

until her passing in 2005. Attorneys Robert Groszek and Alexander Fiedotjew serve as the co-chairs. Alexander has volunteered with the Clinic since the start along with Zygmunt "Ziggy" Sokolnicki.

Mr. Speaker, as the representative of a large portion of Polish constituents, I applaud Amicus Poloniae for their tireless work and dedication to the thousands of people in need. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing and congratulating Amicus Poloniae on a successful past quarter-century.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RATIBU JACOBS SHADIDI

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 17, 2015*

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ratibu Jacobs Shadidi, who passed away on December 10, 2015 at the age of 72.

Ratibu was an active member of the community who provided great service to the residents of the Inland Empire through his compassionate nature and commitment to promote the welfare of others. His service to the public began at an early age when he joined the United States Army in 1961. Later, upon moving to Riverside in the 1970s, he worked as a Field Representative for California State Senator Ruben Ayala and helped many in the community receive assistance from state agencies. He then operated a local firm and became known for publishing a directory of enterprises operated by women and minorities, which is distributed throughout California to promote small businesses.

A man of faith, Ratibu taught Sunday school at the Temple Missionary Baptist Church in San Bernardino. He is credited with inspiring several of his peers to become spiritual leaders and was known for seeing things in people that they couldn't see in themselves. Ratibu also is known in the community for forming the Inland Area Kwanzaa Group, and had hosted the annual Kwanzaa Karamu for more than two decades. In 2007, he published a memoir in which he describes how his belief system helped guide him through difficult times in his life.

For his contributions to the community and for his many other achievements, I would like to honor Ratibu Jacobs Shadidi and his family. While Ratibu will truly be missed by residents of the Inland Empire, his legacy will continue through all of those that knew him. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, former-California State Assemblywoman Wilmer Amina Carter, and their three daughters.

RECOGNIZING AARON PEARSON, RETIRED OFFICER OF THE SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT, FOR BEING INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY PROTECTING THE SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 17, 2015*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aaron Pearson, retired officer of the

Springfield Police Department, for his dedication to protecting the Springfield community as well as his courage and perseverance after being injured in the line of duty.

On January 26, 2015, Officer Pearson was struck below the left eye with one of several rounds fired at him while responding to a request for backup. As a result of his injuries, doctors predicted that Aaron would likely never walk or talk again, but he never gave up. Aaron persevered through months of difficult rehab and less than five months later he made enough progress to throw the first pitch at the Springfield Cardinals game. His actions have shown an incredible example of courage in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. This November, he was awarded the Springfield Police Department Purple Heart for enduring this adversity.

Officer Pearson served his community with passion throughout his time with the Springfield Police Department. Before his retirement, Aaron's accomplishments exemplified this and those who worked with him in the line of duty had great respect for his professionalism.

Mr. Speaker, Aaron Pearson has worked tirelessly to protect his community and better those around him; I extend to him my deepest appreciation for his courage and dedication to ensuring the safety of the Springfield community. His efforts have not only contributed greatly to the Springfield community, but have made me proud to serve the people of Missouri's seventh Congressional District.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEMA HELP AND EDUCATION FOR LOCAL PARTNERS ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 17, 2015*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the FEMA Help and Education for Local Partners Act (FEMA HELP Act). The bill addresses concerns raised by states and local governments about the lack of comprehensive information about the various federal assistance programs available during and in the aftermath of a natural or man-made disaster. The bill creates a federal multi-agency team, led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to provide coordinated assistance to state, local, tribal, and territorial leaders in implementing a comprehensive approach to recovery and utilizing the full range of federal resources across agencies and programs.

The number and costs of federally declared disasters has been on the rise over the last 30 years. For example, total damages from 1972's Hurricane Agnes were \$2.1 billion, 1999's Hurricane Floyd caused \$6 billion in damage, while Hurricane Sandy resulted in \$65 billion in total damage. With the multiple disaster assistance programs offered by federal agencies in the aftermath of a disaster, the federal government needs to work together with state, local, tribal, and territorial leaders to provide the right types of aid on time to meet critical needs. At a recent Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management roundtable, a state representative suggested

that the federal government provide a "menu of resources" so that state, local, tribal, and territorial leaders and their residents can look for government resources in one place.

To address the current lack of coordination, the FEMA HELP Act is designed to require federal agencies to work together in a collaborative manner with state, local, tribal, and territorial leaders and provide them with guidance on federal assistance programs. To accomplish this aim, the bill directs FEMA to convene and manage multi-agency federal teams to work with and provide coordinated assistance to state, local, tribal, and territorial leaders in implementing a comprehensive approach to recovery and utilizing the full range of federal funding resources across agencies and programs. The bill also requires FEMA's coordinating officers be trained in the range of applicable funding programs. The multi-agency federal team would include FEMA, the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Small Business Administration, the Department of Defense, and the Army Corps of Engineers. The bill also directs FEMA to create a clear and consistent set of guidelines and criteria for making and communicating decisions on funding eligibility and requirements. To retain institutional knowledge, the bill requires federal teams to minimize staff transitions and ensure there is adequate information transfer when staff transitions occur.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 644, TRADE FACILITATION AND TRADE ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 11, 2015*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise my opposition to H.R. 644 the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015.

In August, China devalued the renmibi by 4.4 percent which caused a drastic drop in the U.S. stock market. Currency manipulation has real life consequences and affects U.S. jobs and our economy. When China devalues their currency, U.S. exports rise in price and our workers and consumers suffer.

Considering the implications of currency manipulation, it is baffling that this bill does not have any Currency CVD provisions but instead inserts legally insignificant terms that are unenforceable. Rather than focus on protecting the American economy and jobs, Republicans have used H.R. 644 to weaken CVD provisions, eliminate text which prohibits imports made by forced or child labor and to insert partisan language to limit future discussions on climate change.

What started as a strong bill with wide bipartisan support has degenerated into a weak bill that does not shield our economy from the machinations of foreign governments. And for that Mr. Speaker, I must oppose this legislation.