the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The release of the Elder Justice Roadmap by the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services (HHS).

The recommendations of the Elder Justice Coordinating Council sent to HHS Secretary and later to Congress.

On this fifth anniversary we also reflect on our disappointment in how difficult it has proven to be to secure appropriate funding for this law. To date, less than $13 million has been directed to elder justice over the past five years and it took until just last year to achieve the first direct Congressional appropriation for the law. The law authorized a total of $777 million dollars for local grants, training, services, education, to address abuse in the community and long-term care facilities, to help prevent abuse, and to assist victims and prosecute perpetrators. We have not made the progress and the investment that this issue and those that have been victimized deserve.

In this year ahead we must focus attention on reauthorizing the Elder Justice Act. The Coalition commends Representative Peter King for his introduction of H.R. 988 in this Congress and also for being the House author of the original Elder Justice Act. Similarly we salute the leadership of Senator Orrin Hatch, the author of the Elder Justice Act in the Senate. We also acknowledge the critical work that Senator Chuck Grassley did to help pass the Act.

As our nation continues to grow older, we have to recognize that elder abuse will also grow unless we commit resources to help prevent it. This includes providing adequate funding for Adult Protective Services in all our states as well as for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program so we are able to investigate elder abuse in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. This is the essence of the Elder Justice Act, a sound investment in a safe future for older Americans.

We also recognize that we need to reauthorize and fund other programs that work hand in hand with the EJA. The Older Americans Act with its important elder abuse provisions and aging network is past due for reauthorization. We must also protect the core funding we currently have for Adult Protective Services through the Social Services Block Grant Program.

Finally, we must also take advantage of an important opportunity provided by the Congress in the FY 2015 omnibus appropriations bill. In this measure, the cap for the Crime Victims' Fund, created by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), was more than tripled from $730 million to a new high of $2.361 billion. We call on the Justice Department and state VOCA agencies to direct an appropriate amount of these new funds to aid elder abuse crime victims.

Our bipartisan 3000 member Elder Justice Coalition sees this fifth anniversary as a turning point in our national effort to prevent elder abuse. We cannot be in denial that the problem exists; instead, we need to put the same commitment into addressing this crisis as we have done with child abuse for more than 40 years and domestic violence over the past 20.

Older adults deserve to live a life free from the reality or even the fear of elder abuse. That is our agenda, pure and simple. Let us build on the work done over these past five years and strive to achieve elder justice which has to mean the prevention of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

INTRODUCTION OF CARERS ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce CARERS Act, a bipartisan House companion to a bipartisan Senate bill that would allow states to set their own policies on medical marijuana, and give Veterans Administration physicians the ability to recommend medical marijuana to their patients.

The consensus on medical marijuana is overwhelming. Last year, a CBS News Poll found 86 percent of Americans thought doctors should be allowed to prescribe small amounts of marijuana for patients suffering from serious illnesses.

86 percent of Americans rarely agree on anything.

Even CNN's Chief Medical Correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta, who was once skeptical of medical marijuana, has publicly endorsed it.

Yet, our federal laws continue to treat patients and the doctors and families who care for them like criminals.

It is long overdue for our federal law to reflect the common sense views of 86 percent of Americans and stop adding to the suffering of those with horrible illnesses.

One such patient was my constituent, Chloe Grauer. At 3 years old, Chloe suffered from a rare neurological disease that caused her to have 100 to 200 seizures a day. She tried dozens of medications and underwent surgical procedures but nothing stopped the seizures. Her family tried desperately to treat her with Cannabidiol—also known as "Charlotte's Web" or "CBD" for short—which has been shown to treat certain diseases that cause seizures, such as the disease from which Chloe suffered. CBD is derived from cannabis plants, and even though it contains just trace amounts of the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana—nowhere near enough to produce a high—but it is currently illegal under federal law. Even this tiny amount of the ingredient, THC, was enough for the federal government to keep a potentially life-saving drug away from Chloe.

Late last year, Chloe died without receiving CBD.

This should never have happened. We must ensure that this never happens again.

Just as our children deserve to be treated compassionately, so, too, do our veterans. Federal law currently prohibits VA doctors from prescribing medical marijuana when they feel it is medically beneficial. Our veterans deserve the best medical advice from their doctors, not arbitrary limits on what their doctors can do to help them. Veterans are tough. They can handle frank advice from their doctors.

Earlier this month, a bipartisan group of Senators introduced a bill that would make vitally necessary, common sense changes to federal law that would allow for greater access to medically necessary marijuana: the Compassionate Access, Research Expansion and Respect States Act. The bill builds upon efforts here in the House of Representatives. I applaud all of these efforts, and am proud to help keep the momentum going by introducing a bipartisan House companion to this bill with my colleague DON YOUNG of Alaska.

I urge the House to pass this bill swiftly, bring a dose of sanity to our federal drug policy, and extend some much needed compassion to those suffering from horrible illnesses.

RECOGNITION OF DR. C. KERN WILDENTHAL

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to recognize Dr. C. Kern Wildenthal of Dallas, Texas. Dr. Wildenthal served as president of UT Southwestern for 22 years. He raised more than $750 million for research and clinical programs at the medical school during 2001 and 2007.

Dr. Wildenthal is a visionary who led the effort to develop the North Campus of UT Southwestern, which is being named in his honor. "The C. Kern Wildenthal Research Building." He is deserving of this tribute. Because of his leadership, the research and clinical programs at UT Southwestern have made significant contributions to the medical field.

Throughout his career, Dr. Wildenthal undertook world-class research initiatives. He spent more than 38 years building the reputation of UT Southwestern as a faculty member, dean and president. During his tenure, enrollment at the University quintupled in size, and the Medical Center's endowment grew from $40 million to more than $1.3 billion.

A stellar academic, Dr. Wildenthal earned his bachelor's degree from Sul Ross State University in Alpine, a medical degree from UT Southwestern and a doctorate from the University of Cambridge in England. Dr. Wildenthal trained at Bellevue Hospital in New York, Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. He led a cardiology research program and has published more than 120 science and medical journal articles.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. C. Kern Wildenthal is truly a phenomenal educator, physician, scientist and leader. A man fueled by dedication and committed to public service, he has set the bar high for his successor. He is the recipient of the 1975 Guggenheim Fellowship. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 1999. I stand today to honor Dr. C. Kern Wildenthal and to thank him for his work in service to the people of Dallas and to everyone within and beyond our borders who benefit from his scientific vision and exemplary medical service.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MS. SOFIA MENDOZA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to celebrate the lfie of Sofia Mendoza, known to me and her other friends as Sophie, and to memorialize her as a passionate community leader whose advocacy will long be remembered in my hometown of San Jose. Throughout her life, Sophie was unwavering in her commitment to end the prejudicial treatment of underrepresented communities, and particularly of the Mexican-American community in East San Jose. Her leadership affected landmark changes across a diversity of city interests, from reform of education and criminal justice, to the manner in which city council members are elected today.

Sophie Mendoza was born in the small agricultural town of Fillmore, California. Her father Tiburcio was a labor organizer, and was a lifelong inspiration to her. Tiburcio had temporarily moved the family to Fillmore where he was organizing citrus and avocado pickers to strike against unjust working conditions. Fillmore would be one of many destinations as Sophie's father moved from one labor battle to the next.

Sophie's mother Margarita was also an active organizer alongside her husband. But Tiburcio initially looked to Sophie's younger brothers to carry the family torch of community activism. He would soon discover that it was

his daughter, Sophie, who held the spark inside her. It was in high school that Sophie attempted her first organizing effort. By this time, her family had settled in Campbell. Her school had many clubs, but freshman Sophie was upset to discover it did not have a Spanish club. Her father taught her how to create support through the circulation of petitions and how to build coalitions of teachers and students. Her efforts were rewarded with a new club.

When Sophie married and moved to East San Jose with her husband Gilbert, her new surroundings provided her opportunity to take on one entrenched injustice after another. And these changes have left a lasting imprint on San Jose to this day. It was because of her organizing efforts that the first student walkout in California occurred at Roosevelt Junior High School to protest unequal education funding and discrimination by administrators. It was because of her that 2,000 activists marched to City Hall to speak out against the excessive use of force by the San Jose Police Department, and that 1,000 residents formed the Community Alert Patrol to monitor police activity.

And it it was because of her that the first major health clinic was established in East San Jose. I remember so well the forceful advocacy that made the East Valley Clinic a reality. It stands today as a tribute to Sophie's values.

And an important part of her legacy was working for reform of the system by which the city of San Jose elected city council members. She demanded the city dismantle its at-large election system, which underrepresented minority communities, and replace it with district representation. The newly drawn districts ensured a council seat to East San Jose, and provide a voice today to Vietnamese-American and Latino communities across San Jose.

Throughout her activism, Sophia Mendoza was a strong and proud mother. She pushed strollers as she marched to city hall. She brought crayons to city council meetings. In fact, her passion for justice was largely driven by her role as a mother. It was to protect her children's right to education that she first organized. In her words, "community organizing starts at home." Her two daughters, Linda Ramirez and Saundra Panlasigui, and her son William Mendoza, currently reside in San Jose, in the community their mother fought to make a just home for them.

Her passing was a sudden and immense loss for the San Jose community. She fought for issues that we continue to fight for across our nation: access to education and health care, equal treatment by the police, and workers rights. On behalf of my constituents, I thank her for her unwavering efforts to make San Jose a fair and just home for us all. I have lost a dear friend who made a tremendous difference.

CONGRATULATING GARY WILLIAMS

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gary Williams of Mitchell, Nebraska, on his dedication to serving the people of our state. Gary recently retired from the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles after more than 35 years of service.

Gary is a dedicated civil servant whose commitment to his work is a true testament to his character. He told me about his love for his job, which allowed him to make a positive impact on many Nebraskans during his years at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska's Third District, I thank Mr. Williams for his service and congratulate him on the start of this new chapter in his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote March 16–19 because of the birth of my daughter, Carmen Gabriela. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Roll Call 113—Yea
Roll Call 114—Yea
Roll Call 115—Yea
Roll Call 116—Yea
Roll Call 117—Yea
Roll Call 118—Yea
Roll Call 119—Yea
Roll Call 120—No
Roll Call 121—Yea
Roll Call 122—No
Roll Call 123—No
Roll Call 124—No
Roll Call 125—Yea
Roll Call 126—Yea
Roll Call 127—Yea
Roll Call 128—Yea
Roll Call 129—Yea

WOMEN IN WWII

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, they were tenacious, they were selfless and they were humble. They were the 350,000 women of the greatest generation who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. For many years their altruistic efforts went without recognition. However, these women were the sustaining fuel and energy in helping the U.S. victory during the great WWII. Not only were they the backbone of the nation, they were the backbones of their families. These women represent the word patriot to its fullest extent. Women joined the war effort in two distinct and important ways:

Some supported America at home in factories, machine shops and businesses while taking care of their families. Others joined the military and fought the war in uniform.

WWII not only changed American history but changed American society.

With over 16 million fighting overseas, typical male roles were left open, creating enormous needs throughout the nation. At the request of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, women stepped right in to assume their position in the workforce. The traditional home was forever altered with more women joining the workforce.

America was captivated by the new personas of women. Rosie the Riveter served as a constant reminder that women can absolutely do it too. Women were the concrete foundation in what was a man's world. Women were not only wives and mothers; they were the workforce for the "Arsenal of Democracy". They were truck drivers, air plane mechanics, lab technicians, radio operators, meteorologists, translators, and photograph analyzers.

Mr. Speaker, on a personal note, when my mother, Dorrace Hill, was a teenager she was one of the home front warriors who answered the call. She went to school during the day, and worked 40 hours a week as a receptionist at the Kyle Hotel in Temple, Texas.

But she spent a great deal of time as a Red Cross Volunteer and later an employee at McCloskey Army Hospital—later a VA Hospital—caring for wounded GIs. (After Germany surrendered in 1945 my Army Dad, TSGT Virgil Poe, was sent from Europe to nearby Ft Hood TEXAS to be reequipped for the invasion of Japan when WWII ended. He later met and married my mother in Temple, Texas. Now they live in Houston, Texas.)

Other women began serving in America's Armed Forces. These volunteers became members of the U.S. Army, and Navy. As nurses they tended sick and wounded throughout the U.S. and the world. They took care of American warriors worldwide. Texas pioneered these efforts for female warriors.

Texas was home to the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP). These women were the first women in history to fly America's military aircrafts. Texas is the only state where these women completed WASP flight training. Sweetwater, Texas became home to Avenger Field—the only base in history to train exclusively women to fly military aircraft. These women flew all types of military aircraft that would later be used by male pilots in combat. Women would also serve in the U.S. Navy as WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service).

These would be both in the enlisted and officer ranks. One of the most influential women during the 1940's was Oveta Culp Hobby. It should be no surprise that she was a Texan. Of course!

Oveta was the first director of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) the women's branch of the U.S. Army. Oveta paved the way for women warriors, recognizing that women too could serve their country. She went on to become the first secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare under President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

From Rosie the Riveter, to my mother, to Oveta Hobby and the thousands more women who served in the home land and foreign lands, they were that remarkable breed of Americans who deserve our utmost thanks. They were the very heart behind the cause.

They became role models for future generations. General George S. Patton once remarked that we should thank God that such men as our warriors lived; we should too praise God that such remarkable women lived.

And that's just the way it is.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4,

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 25

9 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Defense Health Program.
SD–192

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
To hold hearings to examine Navy and Marine Corps aviation programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR–222

2 p.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC) accountability, focusing on nonbank designations.
SD–538

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine securing the border, focusing on understanding and addressing the root causes of Central American migration to the United States.
SD–342

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Paul A. Folmsbee, of Oklahoma, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mali, Mary Catherine Phee, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan, Cassandra Q. Butts, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, and Katherine Simonds Dhanani, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Somalia, all of the Department of State.
SD–419

Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine the fight against Alzheimer's disease, focusing on a treatment by 2025.
SD–106

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Energy.
SD–124

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
To hold hearings to examine the current state of readiness of U.S. forces in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR–232A

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SR–253

3 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR–222

MARCH 26

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Central Command, U.S. Africa Command and U.S. Special Operations Command programs and budget in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session.
SD–G50

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the Administration's Quadrennial Energy Review.
SD–366

10 a.m.
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 2016 for the Department of Labor.
SD–138

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
To hold hearings to examine diplomacy, development, and national security.
SD–192

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine securing the border, focusing on defining the current population living in the shadows and addressing future flows.
SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 665, 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, is missing in connection with the officer's official duties, or an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer is received, and S. 125, to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020.
SD–226

Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine Veterans' Affairs opioid prescription policy, practice and procedures.
SR–418

APRIL 14

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. defense policy issues pertaining to the Asia-Pacific theater.
SD–G50

APRIL 15

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold hearings to examine the National Nuclear Security Administration plans and programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR–222

APRIL 16

Time to be announced
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for military construction and military family housing for select combatant commanders and select defense agencies.
SD–124

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD–G50

POSTPONEMENTS

MARCH 26

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
To hold hearings to examine Army modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR–222