



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2011

No. 75

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROONEY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 27, 2011.

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

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Almighty God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in this House for the leadership of our Nation.

May all the Members have the vision of a world where respect and understanding are the marks of civility and where honor and integrity are the marks of one's character.

Raise up, O God, women and men from every nation who will lead toward the paths of peace and whose good judgment will heal the hurt between all peoples.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within these hallowed halls this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 27, 2011.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 27, 2011 at 9:10 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 754.

Appointments:
Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China.

National Commission for the Review of the Research and Development Programs of the United States Intelligence Community.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 27, 2011.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of

the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 27, 2011 at 9:23 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 627
That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 4
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

SENATE BILL AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A bill and concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 627. An act to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays, to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

S. Con. Res. 4. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that an appropriate site on Chaplains Hill in Arlington National Cemetery should be provided for a memorial marker to honor the memory of the Jewish chaplains who died while on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; in addition, to the Committee on Armed Services for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until noon on Tuesday next for morning-hour debate.

There was no objection.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, May 31, 2011, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H3761

1706. A letter from the Chief, Planning & Regulatory Affairs Branch, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: Amendments Related to the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 [FNS-2009-0006] (RIN: 0584-AD95) received May 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1707. A letter from the Director of Legislative Affairs, NRCS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Wetland Conservation [Docket No.: NRCS-2011-0010] (RIN: 0578-AA58) received May 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1708. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting Annual Report on the Activities of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1709. A letter from the Chief Counsel, United States Mint, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Prohibition on the Exportation, Melting, or Treatment of 5-Cent and One-Cent Coins received May 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1710. A letter from the Chief Counsel, United States Mint, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Assessment of Civil Penalties for Misuse of Words, Letters, Symbols, and Emblems of the United States Mint (RIN: 1506-AA58) received May 2, 2011, pursuant to

5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1711. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Corporate Credit Unions, Technical Corrections (RIN: 3133-AD58) received May 3, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1712. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's annual report prepared in accordance with section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. No. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BACHUS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1667. A bill to postpone the date for the transfer of functions to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection if the Bureau does not yet have a Director in place (Rept. 112-93). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

30. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois, relative to House Resolution 73 encouraging the members of the Illinois congressional delegation to vote against the F-35 alternate engine appropriations measure; to the Committee on Appropriations.

31. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois, relative to House Resolution 10 urging Congress to enact legislation that creates a mortgage foreclosure moratorium to allow a thorough review of foreclosure actions; to the Committee on Financial Services.

32. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of North Dakota, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 3015 reaffirming North Dakota's sovereignty under the 10th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 1195: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 1996: Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. CARDOZA.

H.R. 2018: Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. CRAVAACK, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.



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WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2011

No. 75

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 and 9 seconds a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUYE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 27, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of Rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUYE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BEGICH thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.,
TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2011

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 31, 2011.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 9:30 and 34 seconds a.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 31, 2011, at 10 a.m.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S3471

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the amendment to strike section 1034 from the bill. Let's be clear what we are debating here today: the bill before us would amend the authorization for the use of military force (AUMF) that Congress passed in the wake of the 9/11 attacks—not just reaffirm the existing authorization.

As a threshold matter, I question the premise for this amendment. Proponents argue that Congress needs to act now lest a court change its interpretation of the AUMF. Proponents also argue that the President has been hamstrung in his ability to detain and target groups linked to al Qaeda, like al Qaida in the Peninsula (AQAP).

Yet Defense Department General Counsel Jeh Johnson made clear in public testimony that DoD has all the authority it needs to fight terror. And I've seen no evidence that the Administration feels any restraints on its ability to target threats like AQAP. In fact, the White House stated yesterday it "strongly objects" to section 1034. If the Administration, which stands to benefit most from the proposed amendment to the AUMF, is arguing against it, I have serious doubts we should proceed.

I support efforts to update the AUMF of 2001. The AUMF should reflect the diffuse terrorist threat faced by the US today and clarify that the President has the authority to target groups closely linked to al Qaeda and the Taliban that came into being after 9/11 and that pose a direct threat to the United States. We should also update it as a matter of congressional prerogative. Congress should take ownership of the AUMF rather than let the courts and the Executive interpret the 2001 legislation unilaterally.

At some point, congressional failure to update the AUMF could force the President to rely on his Article II authority to target entities increasingly removed from 9/11.

But this provision in the NDAA is no way to do it.

Sec. 1034 was advanced with no hearings in the Foreign Affairs Committee—the principal committee of jurisdiction—and with only a passing mention in an Armed Services Committee hearing.

There's been no floor debate beyond this amendment, and no opportunity for the Administration or outside experts to weigh in.

This is not the way Congress should authorize an expansion of the President's authority to use force.

And make no mistake: that's exactly what we're doing here, even if the proposed authority is consistent with how courts have interpreted the original AUMF.

The 2001 AUMF makes no reference to associated forces, nor does it authorize the President to attack nations, organizations, and persons who are substantially supporting al Qaida or the Taliban.

We need to examine these provisions closely, some of which could have unintended consequences and which remain cutting edge legal theories. For example, Sec. 1034 authorizes the President to use force against "nations who are substantially supporting the Taliban".

Would that allow the President to use force against Pakistan or Iran if they were providing material support to the Taliban?

That isn't what I signed up for when I voted to authorize the President to attack those responsible for 9/11 in the original AUMF.

With adequate due diligence, I would support giving the President authority to target so-called "associated forces". Indeed, the concept of co-belligerency is one well-founded in the laws of war, at least against nations. I could even envision authorizing the detention and targeting of those substantially supporting al Qaeda, as the McKeon provision suggests.

But there should be limits to these authorities. We need to ensure a sufficient link between an associated force and the Taliban or al Qaeda, and that such a group is hostile to the United States. We also need to make sure there are clear ways to determine whether an entity is "substantially supporting" al Qaeda. At a minimum, I would urge my colleagues to place a time limit on such authorities. I want to make sure we are not extending a war—something Jihadists might welcome—at the exact time when we should be narrowly focusing our counterterrorism efforts.

I tried to work with my colleagues to find a mutually agreeable text, one that would restrict the proposed text while addressing the proponents' interest in incorporating "associated forces" and detention authority into the 2001 AUMF.

Given the late hour, we could not reach a deal. But I remain willing to work with my counterparts across the aisle to find a mutually agreeable, bipartisan text.

Mr. Chairman, in light of the flawed language in Sec. 1034, and the equally flawed process, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment to strike that section from the bill.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week was National Police Week honoring the serv-

ice and sacrifice of U.S. law enforcement, especially those that paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Every day peace officers put themselves in harm's way to protect the citizens of this great country.

Peace officers are the last strand of wire in the fence between good and evil.

They are what separate us from the anarchy of the lawless.

They are real life heroes in our midst.

One of these heroes is Officer Timothy Abernethy who lived and died serving the people of Texas and the City of Houston.

Fighting crime was a personal calling for Timothy, not just an occupation.

Officer Abernethy worked hard to protect the citizens of Houston, working overtime, all while earning a degree, and providing for his family.

He was killed in the line of duty, defending his community, in 2008.

We reflect on the sacrifice of Officer Abernethy, as well as other fallen peace officers, not only during National Police Week, but every day.

And that's just the way it is.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR.
HARLELL X. JONES**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Harlell X. Jones, a civil rights leader and community activist whose determination and leadership helped strengthen the Cleveland community.

Prime Minister Jones devoted his life towards his community at a young age, helping African American youth to develop an individual identity within the community and foster a more peaceful neighborhood. He encouraged African American youth to demand economic empowerment by boycotting Cleveland stores to secure private ownership. He also led a movement to increase community safety by securing a truce and cease fire between police and Black Nationalists.

Harlell Jones spearheaded voter registration and got out the vote campaigns that resulted in the election of Carl Stokes as Mayor of Cleveland, as well as his brother, Louis Stokes, as a Congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives. He also worked with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries and prominent civil rights leaders Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. Harlell X. Jones, whose life is worthy of celebration and emulation. I offer my heartfelt condolences to Prime Minister Jones' family and friends. Although he will truly be missed, his unwavering devotion to both African American youth and the Cleveland community will not be forgotten.

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TRIBUTE TO DR. HARRY
COURNIOTES

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend and fellow educator, Dr. Harry Courniotes. Dr. Courniotes served as a visionary in the advancement of my alma mater, American International College, throughout his unprecedented fifty-eight years in academia and thirty-five years as AIC's President.

Attached is a copy of the eulogy of Dr. Courniotes delivered by Richard Sprinthall at a memorial service on March 15, 2011:

First, I want to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to be here with us today to honor President Courniotes, and I know right now Harry is thanking you too. Over the years I have had the honor of introducing Harry Courniotes many times, but today we are not here to introduce Harry but bid him a farewell.

Harry was a member of what Tom Brokaw called the "Greatest Generation" who fought their way through the Great Depression and World War II. Harry served his country in WWII and for those of you who were at the cemetery, you know that he was buried with full military honors.

Several years ago, Sherriff Ashe introduced me to ex-Governor Michael Dukakis and when I told him I was from AIC he lit up and said "my father graduated from AIC" Then he told me had he been elected President, Harry Courniotes might have become Secretary of Education.

Harry was a superb teacher and academic administrator, he embodied that formula for success: a high IQ and a strong work ethic. Harry was a relentless worker, and totally dedicated to the college. He was there morning, noon, and night. Let me illustrate with a tad of hyperbole. Joe Ramah story.

Many of us have the ability to think critically, but very few of us have his astonishing memory and his ability to stay focused. And I know I speak for many of you when I tell you that he both encouraged me with support, and sometimes intimidated me with his unwavering sense of ethical certainty. And once committed to a goal, Harry could stay on task like no one I've ever known. He could hold a strategy in his memory, but then be flexible enough to revise it when he got new input. He told me what he was going to do, and equally important, he told me what he wouldn't do, clearly and with finality. Ask Harry a question and he gave you a straight answer . . . no bluntness, not without support . . . but honestly and directly. Not only did he ever tell me an untruth, he never misled me by omission. Unlike some leaders, Harry Courniotes never poured ambiguity over his intentions.

I have never been more flattered than to have Harry Courniotes asked me to assist him on some project, such as the athletic control board or to help him prepare for an accreditation visit.

And as you all know, he didn't hand out complements as part of some facile social pleasantries. When you received a complement from Harry, he meant it and you could luxuriate in it.

Ted Byrne, former Professor of economics here at AIC and now the editor of a major financial newspaper in Pennsylvania, wrote to me last week and said, "Harry Courniotes saved AIC. I watched him do it up close and personal." And those words have been echoed

by many of you sitting with us today—Congressman Richard Neal, former board member William A. Collins, and former board member Peter Novak to name a few.

Harry was a great man. Too often those words are banded about and are not really earned. In Harry's case they were earned. He was a great family man, husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. And to us at college he was a great leader and to me a great friend.

For me life has suddenly become less full, knowing that his wise counsel is no longer possible.

HONORING THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD'S 34TH INFANTRY DIVISION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the highly capable and courageous men and women of the Minnesota Army National Guard's 34th Infantry Division, known as the Red Bulls, as they prepare for their third deployment overseas, and to commemorate the 150th anniversary of their predecessor, the First Minnesota Infantry. This May, the Red Bulls will begin their deployment to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn, the draw-down phase of U.S. military operations in Iraq.

Since September 11, 2001, the Red Bulls have been called to duty three times to join U.S. military forces in Iraq. During their current mission, their responsibilities will include providing convoy security, route protection and base defense as other troops leave the war zone in Iraq. The Red Bulls have made tremendous contributions to our nation with their honorable military service.

The men and women of the Red Bulls comprise a highly skilled force which routinely accomplishes critical missions both on a federal and state level. During deployment from March 2006 to July 2007, they served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Minnesota Army National Guard's 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division holds the record for the longest serving unit in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the spring of 2009, more than one thousand Red Bulls were again tapped for deployment to Iraq. On this mission, the Division and their leaders were in charge of 16,000 multinational forces. The Division's leadership abilities were proven as they commanded all the coalition military operations in nine of Iraq's 18 provinces and had a direct partnership with more than 40,000 Iraqi Security Forces. They continue to display their excellence with their readiness and preparation for new missions.

Each deployment of the 34th Infantry Division has provided an opportunity for the men and women to share their knowledge and leadership to other troops and help lead operational trainings. The Red Bulls have proven themselves again and again to be an essential part of the Total U.S. Army. Their dedication to United States is always evident through their selfless service and courage in undertaking each mission.

It is a fitting historical coincidence that the current deployment coincides with the 150th anniversary of their predecessors, the First Minnesota Infantry, which heroically supported

the Union Army at the battle of Gettysburg. The First Minnesota's great contributions and sacrifices during the Civil War were exemplary. They have helped to shape the men and women from our state and throughout the United States who choose to serve our great nation in the U.S. Armed Forces. The Red Bulls continue to carry on this sterling example of leadership and commitment to our nation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the commitment and dedication of the men and women of the 34th Infantry Division, the Red Bulls, as they prepare for their next deployment.

375TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article that appeared in The Reminder newspaper last week commemorating the 375 anniversary of the founding of the City of Springfield, Massachusetts.

This was truly a joyous occasion, and this article does an excellent job of recording what a wonderful event this was. Congratulations Springfield!

[From The Reminder, May 18, 2011]

CITY CELEBRATES 375 YEARS OF HISTORY,
INNOVATION

(By G. Michael Dobbs)

SPRINGFIELD.—For Congressman Richard Neal, Saturday's events to acknowledge the 375th anniversary of the founding of Springfield had a d j v u quality.

Speaking on the steps of City Hall, Neal recalled that he stood on the small spot 25 years ago as Springfield's mayor during the 350th celebrations.

Neal was part of the thousands of people who attended the day's activities, from the annual pancake breakfast, to the kick-off event at City Hall with the chorus comprised of Springfield school children to the parade that went through downtown to the fireworks that ended the day at Blunt Park.

Neal, whose fondness for history is well known, noted, "The city has given great moments to the country and to the world."

He read a letter of congratulations from President Barack Obama that said in part, "You've written your own chapter in the narrative of the United States."

Mayor Domenic Sarno told the crowd, "You know, we are a good city."

He then said, "We need each and every one of you to be ambassadors for the city of Springfield." The children's chorus clearly moved the audience with its rendition of "The Springfield Song," written by Springfield School music teacher Diane Rodriguez.

Even after the ceremony at City Hall concluded, the pancake breakfast was still being served to hundreds of people.

Sarno and his family led the parade, which started at the Springfield Technical Community College campus and went down State Street to Main Street and concluded at Mill Street in the South End neighborhood. Organizations, businesses and representatives all marched in the parade, which was a little more than an hour in length.

Although the weather didn't give the giant Cat in the Hat balloon any difficulty, the new

traffic lights along the route had the balloon skimming the street.

For many people, "Springfield" is the name of the Simpson's hometown in the popular animated series.

For those who know a little about the history of this country, "Springfield" has a different meaning.

Springfield, Mass., the oldest and the largest city with that name, is known as the "City of Firsts" for a reason—actually many reasons. Springfield is where basketball was invented. It's where the Duryea Brothers built and tested the first American gasoline powered car. It's the community where the first and perhaps most beloved American motorcycle—they spelled it without the "r"—the Indian was developed and manufactured.

It is the city where the first American armory was built and where the Springfield Rifle was made.

And it was the insurrection by Revolutionary War veterans led by Daniel Shays on that armory that led to the creation of the United States Constitution.

Clarence Birdseye chose Springfield as his test market in the 1930s for something truly radical: frozen vegetables.

A group of brothers, the Granvilles, literally off of the farm picked Springfield to be their headquarters in the 1920s and '30s where they would design and build the GeeBee racing planes that still awe aviation enthusiasts.

The city was the home of Milton Bradley, who revolutionized the toy industry with board games. The city's streets, schools and parks gave hometown boy Theodor Gelsel, better known as Dr. Seuss inspiration for later books and illustrations.

All of these accomplishments happened at a place where an English businessman named William Pynchon, the founder of Springfield, sensed potential in the mid-1600s.

According to historian Ernest Newton Bagg, Pynchon, who was a patentee and magistrate to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, was attracted to the Connecticut River Valley as a place rich with fur animals, especially beaver.

After a long voyage from England in 1630, Pynchon began trading goods he had brought from England with native people for furs. What attracted him to Western Massachusetts was the possible encroachment of Dutch traders who had established a trading post along the Connecticut River in what is now Hartford, Conn.

Some of the Dutch traders even came to Springfield, but disease and hunger compelled them back to the relative safety of the Hartford establishment.

Pynchon wanted to succeed where the Dutch had failed and began planning an effort to build a settlement in what is now Springfield in 1635. Using a "shallop," a light single-mast vessel, Pynchon and his expedition sailed up the Connecticut River. He made a camp in what is now West Springfield and his men used the boat's lumber for their new home.

The native people seemed friendly and Pynchon was impressed with the virgin forests with large and small game, a river teeming with shad and salmon and lands ready for agriculture.

Pynchon left his men and returned to the settlement of Roxbury by foot. When he returned the next spring, he was told the relationship between the natives and Pynchon's men had deteriorated and Pynchon was forced to move his operation to the eastern side of the river.

Despite the problems, caused in part by the damage to the natives' cornfields by the settlers' free-range hogs, Pynchon was able to come to an agreement on July 15, 1636, to acquire the desired Agawam land. Further ne-

gotiations gave him the control of an area from the Chicopee River to the Mill River.

Trouble with crops, a narrowly averted war with the native people and even an earthquake were some of the challenges early settlers faced. Pynchon was right, though, about the richness of the area for furs.

Bagg noted in his 1936 history of Springfield that although there was no record of just how well Pynchon fared during his 15 years of trading furs in the area, his son John continued the business after his father returned to England and regularly shipped 2,000 beaver skins annually to merchants in his native country.

Pynchon has the additional distinction of being the author of the first book "banned in Boston." His 1650 book, "The Meritorious Price of a Man's Redemption," took exception to Puritan theology. The colony's General Court condemned the book and copies were burned on Boston Common.

Pynchon was under great pressure to recant and after one appearance before the Court, he decided to transfer all of his holdings to his son John and return to England before he was forced to appear before the General Court once more. He left the colony in 1652. His death at age 72 in 1662 closed the first chapter in the city's history.

Pynchon's legacy was that his purchase of land just didn't create one community, Springfield, but the following towns and cities as well: Agawam, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Holyoke, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Southwick, Westfield, West Springfield, Wilbraham and Enfield, and Suffield, Conn.

No less a person than General George Washington had a hand in the next major development of the community. In February 1777, Washington authorized an "establishment of the laboratory at Springfield."

The armory became known as a center for technological innovation in manufacturing and undoubtedly led to Springfield becoming a center for skilled manufacturing.

Another famous gun maker, Smith & Wesson, made the city its home and is still in business today.

Early in its history, the Armory attracted the attention of a group of farmers enraged at the taxation tactics of the Massachusetts state government. In February 1787 as part of a series of armed protests, Daniel Shays, a Revolutionary War veteran and farmer from Pelham, led a group of men to capture the armory. Although Shays failed at the armory, his protest succeeded in showing the weakness of the Articles of Confederation and in May 1787 the Constitutional Convention was convened to re-shape federal government.

Thomas Jefferson expressed his reaction to Shay's Rebellion previous to the attack on the Armory in a letter to James Madison on Jan. 30, 1787. Jefferson wrote, "I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical. Unsuccessful rebellions, indeed, generally establish the encroachments on the rights of the people, which have produced them. An observation of this truth should render honest republican governors so mild in their punishment of rebellions as not to discourage them too much. It is a medicine necessary for the sound health of government."

The armory inspired another kind of reaction from American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Longfellow and his second wife Frances visited Springfield and the Armory in 1845. The tour inspired what was considered to be Longfellow's most effective anti-war poem, "The Arsenal at Springfield."

The first two stanzas are:

"This is the Arsenal. From floor to ceiling,

Like a huge organ, rise the burnished arms;
But from their silent pipes no anthem, peal-

ing
Startles the villages with strange alarms.

"Ah! What a sound will rise, how wild and drear,

When the death-angel touches those swift keys!

What a loud lament and dismal Miserere
Will mingle with their awful symphonies!"

In the book "Springfield Memories," published in 1876, Mason Green wrote about the development of the city: "Modern Springfield was born with the peace of the War of 1812. In the re-action from embargoes and war from 1814 to 1825 there was a general housecleaning and business re-adjustment. The old tavern site was cleared off for a Common, a church and court-house was built by the side of it and another church (Unitarian) down Main Street, Union and Court Streets were opened, the river bridge, that was swept away by a flood was restored (1818), a line of boats was established between the village and Hartford, connecting with Boston and New York schooners, neighboring water powers were utilized, many mechanics and artisans were called in, who became residents, and the Weekly Springfield Republican was started, which insured the place a future."

In 1936 when the city was celebrating its 300th anniversary, the unaccredited author of one of the commemorative booklets wrote, "Varied are the products of Greater Springfield: Intricate machines, radios and electrical appliances, tires, motorcycles, garments, arms, games and school materials, books and magazines, newspapers, wire, chains, machine tools, cigars, chemicals and medicines, valves, oil pumps, fine paper, jute boxes, clocks and leather goods. Here once were the pioneers in the manufacture of automobiles. Across the river are the railroad shops."

The first American-made gasoline powered car was built and tested in Springfield by Charles and Frank Duryea on Sept. 20, 1893. The city would later be the site for a factory producing Duryea cars. The Knox Automobile Company produced cars from 1900 to 1914 in Springfield and stayed in business with tractors until 1924. And the city was picked by Rolls Royce as the site for its only American automobile 28 manufacturing plant. The Springfield Rolls Royce facility opened in 1920 and closed in 1931 and the cars made there are sought after by collectors.

Also still highly prized are the Indian Motorcycles made in the city from 1901 to 1954. The brainchild of engineer Oscar Hedstrom, the "motorcycles" were the first ones made in this country and were well-known for their power and durability.

Brought to the city by bicycle racer George Hendee, Hedstrom developed a motorcycle that he tested publicly on May 25, 1901 on Cross Street hill. Newspaper reporter R.D. Pepin wrote about the test on its 25th anniversary.

"Hedstrom bravely climbed the old hill and forcefully demonstrated to the residents of Springfield the first step towards an industry destined to fill a long place in the field of industry, utility and sport."

Pepin noted that Hendee had featured motor-drive bicycles made in Europe at his bicycle-racing track. "The uncertainty of these motors was a source of great anxiety to the management and of dissatisfaction to the patrons of the track," Pepin wrote.

With Springfield a growing center of transportation technology, it's little wonder that a group of brothers came off of the family farm to Springfield to pursue their dream of developing faster and more powerful airplanes. Although the Granville brothers were

in business for only five years from 1929 to 1934 and built just 24 aircraft, their revolutionary designs created a legend among aviators.

Springfield was also a city of ideas as well as industry and technology. Abolitionist John Brown made the city his headquarters in 1846 when he established a business to represent wool producers to the New England mill owners. Later, the city was a stop on the Underground Railroad.

G & C Merriam, Company, was founded in 1831 as printers and booksellers and the pair of brothers—George and Charles—purchased the rights to the name and all copyrights to the best-seller dictionary written by Noah Webster in 1843. Since that time, the nation's best-known reference book has been written and published in Springfield.

When stumped about how to excite his winter physical fitness class, a young Canadian attending the International Y.M.C.A. Training School remembered Duck on a Rock, a game from his youth. Taking a soccer ball and a peach basket, James Naismith developed the game of basketball in 1891, quite possible the most popular indoor sport.

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame draws more than 250,000 visitors a year to its Springfield shrine to the game.

A number of people prominent in show business and the arts are natives of the city. During the 1920s and 30s, Broadway and radio star Julia Sanderson was a popular performer.

The classic movie musicals “Born to Dance” and “Broadway Melody of 1940” feature another Springfield native Eleanor Powell. The beautiful and athletic dancer was a star at MGM. She was married to actor Glenn Ford for a number of years and by the end of her life she turned her energies to religion.

The classic movie musicals “Born to Dance” and “Broadway Melody of 1940” feature another Springfield native Eleanor Powell. The beautiful and athletic dancer was a star at MGM. She was married to actor Glenn Ford for a number of years and by the end of her life she turned her energies to religion.

Lawrence O'Brien, Kennedy family supporter, postmaster general, head of the Democratic Party and commissioner of the National Basketball Association, was another well known Springfield resident. His father had a tavern where the MassMutual Center now stands and he received his law degree from Western New England College.

Perhaps the most interesting favorite daughter is June Foray, whose family left their home on Orange Street and traveled to California where she eventually became one of the most highly regarded voice actresses in animation providing the voice for Rocky in “Rocky and Bullwinkle,” Granny in the Tweety cartoons and many other characters. Students at the former Classical High School could still find evidence of that school's most controversial graduate, Dr. Timothy Leary. His name could be seen carved into at least one desk. Leary was one of the prominent leaders of the counter culture in the 1960s who urged people to “turn on, tune in and drop out.”

Springfield's most beloved native was Theodore Geisel better known to generations of American as Dr. Seuss. The author and illustrator took inspiration from the city of his birth from the names of streets—“And to Think that I Saw it on Mulberry Street”—to his father's position as superintendent of the city's parks—“If I Ran the Zoo.”

The Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden at the Springfield Museum complex pays tribute to the innovative storyteller.

Springfield's latest burst of national publicity came in 2007 with a contest that asked fans of “The Simpsons” to pick the Springfield that is actually home to the best known dysfunctional family. Although Springfield Mass., didn't win in a surprising upset to Springfield, Vt., the producers of the animated series and film knew better. They had prepared a special poster before the contest's

final results that declared the movie was filmed in Springfield, Mass.

A community of rich diversity and history, Springfield today is the home of national companies, three colleges and a law school. It was named the fourth “greenest” city in the nation and was recognized as one of the greatest centers of small business and entrepreneurship in the country. Its best days are not behind it.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT MICHAEL TOUSSAINT-HYLE WASHINGTON, A UNITED STATES MARINE KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant Michael Toussaint-Hyle Washington, a United States Marine who was killed with three other Marines while supporting combat operations in the Farah Province in Afghanistan when an improvised explosive device struck their Humvee on June 14, 2008.

Michael T. Washington was born on October 6, 1987 at Camp Pendleton where his father Michael Washington Senior served also as a Marine. Michael would follow in his father's and his grandfather's footsteps to become his family's third generation to serve in the United States Marine Corps.

Early on, young Michael Washington had a strong sense of faith and duty. As a student at Stadium High School in Tacoma, Washington, Michael enjoyed playing soccer, reading, playing practical jokes on his family, and was a member of Stadium's ROTC program.

While listening to a story on the radio with his father, Michael heard a journalist speak highly of the Marines after returning from Iraq. The journalist spoke of the Marines' virtues and bravery on and off the battlefield. Michael Senior knew his son was destined to become a Marine when his son turned to him and said, “I want to defend people who can't defend themselves. It takes a lot for people to stand up and do this.”

Michael Washington did just that, joining the Marine Corps at age 17. On March 11, 2007, a year before his death, then-Corporal Washington's squad was ambushed in Iraq. Washington provided the support fire necessary to enable his fellow endangered Marines to escape the kill zone and return to safety. He received commendations from the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines for Outstanding Achievement in the performance of his duties as Fire Team Leader of the 3rd Platoon, Golf Company. Washington was promoted to Sergeant soon after to become squad leader in the 1st Platoon at only the age of 20.

Sergeant Washington died a proud Marine while serving in the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Forces. Michael is survived by his father Michael Washington Senior—a Seattle firefighter and former United States Marine, his mother Grace Washington—an artist, community activist, and teacher at Salhalie Middle School, and his sister Aja Collins—an Army veteran whose husband Erik recently returned from Afghanistan where he served with the 101st Airborne.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives please join me in paying tribute to Sergeant Michael Toussaint-Hyle Washington in honor of his love and sacrifice for our Nation.

In honor of Michael, I also ask that this poem, penned by Mr. Albert Caswell, be placed in the RECORD.

HIS PARENT'S SON!

His, Parent's Son!
This, most magnificent of all ones!
This, United States Marine . . .
So brilliant there . . . all in your most heroic shades of green!
His Father's Son, who had so learned from his Father's Father . . .
And, all of these ones!
As all three were but United States Marines!
As you Michael so watched your Father, growing up to be . . .
Just like him, as will be done!
Oorah. . . three generations of United States Marines . . .
As all were but our America's very best, her cream!
As To Strength In Honor Michael, your fine heart would so convene!
As They Will Be Done, on earth as in Heaven . . . you now rein!
As Michael, you were but one . . .
Who so died and bled, one of our Nation's most golden of all sons!
Such selfless sacrifice, and such brilliance. . . Which shines so bright, is so hard to explain!
Dying, for your fellow woman, child, and man. . . As seen!
As you so stood so very grand, all in those magnificent shades of green!
Teaching us so all about. . . What the word love so truly means!
As a Freedom Fighter, who so shined so bright there in heroic shades of green!
As Michael, you live on. . . all in our hopes and dreams!
Just, like the morning sun. . . to you, our hearts so run!
Moments, are all we have!
To bring the light!
To fight the darkness!
To worship the good, and win that fight!
As you so boldly marched off to war!
All because of your most magnificent soul. . .
As why for you Michael, we so mourn!
All at the loss of you, and for all of yours!
Is but just that high price of freedom, that for us Michael you so paid!
And we so too suffer, living without you no more!
And across Washington on this night, as you so lay your head down and begin to cry. . .
And but our Lord's tears, for you Michael. . . As he now so weeps!
Knowing, of your most sacred gift. . . And of your most devout life so lived!
To ease your pain. . .
So have a most gentle sleep, let not your hearts so weep. . .
For Michael is an Angel now, as ever with you to keep!
And you shall see him again. . .
Enlisted, In the Army of our Lord. . .
Across the heavens he so reaches. . .
All because of Michael, what your fine life so meant!
Making A Difference With It All, as was how your precious time was spent!
As you so lived and died, so benevolent!
Answering, that call to arms. . . Your fine life so spent!
For, no greater pain can so be felt!
Then, to lose you only wonderful son, as before our Lord you've cried and knelt!
As, I pray your most broken heart will heal!

Because, your fine son. . . . Your Marine Michael, so died for what is right!
 And what is real!
 As you must remember, one day in Heaven. . . .
 Your son's arms around you, you shall feel!
 And if ever I have a son,
 I but hope and pray, he could be like your fine one!
 Michael, His Father's Son!
 And Mother's only most brilliant one!
 Amen!

CONGRATULATING ALDERMAN
 BRIAN DOHERTY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the City of Chicago 41st Ward Alderman Brian Doherty. After twenty years of dedicated service, Alderman Doherty has decided to retire, and I wanted to thank him for his work.

Elected to the City Council in 1991, Alderman Doherty represented the City of Chicago's Northwest Side, including O'Hare International Airport. Brian always fought for strong ethics reforms and government transparency, two issues very important to me. He voted for a sunshine ordinance that makes it much easier to determine how taxpayer dollars are spent on Tax Increment Financing Districts.

During Alderman Doherty's time in office, he worked to bring economic opportunities to his communities and make his constituents safer. Since many 41st Ward residents are part of the city's enormous work force, such as police officers, firefighters and employees of Streets and Sanitation, we applaud his efforts for serving those who serve us.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Alderman Brian Doherty of the 41st Ward of Chicago. I appreciate his twenty years of hard work as Alderman and I wish him, his wife Rose and his two children Katie and Kevin all the best.

HONORING ANNIE KLEIN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Annie Klein was born on May 22, 1921 to Dora and Samuel Ratick in Maynard, Massachusetts. Her parents were both immigrants of Warsaw, Poland. She was born into a family of three sisters and four brothers and her mother still had another daughter, at the age of 50.

The family moved from small town Maynard to The Bronx in New York City. Early in her life, Annie lost her father to a heart attack, leaving her mother sole survivor and sole responsible parent for her 9 children.

Annie was a graduate of Morris High School in 1940. On December 7, 1941 she got engaged to David Klein, a soldier in the U.S. Army. They moved from The Bronx to Hereford, Texas. While there, they had a son, Sam, in August 1944. Even though they were offered a "Hereford Cow" every year while

they stayed in Texas by a local rancher, they decided instead to move back to the South Bronx with Annie's mom.

While developing skills that would enable David to get a job, he developed health issues. At the age of 41, David had a massive heart attack that made him a 100 percent totally disabled veteran.

With David unable to work and the addition of her younger son, Les, Annie had to find a job. She worked for the Social Security Office for 5 years. After that, she found a job at City College of New York and worked as a College Office Assistant.

In 1968, her son Sammy married Sandy Desio. While tending to her husband David and son, Les, she managed to work, as well as help care for her mother who had become disabled with Parkinson's disease.

In 1972, her husband David passed away, leaving Annie to once again be the sole caregiver of Les. In 1980, Les married Gail Labita and Annie became a mother-in-law once again. Annie finally decided to retire in the early 1980s.

Annie became grandmother to Sammy and Sandy's children, David and Dena's as well as great-grandmother to David's son Jake and Dena's children Gia, Rocco and Sammi. She is also grandmother to Les and Gail's children Douglas and Allison.

Sadly in her lifetime she had had the misfortune of burying 7 of her brothers and sisters who meant the world to her. Above all, in 2007 Annie received the greatest blow of her life, when her son, Sam passed away. Most people would have crumbled and given up but Annie, with her customary grace and dignity raised her head high and with the help of her family, continued on.

Annie Klein is a Woman of Valor who has shown us all how to live with love and grace even through life's most challenging times. I join with her family and friends and thank her for her dignity and courage. As said in the Bible: "Who can find a virtuous woman for her price is far above rubies?" Well, that woman is Annie Klein.

IN HONOR OF JOHN SHEPHERD
 AND THE AMERICAN SOLDIER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of John Shepherd, the longest-living veteran of the American Revolution, and all of our soldiers and veterans. This Memorial Day, the city of North Royalton will celebrate the life and patriotism of Mr. Shepherd, who lived to be 117 years, 9 months, and 18 days old.

John Shepherd was born near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1729. He was a brave patriot and served in both the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. In 1817, Mr. Shepherd moved to Royalton Township in the present-day North Royalton, Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his long life as a farmer. At the time of his death, he was the last survivor of Braddock's Defeat, and he was the longest-living veteran of the American Revolution. He was buried in the municipal cemetery of Royalton Township.

This Memorial Day, the city of North Royalton will honor Mr. Shepherd, as well as all American soldiers and veterans, with a pancake breakfast, parade, and memorial service. The Cleveland Shrine Band, the United States Army Color Guard, the Boy Scouts of America, the Sons of the American Revolution, and a number of other organizations will be on hand to mark this special occasion. This will be a fitting celebration to commemorate Mr. Shepherd, and all veterans who have served their country.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of John Shepherd, the longest living veteran of the American Revolution. His spirit lives on through all soldiers and veterans that we proudly recognize, honor, and thank this Memorial Day.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of the Conyers, Clarke, Cohen, Duncan Amendment, opposing the deployment of ground troops in Libya. It is unconscionable for us to deploy our already strained troops into harm's way again when many of them have served two, three or more tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is also irresponsible for us to spend more money on another open-ended military conflict without a cogent plan of action and withdrawal. As a Member of Congress, I cannot take part in another act of aggression further straining the budget we are so desperately working to fix and our troops who have answered above and beyond the call of duty.

My constituents and I already feel that the war in Afghanistan has gone on long enough without a clear and sufficient exit strategy. We cannot partake in another fruitless war. We must shift our focus to getting out of Iraq and Afghanistan, stabilizing our economy and creating jobs for the American people. Instead let us focus on securing funding for small businesses rather than spending money on another open-end conflict.

Madam Chair, as a representative of the 11th congressional district of New York, our hearts and minds go out to the people's struggle for freedom in Libya. And as a nation, we should continue our support for their quest for freedom, through NATO forces. However it is our duty as a Members of Congress to protect and serve our fellow Americans first. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to join us and support this amendment.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF METRO WEST

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jewish Family Service of Metro West, based in Morris County, New Jersey, on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

Jewish Family Service (JFS) began its community assistance during the 1860s as the Hebrew Benevolent and Orphan Asylum dedicated to helping orphans and the needy in Newark, New Jersey. Over the past 150 years, JFS has become a well known, comprehensive, social service agency which reaches more than 3,500 families each year. JFS proudly serves Essex, Morris, Sussex, Union and Hudson Counties with offices located in Florham Park, Livingston and Jersey City.

JFS is an inclusive, non-discriminatory agency offering more than 40 wide-ranging programs including, counseling, support groups and eldercare. Counseling is provided for individuals or families who are struggling with communication difficulties, life transitions, loss or abuse. Support groups for eldercare, those with Aspergers and those facing parenting issues and divorce are also available. All services are preformed by highly skilled staff members consisting of clinical social workers, case managers, psychologists and psychiatrists. The dedication of the JFS staff is continually affirmed through their prompt and compassionate support.

JFS promotes family relationships with services such as family play therapy, parenting workshops and adoption services. Putting their clients and families at the center of their team-based approach helps strengthen positive family values. JSF also supplies a 24-hour crisis response line, offers financial assistance, debt management and volunteer services.

As one of New Jersey's oldest and well-respected family service agencies, the Jewish Family Service of Metro West clinical social work team offers the experience, expertise and compassion that deserves to be recognized.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Jewish Family Service of Metro West as it celebrates its 150th Anniversary.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUNTINGDON VALLEY FIRE COMPANY #1

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Huntingdon Valley Fire Company #1 as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

One does not need to look far to see signs of the distinguished history of Huntingdon Valley Fire Company. After their founding the company used a local barn to store their equipment; that barn still stands just up the

road from the current firehouse. After struggling to raise funds for equipment, a locomotive tire was donated to the company to be used as an alarm bell. The tire is currently hanging in front of the firehouse. The fire company's website shows pictures of every major piece of equipment the company has owned in its century long history.

In addition to the ties to their founding, the fire company also has a consistent record of being strongly supported by the community. The use of the old barn to store their first pieces of equipment in 1911 was volunteered by a local resident. To raise funds for their first fire wagon in 1911 the company held carnivals, dances, and minstrel shows for the community. Their first make-shift fire alarm, the locomotive tire, was donated by the Midvale Steel Company. In 1912 the four wheeled fire cart was pulled by the closest two horses available. When the fire company needed to build a new addition to their garage it was built and paid for by members of the company. In 1929 the residents contributed the funds necessary to purchase a piece of modern fire equipment. With the growth in population of the 1940's it became clear that the fire company needed additional funds to continue to provide fire protection. A question was raised and the community agreed that a fire tax was necessary to ensure that the company had the funds needed to purchase and maintain modern firefighting equipment.

Over the 100 years that Huntingdon Valley fire company has been protecting its residents they have upgraded their equipment, modernized their operation, and expanded their services. Through the decades, the fire company has never lost sight of their original goal of fulfilling the time honored tradition of volunteers risking their lives to protect their neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Huntingdon Valley Fire Company as they mark their 100th year of protecting the community.

CONGRATULATING AZERBAIJAN ON TWENTY YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an important ally of ours in the South Caucasus region, Azerbaijan, which is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its independence as a democratic nation. Despite the global recession, Azerbaijan has experienced strong economic growth in each of the past three years, in part due to increased immigration as people from surrounding nations have found that Azerbaijan affords the greatest opportunity for employment, stability and security for working families in the region.

Azerbaijan continues to face unique challenges that it must overcome to maintain the promise of its independent democratic principles. This country of eight million people occupies the Western shore of the Caspian Sea, bordering Russia to the North and Iran to the South. This region contains vast oil and gas resources equivalent to those of Saudi Arabia, with Azerbaijan owning one-third of these valuable deposits, but it must be vigilant in main-

taining independence of action regarding the use and distribution of its extracted resources. Their main oil pipeline runs from the capital city, Baku, through Georgia and Turkey, and out to the Turkish port of Ceyhan on the Mediterranean Sea.

In the early 1990's, Azerbaijan was involved in a brutal conflict with its neighbor to the West, Armenia, and the repercussions from atrocities committed during that time still impact diplomatic and economic relations today. Since a cease-fire was negotiated in 1994, these two nations have been locked in a dispute over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, located within Azerbaijan but occupied by Armenian forces. The Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, of which the United States is a co-chair, was created to encourage a peaceful, negotiated resolution to this conflict, yet work remains in reaching this goal.

Azerbaijan is a secular, modern, Muslim nation that has practiced complete religious tolerance for hundreds of years, with some five Jewish synagogues in Baku alone. Israel is an important oil customer of theirs, and in the past year, honored Azerbaijani teams that worked alongside Israelis in fighting large wildfires that ravaged northern Israel. And of major importance, Azerbaijan bolsters U.S. efforts in Afghanistan through troops and airfields that provide logistical support.

It is important that America continue to encourage Azerbaijan in its democratic and economic growth, and highlight the progress made in these last twenty years. Congratulations, Azerbaijan.

NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY OMS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was National Missing Children's Day, a reminder that although progress has been made, child protection must remain a national priority.

Each day, in the United States, more than 2,185 children are reported missing and approximately 800,000 children are reported missing each year.

This past April marked one year since Ali Lowitzer of Spring, Texas went missing.

Ali's plans were to ride the school bus and go straight to work after school at the local burger shop.

She did not come home after work though, and Mrs. Lowitzer put in a call to the police when she could not get in touch with her daughter.

The search began soon after and continues today.

We cannot give up hope and must continue to be vigilant to guard our children and bring Ali and all other missing children back home.

Congress has passed significant laws to keep children safe, but must always be looking to what we can do to further ensure the security of the most innocent.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND ROMAN MISIEWICZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Reverend Roman Misiewicz, who is celebrating his 50th anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood. Reverend Misiewicz's continued dedication to serving God, his students, and his parishioners have made him a pillar of the community.

Reverend Misiewicz was born in Drohobycz, Poland shortly before the Second World War. After the war, during which his town was repeatedly bombarded, he and his family moved to Chorzow, where he graduated from high school. He went on to attend Jagiellonian University in Krakow, where he enrolled in the seminary and was ordained into the priesthood in 1961. During his time at Jagiellonian University, one of Reverend Misiewicz's professors was Karol Wojtyla, who later became Pope John Paul II.

During the reign of Communism in Poland, Reverend Misiewicz served as a parish priest and as an academic chaplain. In addition, he lectured clandestinely on human rights despite the danger it posed to him. In 1970, he moved to America and began working as a pastor at St. Mary's Church in Lublin, Wisconsin. In 1971 he married Jolanta Machnik in Chicago, Illinois, and soon moved to Cleveland.

Fr. Roman Misiewicz served as the pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Cleveland from 1972 until the close of the parish in 2003. At that time, he became the pastor of St. Mary's Church in Parma, where he continues to preach. In addition to his priestly duties, Reverend Misiewicz teaches Information Technology and has served as a Dean of Education at a variety of institutions of higher learning in the Cleveland area.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring Reverend Roman Misiewicz, as he celebrates his Golden Jubilee. I extend my sincerest congratulations to Fr. Roman and look forward to his exemplification of faith and service in our community.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. MOORE. Madam Chair, I rise reluctantly to oppose the amendment offered by my distinguished colleague and friend, Mr. CONYERS, regarding Libya.

I share the gentleman's concerns about the prospect of U.S. troops being dragged into a

third war. Eight years after our ill-advised misadventure in Iraq and a decade after sending our troops to Afghanistan, we have extensive evidence of the many failings of a military only strategy to address the world's ills, including fanatical dictators bent on harming their own citizens as in Libya.

However, while I share the gentleman's concerns, I am also troubled that the amendment, as written, would have unintended consequences and would unnecessarily hamstring the use of the military for a host of non-combat purposes in Libya.

For example, the amendment would prohibit U.S. ground forces from being used to provide humanitarian aid to the Libyan people. Whether we like it or not, one of the things our nation's military is very good at is providing humanitarian aid to people in need around the world. We saw this after the earthquake in Pakistan in 2004 and again when massive floods hit Pakistan in 2010 and again in Haiti after last year's earthquake.

The U.N. has warned of a humanitarian crisis unfolding in Libya with hundreds of thousands of people lacking access or in danger of losing access to basic necessities. Unfortunately, the amendment makes clear that the only authorized reason for U.S. troops in Libya is to rescue U.S. military personnel that are in danger. Such a narrow exception unduly hampers the ability of the President to conduct a range of efforts well short of occupation that our military may be in the best position to undertake.

Additionally, under this amendment, our military could not be used to rescue allied NATO personnel, to help rescue U.S. citizens whose lives may be in danger in Libya or to conduct an airlift of U.S. citizens out of the country, or even to help provide aid to a U.N. or African Union peacekeeping mission should a political solution be found to remove Colonel Qadhafi from power.

Let's be clear. My vote against this amendment is not a vote for sending U.S. troops to Libya to fight a civil war. Having voted a number of times for resolutions and legislation to restrict the use of and/or remove our troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, my record is very clear that I am not in support of occupation of foreign nations. Yet, even those efforts allowed a broad range of commonsense exceptions which I think are missing here.

If the Constitution still lives, the introduction of ground troops for the purposes of combat—which my colleagues are concerned would occur in Libya—in any nation would clearly require an authorization of war by Congress. If that were to occur, Congress should and must hold an up or down vote to either authorize the use of such troops for combat or call for their withdrawal.

The U.N. Resolution authorizing international efforts to protect civilians in Libya explicitly rules out the use of foreign ground troops. The President has made very clear that U.S. ground troops will not be sent to Libya. I will take him at his word.

INTRODUCTION OF SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO COUNTER ANTI-MUSLIM SENTIMENT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the federal government should take steps to counter anti-Muslim sentiment, along with additional cosponsors. Over the last decade, the American Muslim community has confronted a festering level of suspicion which has manifested itself in hostile government policies and bias from the general public. A CBS/New York Times poll released in mid-September showed that as many as 20 percent of Americans said they have negative feelings toward Muslims because of the September 11th terrorist attacks. While Congress has confronted some of the more violent manifestations of this bias, the general climate faced by the community has continued to create barriers to full participation in public life that should be addressed by official government policy.

As a member who represents a district with one of the greatest concentrations of American Muslims in the nation, I believe that this sense of Congress is a logical step toward sending the message that this group of proud citizens should be able to enjoy the rights guaranteed under the Constitution to the same extent as all other Americans. Throughout diverse cities and small towns across the country, American Muslims have a long history of playing crucial roles in law enforcement and the armed forces, and as business leaders, doctors, lawyers, and teachers. However, there exists in our nation today a disturbing and dangerous trend of anti-Muslim rhetoric and bigotry, evidenced by attacks against individuals, religious institutions and entire communities.

The United States is a country founded on the principles of tolerance and religious freedom, as embodied in the First Amendment of the Constitution. The protection of these principles is vital to the ongoing sense of community shared by the diverse peoples and religious groups of this nation. Targeting American Muslims for scrutiny based on their religion goes against the core principles of religious freedom and equal protection under the law. Moreover, the practice erodes trust in government and law enforcement at all levels, which, in turn, undermines public safety.

The American Muslim community should be able to rely on the federal government to lead the effort in fostering an open climate of understanding and cooperation. These communities must be shielded from the threat of violence and suspicion that was at the heart of last January's thwarted attack against the Islamic Center of America in Dearborn, Michigan. They should also be able to rely on law enforcement's fundamental integrity and respect for First Amendment protected rights. Only through a balanced examination of the challenges facing the nation will we establish a strong policy framework for protecting security, while respecting the Constitution and the interests of affected communities.

This sense of Congress is an attempt to set the record straight and counter the perception of growing anti-Muslim rhetoric. Congress has a solemn duty to ensure that its actions do not fuel misconceptions about, and prejudices toward, any faith community, including the American Muslim community and Islam. Scores of religious, civil rights, law enforcement, and national security leaders and organizations representing diverse Americans and areas of expertise are concerned about messages which appear to target the American Muslim community, sending counterproductive messages both domestically and internationally. It is essential that the federal government send the message that we all must work together to guarantee the security of our country and that no community should be singled out for suspicion.

CONGRATULATING ALDERMAN
EUGENE SCHULTER

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Eugene Schuler, Alderman of Chicago's 47th Ward. Alderman Schuler retired this year, and his dedication to his ward and the City of Chicago will be missed.

As Alderman for thirty-six years, Gene's accomplishments and contributions to Chicago were numerous and helped make Chicago the world class city it is today. He was a great policymaker, but he also understood the importance of focusing on his constituents' needs by keeping the neighborhoods safe and improving community schools. Gene was committed to making the 47th Ward family-friendly, and he did so by creating after-school programs, building parks and playlots, and sponsoring concerts, festivals and farmer's markets. Additionally, he helped foster small businesses and economic growth.

Another one of Alderman Schuler's achievements was affordable housing programs to keep longtime residents in the ward. Along with the Community Partnership for Affordable Neighborhoods (C-PAN) program, Alderman Schuler developed the Northcenter Senior Campus (NSC), which provides hundreds of rental condominiums for constituents above the age of fifty-five. He wanted to make sure every resident was happy with their neighborhood.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Alderman Eugene Schuler of the 47th Ward of Chicago. Thank you Alderman Schuler for truly providing a community that Chicagoans are proud to call "home." I wish him, his wife Rosemary, and his children Monica and Phillip all the best on their future endeavors.

INTRODUCING HEALTH FREEDOM
LEGISLATION

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce two pieces of legislation restoring the First

Amendment rights of consumers to receive truthful information regarding the benefits of foods and dietary supplements. The first bill, the Health Freedom Restoration Act, codifies the First Amendment by ending the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s efforts to censor truthful health claims. The second bill, the Freedom of Health Speech Act, codifies the First and Fifth Amendment by requiring the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to prove that health claims are false before it takes action to stop manufacturers and marketers from making the claims.

The American people have made it clear they do not want the federal government to interfere with their access to dietary supplements, yet the FDA and the FTC continue to engage in heavy-handed attempts to restrict such access. The FDA continues to frustrate consumers' efforts to learn how they can improve their health even after Congress, responding to a record number of constituents' comments, passed the Dietary Supplement and Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA). FDA bureaucrats are so determined to frustrate consumers' access to truthful information that they are even evading their duty to comply with four federal court decisions vindicating consumers' First Amendment rights to discover the health benefits of foods and dietary supplements.

FDA bureaucrats have even refused to abide by the DSHEA section allowing the public to have access to scientific articles and publications regarding the role of nutrients in treating diseases by claiming that every article concerning this topic is evidence of intent to sell an unapproved and unlawful drug.

Because of the FDA's censorship of truthful health claims, millions of Americans may suffer with diseases and other health care problems they may have avoided by using dietary supplements. For example, the FDA prohibited consumers from learning how folic acid reduces the risk of neural tube defects for four years after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended every woman of childbearing age take folic acid supplements to reduce neural tube defects. This FDA action contributed to an estimated 10,000 cases of preventable neural tube defects.

The FDA also continues to prohibit consumers from learning about the scientific evidence that glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate are effective in the treatment of osteoarthritis; that omega-3 fatty acids may reduce the risk of sudden death heart attack; that calcium may reduce the risk of bone fractures; and that vitamin D may reduce the risk of osteoporosis, hypertension, and cancer.

The Health Freedom Restoration Act will force the FDA to at last comply with the commands of Congress, the First Amendment, numerous federal courts, and the American people by codifying the First Amendment prohibition on prior restraint. Specifically, the Health Freedom Restoration Act stops the FDA from censoring truthful claims about the curative, mitigative, or preventative effects of dietary supplements. The Health Freedom Restoration Act also stops the FDA from prohibiting the distribution of scientific articles and publications regarding the role of nutrients in protecting against disease. The FDA has proven that it cannot be trusted to protect consumers' rights to make informed choices. It is time for Congress to stop the FDA from censoring truthful health information.

The Freedom of Health Speech Act addresses the FTC's violations of the First Amendment. Under traditional constitutional standards, the federal government bears the burden of proving an advertising statement false before censoring that statement. However, the FTC shifted the burden of proof to industry. The FTC presumes health advertising is false and compels private parties to prove the ads (and everything the regulators say the ads imply) to be true to a near conclusive degree. This violation of the First and Fifth Amendments is harming consumers by blocking innovation in the health foods and dietary supplement marketplace.

The Freedom of Health Speech Act requires the government actually prove that speech is false before the FTC acts against the speaker. This is how it should be in a free society where information flows freely in order to foster the continuous improvement that benefits us all. The bill also requires that the FTC warn parties that their advertising is false and give them a chance to correct their mistakes before the FTC censors the claim and imposes other punishments.

Mr. Speaker, if we are serious about putting people in charge of their health care, then shouldn't we stop federal bureaucrats from preventing Americans from learning about simple ways to improve their health. I therefore call on my colleagues to stand up for good health and the Constitution by cosponsoring the Health Freedom Restoration Act and the Freedom of Health Speech Act.

IN SUPPORT OF THE TROOPS TO
TEACHERS AMENDMENT TO THE
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Courtney, Petri, Matsui Amendment, to expand and improve our Nation's existing Troops to Teachers program.

I am pleased to introduce this amendment with my colleagues, with whom I also sponsored the Post 9/11 Troops to Teachers Enhancement Act of 2011. Our amendment would make the program more accessible to veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan by reducing the military service requirement from 6 years to 4 years.

It would also expand the number of school districts eligible to participate, and create an advisory board to increase awareness about, and participation in the program.

Finally, this amendment transfers the program from the Department of Education to the Department of Defense.

Currently, the program is operated by the Department of Defense, but funded through the Department of Education. By housing the administration and funding of Troops to Teachers in the same Department, we will be able to streamline this program for the benefit of all of its participants and the students it serves.

With their proven service, diverse backgrounds, and leadership traits our Nation's veterans can serve their country again, by serving as teachers in our country's most vulnerable schools. With more veterans returning

home from overseas we need to support programs such as Troops for Teachers that successfully transition them from the military back into civilian life.

I have seen firsthand the success of this program by visiting teachers in my district who returned from service and used the program's stipend to help pay for teaching certification classes and exams. This amendment is a win-win for our veterans and our students.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this bipartisan amendment.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN ON ITS 93RD ANNI-
VERSARY OF "REPUBLIC DAY"

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, Speaker, as the co-chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the Republic of Azerbaijan as it celebrates its 93rd Republic Day on May 28, 2011. Later this year, Azerbaijan will also celebrate the 20th anniversary of its freedom from the Soviet Union and the establishment of diplomatic relations with the United States. These events both represent important milestones in Azerbaijan's history.

Azerbaijan has progressed over twenty years to become a key ally to the United States in a strategically important region. Azerbaijan is located between Russia and Iran in the geopolitically dynamic region between Europe and Asia. It is a secular democracy with a predominantly Muslim population that has been home to vibrant Christian and Jewish communities for over a millennium.

Azerbaijan continues to offer multi-faceted support for U.S. and NATO operations in Afghanistan, in part by providing medical services for injured Afghans and training for Afghan Security Forces. As highlighted by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, Azerbaijan plays a key role in supporting the Northern Distribution Network, which provides passage for Coalition supplies bound for Afghanistan. Finally, Azerbaijan provides vital support to U.S. nonproliferation efforts.

In addition to supporting U.S. security interests in the region, Azerbaijan serves a paramount role in supplying the United States and Europe with oil and gas. It is the only secular Muslim country that maintains close ties with Israel, supplying roughly a quarter of Israel's oil.

Again, as the co-chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, it is my pleasure to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occasion of its 93rd Republic Day. For my colleagues who are interested in supporting Azerbaijan, I encourage them to consider joining the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, which works to strengthen and grow the valuable partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan.

30 YEARS OF DEDICATED WORK BY
THE GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) located in Morris County, New Jersey, which is celebrating 30 years of successful natural resource protection in the Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge.

Thousands of years ago, the melting waters of large retreating glaciers formed a massive glacial lake called Glacial Lake Passaic. Over the years, the lake drained to leave wetlands, which form a part of the Great Swamp in New Jersey. This federally-protected land is home to a large variety of plants, animals, and humans, as well as several federally-designated threatened species.

After the creation of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in 1964, a small group of citizens became concerned with protecting and improving water resources in the ten municipalities that bordered the Great Swamp. In 1981, this grass-roots group created the GSWA in order to protect the land and water in these towns. Through its efforts, the organization has acquired fifty-three acres of property in the area surrounding the Refuge, while working to preserve local streams and maintain local water quality.

The GSWA has grown from its roots to include 2,200 members in over 40 New Jersey municipalities. Today, the organization continues to protect environmentally sensitive land through land acquisition and promoting the strengthening of environmental regulations in New Jersey. With the support of its staff, trustees, and many valuable volunteers, the Association helped develop the first-ever water quality standards for the Great Swamp Watershed, which aid scientists, policy makers and local officials in protecting water resources from further degradation and in restoring those resources that have been harmed. Although the GSWA's work is centered primarily within the towns directly served by the Great Swamp Watershed, the results of its persistence extend to the more than one million people in Northern New Jersey who obtain their drinking water from the Passaic River.

In addition, the GSWA fosters environmental awareness and provides environmental education for children and adults throughout the state. Over 1,500 students have benefitted from its three-dimensional watershed model that illustrates how individual and group actions affect water quality in the local area. The organization invites teachers to participate in programs that show them how to use their own school grounds as areas for environmental education. The GSWA also offers several family programs within the watershed that introduce area residents to the natural history in their own backyards. In providing these programs, the GSWA teaches communities of the ecological value of the Great Swamp watershed, as well as the importance of restoring the property and protecting it from land development.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Great Swamp Watershed Association for its 30 years of

dedicated work on behalf of the great State of New Jersey.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Chair, today, I rise on behalf of all of West Virginia's National Guard and proudly support the Miller/Rahall amendment based on my legislation, the Guardians of Freedom Act of 2011—a bill to elevate the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to a position on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The body politic of the National Guard—nearly a half-million strong supports this amendment, as does the National Guard Coalition, composed of Adjutants General Association, the National Guard Association, and Enlisted Association of the National Guard.

The National Guard is one of our Nation's longest-standing institutions, empowered by Congress and providing to the States a highly trained and well-equipped force to protect life and property. Over the course of its nearly four-hundred year history, the National Guard has remained a dual State-Federal force, providing security on the home front and fighting threats to our Nation and our freedoms all over the globe.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 brought about historic empowerment changes for the National Guard, elevating the Chief of the National Guard to the rank of four-star general and providing the Chief a stronger voice inside the Pentagon. This year, the 2012 Defense Authorization bill also adds a vice-chief to assist with the increasing responsibilities of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau. But we must do more in giving the Chief a seat at the negotiating table.

As a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau would have responsibility and authority to advocate and coordinate the Guard's war fighting support and force provider mission with its homeland security and support missions to ensure the Guard has the resources to perform its multiple missions and fulfill its Constitutional role to our States.

Madam Chair, from the battlefield to the home fields, our National Guard—America's patriots—exemplifies sacrifice and commitment to duty.

West Virginians volunteer for the National Guard at nearly double the national rate. The West Virginia National Guard has 38 units and activities stationed in 22 counties throughout West Virginia, and currently has units deployed in military operations around the world.

The American people owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our nearly 500,000 men and women members of the National Guard in

service to these great United States. These extraordinary individuals maintain the Guard's multi-mission role—providing nearly 33 percent of America's combat power globally. Yet, simultaneously and with great skill, from approximately 3,400 community-based armories they serve their fellow citizens in defense of our homeland, and in support to States and local civil authorities and emergency response needs.

Now more than ever, this Nation is relying upon the Guard to wage combat on foreign soil, straining our resources here on the home front to respond to domestic disasters and the Guard's traditional duties. The training, equipping, and deployment of the Guard, and their budget, ought to be matters decided with input from the National Guard Chief at the highest levels of the military echelon. Now more than ever, the Guard needs a seat at the head table.

HONORING RABBI JUDITH S.
LEWIS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Judith S. Lewis became the rabbi of Riverdale Temple in the summer of 2006, after having served for 14 years as the Senior Rabbi of Temple Israel of the City of New York. She began her tenure at Temple Israel as the Director of Education for six years.

In 2005 she earned an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion, where she was ordained in 1980. She was part of the first generation of women rabbis, ordained at a time when there were fewer than a dozen women in the Reform rabbinate. Her undergraduate degree was in Philosophy, from Oberlin College in Ohio.

Rabbi Lewis was born and raised in Rochester, New York where her extended family participated in congregations of every denomination. A favored childhood recollection is the successive observance of Jewish holidays at each congregation. Once services ended at her family's Reform synagogue, they would often go to join her grandparents in their Conservative congregation, and finally join aunts and uncles at the Orthodox synagogue to finish the celebration of the holiday.

Rabbi Lewis says she has enjoyed directing the religious school this year calling the students are among the most delightful young people she has ever met. Jewish education has been a life-long passion for her and she has the rare ability to inculcate her students with that passion and enthusiasm.

Rabbi Lewis is being honored at the Riverdale Temple's Annual Student Scholarship breakfast. I join with the Temple in honoring this wonderful teacher as she completes her 30th year in the rabbinate, and thank her for her many contributions to the Temple, its students, and the community.

CONGRATULATING MAYOR
RICHARD M. DALEY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Chicago's "idea a minute" Mayor Richard M. Daley. On September 7, 2010, Mayor Daley announced that after his 22 years in office, he would not seek re-election. But during those 22 years, Chicagoans were privileged to be served by a man with such vision, passion, and inimitable love for our city.

Mayor Daley not only improved the quality of life in Chicago, but also made it one of the most environmentally friendly cities in the world. He did so by encouraging businesses to use green technology and helping companies save money by becoming more sensitive to the environment. Mayor Daley directed the planting of thousands of trees, the building of green roofs, and construction of nearly one-hundred square miles of landscaped medians. Mayor Daley also built and improved infrastructure, such as the 1996 revamp of State Street and the 2002 rebuilding of Wacker Drive.

Many new tourist attractions were overseen by Mayor Daley during his time in office, as he was committed to ensuring Chicago remained a world-class city. In 1998, the Museum Campus opened to the public. The campus formed an uninterrupted, pedestrian-friendly green space for Chicago's three natural science museums. Later, in 2004, he unveiled Millennium Park. Continuing Chicago's tradition of sculpture and architecture, the park includes Anish Kapoor's "Cloud Gate", also known as "The Bean," an interactive multimedia fountain of faces created by Jaume Plensa, and a beautiful garden designed by Kathryn Gustafson. Mayor Daley also played an instrumental role in the renovation and transformation of Navy Pier into Chicago's most popular tourist attraction.

Along with beautifying the City, Mayor Daley made Chicago a safer place for our children and families. From creating the City's first community policing programs to installing safety cameras outside schools to working closely with Mayors Against Illegal Guns, Mayor Daley has made fighting neighborhood crime and education a priority. He has improved the performance of Chicago's public schools by enhancing school safety and creating after-school and early childhood education programs. Because of Mayor Daley's focus on education, fewer students are dropping out of school and more are moving on to higher education.

Our city's outgoing mayor was also a good friend to the LGBT community and a national trailblazer for equality, because it was the right thing to do. He formed an LGBT Advisory Council for the city, and Chicago remains the only city in the country to recognize the civic contributions of the LGBT community in an annual ceremony recognizing our LGBT Hall of Fame, into which Mayor Daley was inducted in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mayor Richard M. Daley, 45th mayor of the City of Chicago. I commend him for his 22 years of service on the fifth floor and through-

out the neighborhoods that make our home the best city in the world. He leaves a legacy of service and passion for preserving and improving the city we all know and love, Chicago. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for everything. I wish you, Maggie, and your entire family nothing but the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 344, I was unavoidably detained and the amendment was gavelled closed before I could cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

THANKING AL POWERS FOR HIS
SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on June 2nd 2011, we rise to thank Mr. Al Powers for his more than twenty-nine years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives.

Al began his career with the House working in the office of Representative Bob Whittaker as an Office Assistant, and when the Member retired, he was the office Press Assistant. Time spent handling press issues led to the idea for the House Enterprise Facsimile Service which he was instrumental in helping to develop when he joined House Information Resources (HIR) in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (Office of the CAO) as a Systems Engineer. This service is currently used by the House. Al was also instrumental in the inception of many services that are critical to the House today—including the current E-mail system.

Al's knowledge, experience, dedication and consistently outstanding performance in his daily tasks has set a fine example in providing superior customer service and has earned the respect of his co-workers.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Al Powers for his many years of dedication, outstanding contributions and service to the United States House of Representatives.

We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I missed the vote on Campbell amendment #54 to H.R. 1540, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012. Had I voted, I would have voted "no" on the amendment.

TRIBUTE TO KATE SWIFT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kate Swift, a recently deceased Connecticut writer who is best known for her tireless work to end sexism in the English language. Kate, a resident of East Haddam, died of abdominal cancer on May 14 at the age of 87.

Born in Yonkers, NY, Kate attended Connecticut College in New London, CT. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1944 with a degree in journalism and spent the next two years in the Women's Army Corps serving as an information and education specialist before being honorably discharged. In 1965 she made her way back to Connecticut to enter the news bureau at Yale University's School of Medicine.

She began her writing career in the 1970s with her companion, Casey Miller, also a writer, who spent some of her career working in naval intelligence. While working with Casey to edit materials for a junior high school sex education program, the two noticed the dominance of male pronouns and references to men. They changed the language in the program to give girls a more prominent role and followed up by publishing their first article on the topic of gender-neutral language.

Kate's proposals gained a great deal of traction over time. Newspapers, textbooks, and public speakers continue to avoid sexist language like "firemen" and "stewardess", instead preferring more gender-neutral references. Articles by Kate and Casey have been published in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and New York magazine on a wide variety of topics relating to sexism in language.

Since moving to East Haddam in 1972, Kate, a sharp intellect and incredibly talented writer, simply couldn't sit still. She was an activist heavily invested in women's rights and gay rights. She was a vocal advocate for Connecticut's marriage equality legislation and worked hard to help bring about its passage into law. She served on the Council of the Rathbun Free Memorial Library, the first Town Charter Commission, as well as the committee of the Connecticut Trails Council of Girl Scouts, and the East Haddam Democratic Town Committee for seventeen years. She traveled all over the world including to China for the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women.

Kate Swift, through her push to end gender discrimination in the English language and tireless activism, demonstrated that she was a true visionary. She was, in many respects, ahead of her time. Kate left her mark by forever changing how we use language and by fighting hard to root out injustice where she found it in the world. I ask my colleagues to join me in praising the efforts and honoring the life of this remarkable woman.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CAMPUS
SAVE ACT**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce important bipartisan legislation, the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination (SaVE) Act, which would close a serious gap in the law by requiring colleges and universities to clearly spell out their policies regarding domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, and will increase awareness and prevention of these acts by requiring transparency of information, prevention programs and assistance for victims. Senator BOB CASEY recently introduced the Senate companion bill (S. 834).

Sexual violence and violence in dating relationships are a serious problem on college campuses across the country. More than one in five female undergraduates will be victims of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault during their time on a campus; only a fraction of incidents are reported and many victims go without adequate institutional support.

The Campus SaVE Act would increase the transparency of reports of sexual violence by institutions to include in their annual security reports statistics on domestic violence, dating violence and stalking that were reported to campus police authorities or local police agencies; promote prevention and bystander responsibility by requiring colleges and universities to develop clear statements of policy regarding domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking prevention programs; ensure victims get the help they need by requiring colleges and universities to provide clear statements regarding their procedures followed when a case of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking is reported and provide victims an explanation of their rights in writing; and requires clear procedures for institutional disciplinary proceedings and provides assistance to institutions to implement these requirements.

This legislation will help ensure our college campuses and universities are safe. I urge my colleagues to support it.

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF
ILLYRIA**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Illyria, the Albanian-American newspaper. Illyria has been in the forefront of supporting the aspirations of the Albanian people in The Balkans for 20 years.

As the Albanian people of Kosova in the former Yugoslavia emerged from the domination of Serbia, and Albania emerged from the shadow of communism in 1991, Albanian-Americans were in need of information about their homeland, and a common voice to bring their community together. In that time of great transition, Harry Bajraktari, an Albanian immigrant from Kosova who had built a successful

real estate business from scratch in the Bronx, founded and published Illyria, and published it twice weekly in both English and Albanian.

From the beginning, Illyria provided a valuable bridge among Albanians in the U.S. and abroad, and our leaders in the United States. Through the dedication and passion of Mr. Bajraktari and his colleagues, Illyria championed the causes of human rights, democracy and freedom for the people of Albania, Macedonia, Monte Negro and for a free and independent Republic of Kosova. During the Yugoslav wars and the struggles of Albanians in Kosova against the regime of Slobodon Milosevic, Illyria promoted peaceful solutions for Albanians and their neighbors. Diplomats at the United Nations, members of Congress, officials at the State Department, the White House and think tanks in Washington were among those who used Illyria as a resource.

Now in more peaceful times for Albanians, Illyria, true to its immigrant roots, continues to build ties between the Albanians and the United States, promoting friendship between our countries and highlighting the contributions of Albanian immigrants to the United States. The long list of distinguished Albanian-Americans introduced to readers by Illyria includes a Nobel-Prize winner, an engineer who oversaw the flight of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon, a former NASA astronaut who flew into space on the Space Shuttle Endeavour, famous actors, directors and TV personalities, and successful professionals of various fields.

The torch of owning and publishing Illyria was passed from Mr. Bajraktari to Ekrem Bardha, a successful Albanian-American businessman from Michigan and then to Vehbi Bajrami, a dedicated publisher. Through two decades and three owners, Illyria has been a consistent voice for tolerance and truth. As Ismail Kadare, the internationally-renowned Albanian writer said, Illyria has kept "only one passion as sacred: its dedication to the freedom and the happiness of the Albanian people." Mr. Speaker, these are two of the principles that have made this country the greatest democracy in the world, and which unite Albania and the United States in friendship today.

With thousands of readers from New York to Alaska, Illyria newspaper is truly an American institution—politically independent and true to the best values of American journalism. In short, Illyria embodies the American dream. I join with Harry Bajraktari and with Albanian-Americans in the United States and around the world, in wishing a happy 20th anniversary to Illyria newspaper.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLORHAM PARK
MEMORIAL FIRST AID SQUAD,
INC.**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad of Florham Park, New Jersey on celebrating their 60th Anniversary as of May 30th, 2011.

On May 30th, 1951 the Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad was dedicated in fond

tribute to those who served or gave their all in our defense.

The all-volunteer Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad provides service 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. They cover 7½ square miles and service 12,600 residents along with businesses, schools, colleges, assisted living facilities, local streets and highways, as well as provide mutual aid to neighboring towns.

The Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad is a non-profit organization financially supported only by donations; comprised 100 percent of volunteers. Students, professionals and retirees from all walks of life lend time to serve their community. Auxiliary members also volunteer on committees to preserve the house and grounds, as well as organize special social events.

The Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad handles approximately 1,200 calls per year. A typical crew includes an experienced chief, an EMT-B and driver, and a probationary member (who has served less than 6 months on the squad). Responsibilities of the crew on call include, remaining in town during the shift, inspecting ambulance and equipment, and responding to 911 calls, along with drills and instruction.

Aside from time responding to calls, volunteers of the first aid squad complete numerous hours of rigorous training preparing for any situation that may arise. Their selfless donation of their time, tireless commitment to service and compassion for others sets these volunteers apart from others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad as they celebrate their 60th Anniversary.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF
TURKEY'S FOUNDER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on May 19, while Congress was in recess, the Republic of Turkey and Friends of Turkey commemorated the 92nd anniversary of the launching of Turkey's national campaign to establish an independent nation by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey. Turkey also celebrates May 19 as the birthday of Ataturk.

During his life time Ataturk was able to lift a country from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire and build a secular democratic nation located at the crossroads of Europe and the Middle East. His reforms were widespread including political, social, legal, educational, and economic. Some were monumental such as abolishing the caliphate and the sultan, recognizing equal rights for men and women, adopting a new alphabet and adopting secular law. Ataturk had a vision for the country, one of a pro-western secular and democratic state in which the rule of law would prevail. He swiftly but steadily advanced toward that goal with the confidence of a born leader and the support of the Turkish nation.

Ataturk championed women's rights, and believed that education and scientific training was the key to advancement not only for the individual, but also for the country. During his

tenure, women were encouraged to become doctors, lawyers, engineers, scientists, and enter into politics.

The legacy of Ataturk is even more evident today, as the Arab Spring leads to dramatic changes in the Middle East and North Africa. There are lessons in Turkey's history which can be applied to the current situation around the world. With the right leadership and determination, democracy can take root and lay the foundations for a prosperous future in the region.

HONORING ADOLFO ALVAREZ, SR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Former Frio County Commissioner Adolfo Alvarez, Sr. to honor his contributions to South Texas. On May 28, 2011, Mr. Alvarez celebrates his 80th birthday and a lifetime of achievements as a Veteran and Former County Commissioner.

Mr. Alvarez was born May 27, 1931, in Harlingen, Texas, to the parentage of Gernaro and Dominga Alvarez. He attended Harlingen High School in 1950 and served his country in the Korean War upon graduation. Mr. Alvarez returned from battle and married Guadalupe Morales Alvarez soon after. The couple has been happily married for 55 years and their union produced 9 children, 19 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.

Mr. Alvarez began working in the auto repair industry and has been the proud owner of A and A Auto Parts retail stores in Pearsall, Dilley and Cotulla, Texas since 1973. In 1980, he was elected Frio County Commissioner and devoted himself to the people for 20 years. In addition to his post as Commissioner, Mr. Alvarez also served on the State Democratic Executive Committee for the 21st Senatorial District, was an active member of the Mexican American Democrats, and was appointed to the Commission on Aging by Gov. Ann Richards during her time in office.

Residing in Pearsall, TX, Mr. Alvarez spends his days as the city's first life member of VFW Post 9185, a life member of the Knights of Columbus, and a member of the League of United Latin American Citizens. He remains spiritually active as a parishioner of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in the city in which he resides. As a former County Commissioner, he remains devoted to his community through his volunteer activities, church involvement, and interests.

Former Commissioner Alvarez has lived in Pearsall, Texas for over 30 years and served Precinct 3 for 16 years beginning in 1980 and ending in 2000. In addition, he is a Korean War Veteran and founding member of the VFW post in Pearsall, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the remarkable life of Mr. Adolfo Alvarez, Sr. and his 80th birthday celebration. Thank you.

CONGRATULATING ALDERMAN
PATRICK J. LEVAR

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Alderman Patrick J. Levar on his recent retirement from his position as Alderman of the 45th Ward of the City of Chicago.

For the last 24 years, Alderman Levar represented the residents of the 45th Ward and worked to bring many improvements to the schools, businesses, and safety of his constituency. One of his many accomplishments as Alderman was the building of a new police station for the 16th District—Chicago Police Department to ensure that the 45th Ward was one of the safest in Chicago. He brought over \$7 million in improvements to local neighborhood schools and built the first new library on Chicago's northwest side. He returned over \$1 million to the 45th Ward by improving parks, playgrounds, and local streets.

He also wanted to make sure his ward thrived economically and worked tirelessly to rejuvenate businesses and create jobs by helping build shopping complexes and business structures. His dedication to his job and the city he loves is an example of why Chicago is known as "The City That Works."

Alderman Levar is very proud of the northwest side of Chicago, the area he has called home for his entire life, and of the Jefferson Park neighborhood, the area where he and his wife have raised their family.

Pat would be the first to tell you that his family is his first priority, and they have provided support for his entire career. He has been happily married for 37 years to his wonderful wife, Mary Ann. His family also includes his son, Patrick, Jr., and his wife, Jeanene, his daughters, Michelle and Julie, his son, Ryan, and his grandchildren, Patrick, Clare, and Maeve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Alderman Levar's years of service to the City of Chicago. I hope that his dedication and hard work inspire us all to see the difference we can make by serving our local communities. I wish him a happy and successful retirement and all the best in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO ALEX MICHAEL
JAGIM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alex Michael Jagim for the rank of an Eagle Scout. Alex is a junior at Waukee High School.

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 whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. 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. Alex's service project was to install a

video capture system which required raising more than \$6,000 in addition to physically installing the new system. Alex also went above and beyond the requirements by completing more than the minimum required number of merit badges, a total of 33, as well as serving in a variety of leadership roles throughout his time in Boy Scouts.

In addition to his commitments as a Boy Scout, Alex is also a member of Waukeg High School's Marching Band, Show Choir, Jazz Choir, National Honor Society, Tennis team, and drama department. After high school Alex plans to pursue a career in either Aerospace or Computer Engineering.

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 Alex Jagim and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on earning an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

CONGRATULATING AND
RECOGNIZING SUSAN EGAN

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Susan E. Egan and congratulate her on her forthcoming retirement. For the past 38 years, Mrs. Egan has served as the Head of Harborlight Montessori School, which she co-founded in 1973. She has served as an active leader of the school and has made numerous contributions to the school's development as well as to the community.

Under her leadership, Harborlight grew from a 27-student, one-room school located in the basement of the First Baptist Church in Beverly, Massachusetts, to a model Montessori school enrolling more than 250 students in 17 classes. With the addition of several wings for a preschool, an expansive school library, and additional rooms for art, music and language lessons, Susan's vision of making the Montessori method of teaching accessible to all children of the North Shore continues today.

An active member of the community, Susan serves on the Board of Symphony by the Sea as well as the Lynch Park Advisory Committee. Her dedication to service is instilled in the fabric of Harborlight, where students are involved in community service projects that partner with local organizations.

Prior to serving as the Head of Harborlight, Susan earned a master's degree in education and completed post-graduate work in counseling psychology. She is a licensed Mental Health Counselor and a Marriage and Family Therapist, as well as a licensed teacher, school director and Registered Nurse.

As she concludes her tenure as the Head of Harborlight Montessori School, I wish to recognize Susan Egan for her remarkable achievements as a teacher and mentor and wish her all the best in her retirement.

HONORING CHARLES D. "RUSTY"
FLACK, JR.

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart because Northeastern Pennsylvania has lost a truly great man.

Earlier today, Charles D. "Rusty" Flack, Jr., passed away after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Rusty leaves behind his wife, Kathi Stine Flack; his eldest son and namesake, Chad; and twins Jamie and Alex. Rusty was only 56 years old.

Rusty was a tremendous civic leader who tirelessly strived to ensure the organizations he treasured thrived. He directed a number of non-profit organizations and took many leadership roles in the community. He served as chairman of the board of Wyoming Seminary Preparatory School and the Luzerne Foundation. Previously, he served as chairman of the board of trustees at Misericordia University and Wyoming Valley Health System.

Rusty was driven to serve his community, and he found his true calling by following in his father's footsteps as a pioneer in the business world. When his father, Charles D. Flack, Sr., died in 1979, Rusty and his brother, Hal, took charge of Diamond Manufacturing Co., a fourth-generation family-owned business that has manufactured and sold perforated metal, plastic, and other materials in West Wyoming, Pennsylvania, since 1915. Rusty and Hal rescued the company from financial difficulties and subsequently built it into the largest supplier of perforated metal in North America. The company's products are seen in industrial, architectural, and design applications around the world. The Flack brothers sold the company just last year, but they remained connected to the company, and Rusty stayed on as chief executive officer.

On a personal note, I've had the privilege of knowing Rusty for almost a decade. He was a kind and generous man who loved his family, his community, and his business. I truly admire all that he was able to accomplish in both his personal and his professional lives. I am honored to have had an opportunity to know Rusty, and I will treasure his loyal friendship.

Mr. Speaker, Rusty Flack served Northeastern Pennsylvania with distinction. He leaves a remarkable legacy as a businessman, a civic leader, a patriot, and a family man.

Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in marking the passing of Charles D. "Rusty" Flack, Jr.

HONORING ANGELA Z.
MCCOLLOUGH

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Angela Z. McCollough, an employee of the Congressional Budget Office who is retiring next month after nearly 40 years of exemplary public service. In August of 1975, after spending three years at the En-

vironmental Protection Agency, Angie started her career at the Congressional Budget Office—just a few months after CBO was founded. From 1975 until 2008, she served as the secretary and administrative assistant to the Assistant Director of the Natural Resources and Commerce Division (since renamed the Microeconomic Studies Division). In October of 2008, Angie was promoted to Executive Assistant to the CBO Director.

Angie has been an invaluable member of the CBO team and over the years has exemplified the very best qualities of public service upon which the Congress and the Nation so heavily depend. Angie received two CBO Director's Awards—in 1984 and again in 2003. She has also received several STAR awards for her work in the Microeconomic Studies Division and the Office of the CBO Director. Angie was honored in 2001 for her role in recreating CBO's timekeeping and payroll system and for ensuring that CBO's employees were paid during that difficult period in the Fall of 2001 when the Ford House Office Building was closed for the anthrax investigation in the weeks following the tragic events of 9/11.

Angie is one of the longest serving employees in the history of the Congressional Budget Office. Her tenure at CBO spans the agency's lifetime. She has served under all 8 CBO Directors. And throughout her time at CBO Angie has set the standard for dedicated public servants throughout the Federal Government. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to acknowledge Angie's time at CBO, to thank her on behalf of the Congress and the Nation for her years of dedicated service, and to wish her all the best in what we hope and trust will be many years of a well-deserved and fruitful retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I regret missing floor votes on Wednesday, May 25, 2011. Had I registered my vote, I would have voted:

"Nay" on rollcall 338, On Agreeing to the Amendment—Foxy of North Carolina Amendment No. 7.

"Yea" on rollcall 339, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions—To amend the Public Health Service Act to convert funding for graduate medical education in qualified teaching health centers from direct appropriations to an authorization of appropriations.

"Nay" on rollcall 340, Final Passage of H.R. 1216—To amend the Public Health Service Act to convert funding for graduate medical education in qualified teaching health centers from direct appropriations to an authorization of appropriations.

"Nay" on rollcall 341, On Ordering the Previous Question—Providing for further consideration of H.R. 1540, The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

"Nay" on rollcall 342, On Agreeing to the Resolution—Providing for further consideration of H.R. 1540, The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

"Yea" on rollcall 343, On Agreeing to the Amendment—Woolsey of California Amendment No. 2.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JERRY MILLER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and retirement of the Interim Vice President for Extension and Outreach at Iowa State University, Dr. Jerry Miller.

Dr. Miller is a professor of agronomy and is well known in the soil and conservation community for his numerous contributions to enhancing water quality and soil conservation. Dr. Miller has given 35 years of his life to Iowa agriculture and in the process has given Iowa greater clarity in a subject we hold very dear.

In addition to his illustrious career at ISU, Dr. Miller also served Iowa in an entirely different way through his efforts in the Iowa Army National Guard. Dr. Miller retired from service several years ago as the Commanding General of the 34th Infantry Division.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent Dr. Jerry Miller in the United States Congress. Dr. Miller is a true testament to Iowa's reputation of service and commitment. I know my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating Dr. Miller and I wish him the best of luck in the future.

**VIOLENCE AGAINST COPTIC
CHRISTIANS IN EGYPT**

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, since the start of the Egyptian unrest earlier this year, religious minorities have been specifically targeted by Muslim extremists. Taking on the brunt of the attacks are Coptics, Christians who have lived peacefully in this part of the world for millennia. Recently, terrorists burned two Coptic Churches to the ground, killing 16 and injuring over 300. Coptic churches—rich in culture and architecture—were destroyed forcing innocent Christians to flee their home communities in order to protect their lives. This comes only a few months after twenty-four Christians were killed in yet another church bombing.

I am proud to represent a vibrant Coptic community in southeast Michigan and privileged to consider the clergy of St. Mark's Church in Troy, Michigan as my friends. I rise today to share their concerns—and the concerns of Coptics across our nation—about the future of their community and the desire to preserve their ancestral homeland.

For millennia, Coptic Christians have lived and worshipped in Egypt but some extremists are attempting to capitalize on the political vacuum created by the uncertainty in the country to drive them out of their homes and places of worship. While we are hopeful for democratic change in Egypt, it is imperative that we maintain support for religious minority communities such as the Coptics and seek to preserve and allow for the continuity of their community.

As a member of the Religious Minorities in the Middle East Caucus, I ask my colleagues to join me in being mindful of these Christian minorities that need a voice and demand an

end to extremist violence that is destroying this peace loving community.

THANKING MR. ALI QURESHI FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to commend a loyal and valued House employee on the occasion of his departure.

Ali Qureshi joined the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer in February of 2003 in the House Information Resources Unit. His hard work and diligence were quickly acknowledged and he rapidly rose within the organization, finally achieving the position of Senior Deputy Chief Administrative Officer where he served as a senior advisor to the Chief Administrative Officer. In this role, he has overseen House operations and maintained direct oversight of House Information Resources; Administrative and Financial Services; Strategic Initiatives and Assets, Furnishings and Logistics.

Prior to joining the House, Mr. Qureshi served as a consultant in the private sector. He has a graduate degree from the Wharton School of Business and University of Pennsylvania School of Engineering and a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from Wilkes University in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, every day we go about conducting the business of the American people. We are able to do this because of the tremendous men and women that support our efforts. Staffers in our personal offices, House Committees and the House Officers work tirelessly and with dedication. They perform a tremendous service for us and for the American people. Mr. Qureshi is an example of that commitment, dedication to excellence and loyal service that allows us to do what we do every day. I wish him all the best as he transitions to a new and exciting chapter in his life and sincerely thank him for his years of service to the House. He will be missed.

ANGELA Z. MCCOLLOUGH

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Angela Z. McCollough, an employee of the Congressional Budget Office, who is retiring on June 3, 2011 after nearly 40 years of service to the Federal government. Angie started her federal career in 1972 when she began working for the Environmental Protection Agency. In August of 1975, Angie joined the Congressional Budget Office, just a few months after CBO was founded. From 1975 until 2008, she served as the secretary and administrative assistant to the Assistant Director of the Natural Resources and Commerce Division (since renamed the Microeconomic Studies Division). In October of 2008, Angie was promoted to Executive Assistant to the CBO Director.

Angie has been an invaluable member of the CBO team. She received two CBO Direc-

tor's Awards—in 1984 and again in 2003. She has also received several STAR awards for her work in the Microeconomic Studies Division and the Office of the CBO Director. Angie was honored in 2001 for her role in recreating CBO's timekeeping and payroll system and for ensuring that CBO's employees were paid during that difficult period in the Fall of 2001 when the Ford House Office Building, where CBO is located, was closed for the anthrax investigation in the weeks following the tragic events of 9/11.

Angie is one of the longest serving employees in the history of the Congressional Budget Office. Her tenure at CBO spans the agency's lifetime. She has served under all 8 CBO Directors. And throughout her time at CBO, Angie has exemplified the highest standards of dedicated public service. I thank her for her service and wish her all the best in her retirement.

IN SUPPORT OF PROTECTING
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise once again in opposition to the reauthorization of PATRIOT Act provisions. While it will come as no surprise to my colleagues that I find the PATRIOT Act objectionable in its entirety, the roving wiretap, "any tangible thing," and lone wolf provisions of the law are by far the most toxic to our civil liberties.

Nothing has changed that makes the extension of wiretapping of citizens, searches of our private records and information, or warrantless surveillance of individuals not connected to terrorism more acceptable. Now is the time to end what was supposed to be a temporary, state-of-emergency response to the events of 9/11. Over a decade later, organizations from the Cato Institute to the American Civil Liberties Union have documented abuses of the law, and Osama bin Laden has been killed—though there is no evidence that the PATRIOT Act helped to find him.

The government's extension of the PATRIOT Act is hypocrisy, pure and simple. Republicans support smaller government but want continued warrantless searches of their constituents. President Obama campaigned on the promise of abandoning the PATRIOT Act, calling it a "dangerous and shoddy" law, yet has done nothing to make good on that pledge. Let's end this duplicity.

The importance of empowering our intelligence agencies to help protect us does not supersede the importance of preserving our civil liberties. Until a balance is reached, I will continue to vote against the PATRIOT Act and its provisions and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

A TRIBUTE TO LEROY AND LOUISE
CHRISTIANSSEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize LeRoy and Louise Christiansen of

Pocahontas and commend them on their upcoming 65th wedding anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Christiansen were married on June 16th, 1946 in Pomeroy, IA and have since helped bring three children, ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren into this world.

Prior to their wedding, LeRoy was a proud Iowa farmer before he was asked to put his career on hold and defend his country in the Second World War. LeRoy served his country honorably as an Army Air Corp nose gunner in Italy before being discharged with honors and returning to Iowa.

LeRoy and Louise were born, educated and have now retired in Iowa out of love for a state that has given them so many joys and blessings.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent LeRoy and Louise in the United States Congress. Mr. and Mrs. Christiansen are a true testament to Iowa's reputation of service and commitment. I know my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating them and I wish them continued happiness in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE 36TH ANNUAL CAPITAL PRIDE CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 36th annual Capital Pride, a celebration of the national capital area's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) communities and their families and friends.

In 1975, Deacon MacCubbin, owner of the Lambda Rising Bookstore in Dupont Circle, launched the first Capital Pride. It began as a block party on 20th Street, between R and S Streets, NW. By 1980, the festival had outgrown being a block party and moved to Francis Junior High School in 1981, with the Pride Parade becoming an annual part of the festivities. As Capital Pride continued to grow, it moved to Freedom Plaza in 1990 and then onto Pennsylvania Avenue in 1997. Today, Capital Pride consists of more than 10 days of events, including Trans Pride and Latino Pride, organized by the Capital Pride Planning Committee and dozens of local community partners.

Capital Pride's 2011 theme, "Celebration and Opportunity, Paving the Way," acknowledges the many successes of the GLBT community and the work that still needs to be done to ensure equality.

This year, Capital Pride culminates with what has been declared D.C.'s best parade, the Capital Pride Parade, on June 11, and "The Main Event," a street fair on Pennsylvania Avenue in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol, on June 12. Capital Pride's producer, the Capital Pride Alliance, Inc., predicts an attendance of 250,000, making Capital Pride one of the largest GLBT festivals in the United States.

I have marched in Pride parades since coming to Congress to emphasize universal human rights and the importance of enacting federal legislation to secure those rights for the GLBT community. Congress has much

work to do. We must pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the Respect for Marriage Act, the Safe Schools Improvement Act, and the Uniting American Families Act.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing the 36th annual Capital Pride and to welcome its attendees.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION, RISK REDUCTION, AND AWARENESS ACT OF 2011

HON. ROSA L. DELAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act of 2011, which will help provide accurate, evidence-based information to pregnant and breast-feeding women about medications, chemical exposures, foodborne illness, and other exposures associated with birth defects or health risks to a breastfed infant.

This bill would establish a grant program to revitalize the national network of pregnancy risk information services, more than half of which have closed over the last decade due to lack of funding. Over 70,000 women seek information from these essential services each year. It would also establish a national information campaign to help increase public awareness among health providers and at-risk populations.

The legislation has been endorsed by the Allergy and Asthma Network, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, March of Dimes Foundation, Mothers of Asthmatics, Organization of Teratology Information Specialists, Spina Bifida Association, and the Zero to Three National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families. I hereby submit for the record letters of support from these organizations.

There is nothing more important than protecting our children, and this legislation will help expectant and breast-feeding mothers to obtain clear, accurate information about the potential risks of medications, illnesses, and other exposures during pregnancy and breastfeeding, helping them to both avoid risks and improve healthy behaviors like taking folic acid. This legislation will help mothers and health care professionals access critical information to help ensure their babies are healthy, and I urge my colleagues to support our efforts.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ALLERGY,
ASTHMA, & IMMUNOLOGY,
Washington, DC,
April 11, 2011.

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. DELAURO: On behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, I write to express strong support for the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act. This legislation will fund the national network of pregnancy risk information services that are currently severely underfunded. These services counsel pregnant and breast-feeding women on exposures to medications, chemicals, infections,

and other risks to healthy pregnancy and healthy infants.

A pregnant or breast-feeding woman lives in fear of any exposure that might pose a risk to her pregnancy or her baby. This is because of the paucity of information on the impact of exposures to medications, chemicals, infections and illnesses during pregnancy and nursing. Some exposures can be avoided, but for women with chronic diseases such as asthma, epilepsy, hypertension, or depression, continued use of medication may be essential to the health of both the woman and her infant. Asthma affects about 8% of pregnant women—over 300,000 women per year. Some women simply discontinue their asthma medications during pregnancy out of fear of a potential birth defect. However, uncontrolled asthma may pose a greater risk of complicating the pregnancy. Our organization has initiated a major study of asthma drugs in pregnancy in collaboration with the nation's pregnancy risk information services. This study simply could not be done without the resources available through these services. Unfortunately, more than half of the pregnancy risk information services in the country have closed over the past decade, and those that remain have sustained severe funding cuts. The legislation you are introducing will increase support for these important programs and assure that the vitally important counseling and research services they provide can be reinvigorated.

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology is the largest professional medical specialty organization in the United States representing allergists, asthma specialists, clinical immunologists, allied health professionals, and others dedicated to improving the treatment of allergic diseases through research and education. We thank you for your leadership in support of prevention and research related to birth defects and are pleased to offer the Academy's support for your legislation.

Sincerely,

DENNIS K. LEDFORD, M.D.,
President, American Academy of
Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology.

SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2011.

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DELAURO: On behalf of the Spina Bifida Association (SBA), the only national voluntary health organization working on behalf of the estimated 166,000 individuals who live with all forms of Spina Bifida and their families, I am writing to express our support to you and the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction and Awareness Act. This legislation will provide much-needed support to pregnancy risk information services, which play a crucial role in educating women on how to reduce the risk of preventable birth defects, including Spina Bifida.

One of the primary goals of SBA is to increase awareness of the importance of folic acid consumption among the 65 million women in the United States of child-bearing age. The risk of Spina Bifida and other serious birth defects can be reduced by up to 70%, if women of childbearing age consume 400 micrograms (400 mcg) of folic acid (a B-vitamin) every day. Grants funded under the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction and Awareness Act will help ensure that women who are considering becoming pregnant have access to information on the importance of folic acid supplementation, as well as other key steps they can take to ensure a healthy pregnancy.

SBA thanks you for recognizing the importance of pregnancy risk information services. If we can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me at 202-944-3285, Ext. 14.

Sincerely,

CINDY BROWNSTEIN,
*President and Chief Executive
Officer, Spina Bifida Association.*

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS,
April 20, 2011.

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,
*Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DELAURO: on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a non-profit professional organization of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, I would like to share our support for the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act.

Each year, about one in every 33 babies in our nation is born with a birth defect. Birth defects can be caused by genetic factors, environmental exposures, or a combination of the two. For the vast majority of birth defects, however, the cause remains unknown. Research continues to reveal important new information about the causes and prevention of birth defects.

The Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act seeks to provide a resource for pregnant women who have questions about whether certain medications, infections, or chemical or environmental exposures might cause or increase the risk of a birth defect, or pose a risk to a breastfeeding baby. This bill would support the provision of pregnancy and breastfeeding information services to women and health care providers seeking information about known or suspected risks. Breastfeeding mothers will receive information about how potential risks should be weighed against the significant benefits of breastfeeding. These services will address an important need as our understanding of birth defects and their prevention continues to evolve.

The AAP appreciates your commitment to preventing birth defects and educating the public about potential risks. We are pleased to support the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the health of all our nation's children.

Sincerely,

O. MARION BURTON, MD FAAP,
President.

OTIS,
April 13, 2011.

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MS. DELAURO: on behalf of the Organization of Teratology Information Specialists, I write to express strong support for the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act. Our organization is made up of physicians, genetic counselors, nurses, researchers, and educators interested in the study and prevention of birth defects, and we fully support the goals of your legislation.

Many of our members work in pregnancy risk information services across the country. These programs provide accurate evidence-based, clinical information to patients and health care professionals about exposures during pregnancy or breast-feeding to medications, chemicals, infections, and illnesses and whether there is a risk of birth defects

or harm to an infant. Pregnant or breastfeeding women with chronic diseases, such as asthma, epilepsy, diabetes, or depression are counseled by these services about how to properly treat their disease and minimize the risk of birth defects. Pregnancy risk information services provided invaluable assistance to women and providers during the H1N1 immunization effort as both pregnant women and providers sought information as to whether the vaccine was safe during pregnancy.

At one time, there were over 30 such services in the United States. Cuts in state budgets have forced more than half of these to close, and the remaining 13 services are operating under significantly reduced budgets. Decreases in staffing, hours of operation, and community outreach efforts have compromised patient and health care provider access to information needed to assure healthy pregnancy and risk-free breastfeeding. The bill you are introducing would reverse this trend. As an organization committed to the prevention of birth defects, we wholeheartedly endorse your legislation and thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

LORI WOLF, M.S., C.G.C.,
President.

THE AMERICAN CONGRESS OF
OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS,
Syracuse, NY, April 15, 2011.

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,
*Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN DELAURO, on behalf of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), representing 54,000 physicians and partners in women's health, thank you for introducing the Birth Defects, Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act of 2011. Your bill will strengthen much-needed research on birth defects and breast-feeding, and help educate women on ways to reduce risks to their babies and have healthy pregnancies.

There is an alarming gap in research on exposures to chemicals, medicines, and everyday behaviors and their link to birth defects, both during pregnancy and breast-feeding. This bill takes important steps to address the gaps, calling for research on maternal exposures that may adversely affect a pregnancy or cause harm to a breast-feeding infant. Equally as important, providing information to women and taking steps to increase awareness about pregnancy and breast-feeding will help ensure women have the information they need to make healthy choices during pregnancy and afterwards.

Again, thank you for introducing this bill to help pregnant and breast-feeding women. We look forward to working with you on this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact ACOG's Department of Government Affairs if we can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

RICHARD N. WALDMAN, MD, FACOG
President.

MARCH OF DIMES FOUNDATION,
Washington, DC, April 11, 2011.

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,
*Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DELAURO: on behalf of more than 3 million volunteers and 1,200 staff of the March of Dimes Foundation, I am writing to express support for the "Birth De-

fects Prevention, Risk Reduction and Awareness Act of 2011." As currently drafted, this bill authorizes funding to conduct a national media campaign, enhance surveillance and research on exposures that may lead to adverse birth outcomes such as birth defects or prematurity. It also authorizes funding to develop best practice guidelines to improve infant health.

Each year, an estimated 120,000 infants are born with major structural birth defects. One in five infant deaths is due to birth defects, making them the leading cause of infant mortality and a major cause of childhood and adult disability. It is critically important that the public—especially women of childbearing age—and health care professionals have access to clinical and evidence based information about potential risks of medications, illnesses, and other exposures during pregnancy and breast-feeding.

Readily accessible and accurate information holds the potential to decrease the incidence of birth defects and improve infant health. Unfortunately, studies show that up to half of pregnant women are not counseled by their health care providers about the potential teratogenic effects of prescription drugs that they are taking.

Thank you for your leadership on this very important issue, Senator Hagan, we look forward to working with you on this and other issues central to the health and wellbeing of children in communities across the nation and around the world.

Sincerely,

DR. MARINA L. WEISS,
*Senior Vice President, Public Policy
and Government Affairs.*

ZERO TO THREE,[®]

Washington, DC, May 20, 2011.

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,
*2413 Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DELAURO: on behalf of ZERO TO THREE: National Center on Infants, Toddlers, and Families, I am writing to express our support for the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act. ZERO TO THREE is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the health and development of our nation's youngest children. We translate scientific research and knowledge about the unique needs of infants and toddlers for parents, early childhood practitioners, and policymakers.

In the United States, approximately one in every eight babies is born preterm; one in every 12 is born with low birth weight; and one in every 33 is born with a birth defect. Exposure to environmental toxins while in the womb contributes to all three of these statistics. Babies' development is particularly vulnerable during the prenatal period, when cells are rapidly differentiating, organs are forming, and the brain is undergoing a crucial phase of maturation. Environmental toxins are hazardous to these processes, especially because of the underdevelopment of fetal immune systems.

Prenatal and early exposures yield grave results. Birth defects are the leading cause of infant mortality, and babies born preterm are more than 15 times as likely to die in their first year of life. Low birth weight babies are more likely to require neonatal intensive care for problems like respiratory distress, bleeding in the brain, and dangerous heart and intestinal problems. Later in life, babies exposed to environmental toxins are more likely to develop childhood cancer, asthma and obesity, and infertility. Their exposure places them at heightened risk for an array of physical and developmental disorders that diminish their capacity for

healthy development, school success, and productive contribution to society and the workforce. In addition, treatment of diseases and disorders caused by exposure raises health care costs.

This Act takes an important step towards decreasing early exposure to environmental toxins by establishing a federal grant program to fund Pregnancy Risk Information Services (PRIS) throughout the country. PRIS provide pregnant and breastfeeding women and their physicians with evidence-based information about exposure to medications, chemicals, illicit drugs, alcohol, infections, and illnesses that may pose a risk to the healthy development of a fetus or breastfeeding baby. They also fill critical knowledge gaps by recruiting women for surveillance and research projects that study the effects of toxins on babies' development. Mothers are hungry for medically-grounded advice to guide their actions while pregnant and breastfeeding. This bill would provide them with access to the information they need to make healthy, responsible choices for their children.

On behalf of ZERO TO THREE and the four million babies born each year in the United States, thank you for your steadfast work to defend children's health and development. We are pleased to support the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act and look forward to continuing to work together to improve the lives of infants and toddlers.

Sincerely,
 MATTHEW E. MELMED, JD,
Executive Director.

A TRIBUTE TO BRANDON
 SCHRAUTH

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special teacher from Waukegan, IA. His name is Brandon Schrauth and he was recently selected to receive the 2010 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

This program recognizes our nation's most outstanding teachers for their contribution to the teaching and learning of math and science. For his exemplary achievement, Brandon has received both a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation as well as a signed certificate from President Obama.

President Obama named only 85 teachers across the country to be worthy of this prestigious award saying that its recipients "demonstrate uncommon skill and devotion in the classroom, nurturing the young minds of tomorrow's science and math leaders."

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent Brandon and his students in the United States Congress. Brandon is a true testament to Iowa's reputation of a strong work ethic and world class education. I know my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating Brandon and I wish him the best of luck in the future.

HONORING THE CHILDREN OF THE
 TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PRO-
 GRAM FOR SURVIVORS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor America's greatest resource—our children and in particular those of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, our Gold Star children, who are the loved ones of our fallen heroes. This Memorial Day and every day, I ask all Americans to keep a special place in their hearts for these wonderful and brave children. As with each coming year, we see in each child's face the image of their parents and we are continually reminded of their heroism and selflessness and that freedom certainly does not come without a price. May these children of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our great nation always know that while their loved ones are up guarding Heaven's gates, their spirit will continue to live on inside of each of them. I ask that the poem Albert Caswell penned in their honor, *The Best Part of Them*, be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

THE BEST PART OF THEM

My child, I know you heard the news today. . . .
 I'm going so far away. . . .
 I'm so sorry I can't be here to stay. . . .
 But, heaven for me could not wait. . . .
 But, remember you carry, Me In You in your heart each day. . . .
 My Little boys and little girls, it's for you I now so pray. . . .
 Teenagers and new born's who have so lost your best friends have they. . . .
 Your Daddy and Mommy, aren't coming home. . . as it's up to heaven they have flown. . . .
 And you will never see them again. . . .
 As you have all just lost your best friends!
 As up towards Heaven they have flown . . . to Heaven sent. . . .
 As Angels in The Army of Our Lord, to defend. . . .
 And as you lay your precious heads down to sleep. . . .
 I pray to the Lord, the strength that he will give to you to keep. . . .
 But remember this, so very deep. . . .
 Inside of you, Is The Best Part of Me, your Mothers and Fathers hearts to so keep!
 For The Best Part of Them, Is Part of You. . . . as inside of your fine hearts, they so beat. . . .
 And I know that you will never hear them say your name again. . . .
 All in their most special ways, as you have but all but lost your best friends. . . .
 I'm so sorry that in such pain you must now so live. . . .
 And I know it's so unfair, that little soldiers you became. . . .
 My little girls and boys, as when all of the tears began. . . .
 Oh children, I know how bad that you so wish to hear that voice. . . .
 I know it's so unfair, and for you had no choice. . . .
 As you but wish for just that one last long hug. . . .
 All from your greatest Heroes, your greatest of all loves. . . .
 Take heart now my child, for they are but with our Lord high up above. . . .

The ones who all so taught you the very meaning of love. . . .
 Who in the middle of the night, when you were scared. . . . would hold you tight!
 Yea, I know it makes you cry. . . . it makes me cry too. . . .
 Whenever, I think of them. . . . and I think of you. . . .
 But, they died. . . . but, for The Greater Good. . . .
 All for what is right and what is true. . . .
 All for Freedom, they so gave That Last Full Measure all for us and you!
 Moments, are all we have upon this earth. . . .
 Just seconds, to but show our Lord God all in our worth. . . .
 And though they will not be here on Christmas or Hanukkah mourns. . . .
 With all of their smiles and hugs, so very warm.
 And they will not be able to tuck you in at night. . . .
 And watch you all grow up to be their hearts delight!
 And walk you down that aisle, with smiles so very bright. . . .
 But, remember this my child each morning as you awake. . . .
 I pray to you. . . . that this to all of your souls to so take. . . .
 That the greatest day of their short lives, was but that one when you arrived!
 And The Greatest Wish, all in their hearts. . . . that they so prayed for and so cried. . . .
 Was that you would all so grow up to have but the greatest of all lives. . . .
 So when you wake in the middle of the night, all in your tears of fright. . . .
 Missing all of your loved ones, that which you now so wish to hold onto tight. . . .
 Remember this, your Mothers. . . . your Fathers, are but Angels now in flight. . . .
 And this morning when you awoke, could you but not feel their arms around you so close. . . .
 As now they watch over you every moment, and hour. . . .
 Listen for them on the wind, for you will hear them now. . . .
 And yes they will be with you as you walk down that aisle. . . .
 And see you graduate, as up in Heaven they wear their smiles. . . .
 Take heart, because part of them is now part of you!
 For The Best Part of Them, all in your fine hearts beats inside of you. . . .
 So now you must find the same such courage, as once they had so too!
 To march on, as we watch you all grow up. . . . as we see your parents faces all in you. . . .
 So, ever remember this my child. . . .
 The Best Part of Them, is now part of you. . . .
 As their fine hearts so beat so all inside of you so true!
 So now you know what you must do!
 Lift up your heads, and make all of their wishes so come true!
 Find The Strength, all with what their fine hearts so meant that which beat so all inside of you!
 And one day up in Heaven, you'll will once again all be together so too!
 Because, The Best Part of Them. . . . Is what is inside of You!
 Amen. . . .

OPPOSING POLITICAL KILLINGS
BY THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the current campaign of extra-judicial killing being waged by the government of Rwanda. Political assassination has no role to play in the twenty first century. It must be condemned and it must cease. The government of Rwanda should understand that the large amounts of aid that Rwanda receives through America's generosity can not and will not be given to a state that kills its own citizens overseas and at home for political ends.

The government of Rwanda is conducting a campaign of terror and murder against those it sees as enemies. On May 19, 2011 the New York Times reported that Rwandan dissidents in London had been warned by Scotland Yard that the Rwandan government "was plotting to kill them." The BBC reported on May 21st that British police had told the men that "The Rwandan government poses an immediate threat to your life."

These are not just empty threats. The British police prevented a Rwandan assassin from entering the UK. In June 2010, former Rwandan Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa, survived a botched assassination attempt in South Africa. Later that same month, Rwandan journalist, Jean-Leonard Rugabage, working on a story on the attack on Mr. Nyamwasa, was himself shot dead in Kigali.

The Government of Rwanda is using every means at its disposal to harass those it sees as enemies but whom are merely exercising their democratic rights. In January 2011, four former top officials—including Gen Nyamwasa—who have fallen out with President Kagame and gone into exile were sentenced in absentia to long terms in prison for threatening state security and promoting ethnic divisions. My own constituent, American citizen and distinguished human rights lawyer and campaigner, Paul Erlinder, was detained on bogus charges for several weeks in Kigali.

Rwanda's recent history has been tragic, but a stable and prosperous country has been born from the ashes of the 1994 genocide. However, this tragic history does not give the current government the right to commit murder. The United States currently gives Rwanda over \$200 million per year in aid. This generosity must surely be reexamined if the government continues to attack and kill those it disagrees with.

[From the BBC News, Africa]

RWANDAN EXILES IN LONDON "THREATENED BY HITMAN"

TWO RWANDAN EXILES LIVING IN LONDON WERE WARNED LAST WEEK BY UK POLICE THAT THEY FACED THE THREAT OF ASSASSINATION.

It has emerged that the men were visited by officers who told them they were in danger of being killed by a hitman sent by the Rwandan government.

Shortly before the warning was issued, a Rwandan man suspected of involvement was prevented from entering the UK.

The Rwandan High Commission in London has denied involvement in any alleged plot to kill the two exiles.

"The government of Rwanda does not threaten the lives of its citizens wherever they live," High Commissioner Ernest Rwamucyo said.

The government later said that the Metropolitan police had not approached it with evidence of the allegations.

"We are ready as always to work with them to ensure that nobody, be they Rwandan or not, is the victim of violence on British soil," a statement said, quoted by the New Times website in Kigali.

"SCARED"

The two men—Rene Mugenzi and Jonathan Musonera—have both been involved in political groups opposed to the ruling party of Rwanda's President Paul Kagame.

A week ago, UK police officers knocked on their doors and told them that they could not guarantee their safety. They advised them to increase the security around their homes or move away.

The police gave them written statements saying: "The Rwandan government poses an immediate threat to your life. The threat could come in any form."

It is understood that shortly before visiting the two men, counter-terrorism officers had stopped a Rwandan man as he tried to enter the country at Folkestone.

They questioned the unidentified man and turned him away.

Mr. Musonera said he and his family were very scared.

"I was not surprised, because this is not the first time they've tried to disturb the opposition," he told the BBC's Focus on Africa programme after learning about the death threat.

"I take this problem very seriously. I used to drive my car. Right now I stopped because the police told me to use limited movement or go out with friends.

"My wife, she is scared. We have cut off the home phone. The children now they stay at home, they can't go out. They can't go out with friends. I stopped visitors coming to our home."

OPPOSITION MEETING

BBC Africa analyst Martin Plaut says it is not the first time there have been reports of threats to Rwandan exiles living in the UK.

The UK's Security Service (MI5) has apparently been attempting to prevent an assassination campaign for some time, he adds.

In April, it was reported that MI5 had warned Mr Rwamucyo to halt an alleged campaign of harassment against critics of his country's government.

The police's warning was issued just prior to a meeting in London of exiles last weekend that brought together Tutsi and Hutu opposition politicians.

The meeting heard from a former Rwandan chief of staff, Lt Gen Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa, who addressed the gathering by videolink from South Africa, where he survived an assassination attempt in June 2010.

The Rwanda government has denied any links to the shooting of Gen Nyamwasa, who was a close ally of Mr Kagame before fleeing to South Africa last year.

The party representing the imprisoned Hutu politician, Victoire Ingabire, was also at the meeting.

The possibility that Hutu and Tutsi political parties could begin working together would be worrying for the Rwandan government, our correspondent says.

In January, four former top officials—including Gen Nyamwasa—who have fallen out with Mr Kagame and gone into exile were sentenced in absentia to long terms in prison for threatening state security and promoting ethnic divisions.

President Kagame's Rwandan Patriotic Front came to power in 1994, ending the

genocide in which some 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed.

He was re-elected last year with 93% of the vote, amid opposition claims of harassment.

[From the New York Times, May 19, 2011]
BRITISH POLICE WARN RWANDAN DISSIDENTS
OF THREAT

(By Josh Kron and Jeffrey Gettleman)

KAMPALA, UGANDA.—The British police have warned two outspoken Rwandan dissidents living in London that their lives are in danger because the Rwandan government may be plotting to kill them, according to British officials and documents.

In hand-delivered letters dated May 12, the Metropolitan Police Service warned the dissidents that the threat on their lives "could come in any form" and that "unconventional means" had been used before.

"Reliable intelligence states that the Rwandan government poses an imminent threat to your life," the warning letters read. They added, "Although the Metropolitan Police Service will take what steps it can to minimize the risk, the police cannot protect you from this threat on a day-by-day, hour-by-hour basis."

British officials confirmed the documents' authenticity on Thursday.

Human rights groups have increasingly criticized the Rwandan government as being repressive and intolerant of any dissent, and several Rwandan dissidents living abroad have been mysteriously killed.

Last year, a former Rwandan general who had broken with the government was shot in South Africa, and assailants later tried to kill him while he was recovering in the hospital. Western diplomats contended that was evidence of a government plot to kill him.

The Rwandan government has rejected such accusations, including any threats in London.

"The government of Rwanda does not threaten the lives of its citizens wherever they live," it said in a statement. "The Metropolitan Police have not approached us with evidence of allegations, but we are ready, as always, to work with them to ensure that nobody, be they Rwandan or not, is the victim of violence on British soil."

The form letters, signed by a member of the Metropolitan Police Service, did not vouch for the accuracy of the threat but said it came from a source whose account the police had "no reason to disbelieve."

One of the recipients of the warning, Rene Claudel Mugenzi, has been actively working with Rwandan opposition groups in London and said he was contacted by the British police late on May 12. "They said it was important," Mr. Mugenzi said, "that I should not leave home."

Mr. Mugenzi, 35, said he was aware that the Rwandan government did not appreciate his political views. But when two police officers showed up at his door in east London around 10:30 p.m. and told him and his wife of a threat to his life, he said he was speechless.

"I did not think they could think to kill me here in the U.K.," he said.

Mr. Mugenzi says that in March he asked a pointed question to Rwanda's president, Paul Kagame, during a BBC call-in show about whether Mr. Kagame believed an Egypt-style revolution could happen in Rwanda.

He also helped organize a recent meeting of exiled Rwandans in London. The Rwandan government has accused many opposition officials of working with a rebel group in eastern Congo that has been classified as a terrorist group by the United States and linked to the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Mr. Mugenzi, who says he holds British as well as Rwandan citizenship, also works as a director at the London Center for Social Impact. He ran with the Liberal Democrats in local London elections last year and lost.

He has been living in Britain since 1997 and has frequently criticized Rwanda's government for rights abuses.

"Take such remedial action as you see fit to increase your own safety measures, e.g., house burglar alarms, change of daily routines, always walk with an associate," said the warning letter. "It may even be that you decide that it is more appropriate for you to leave the area for the foreseeable future."

He said he had no plans to leave, but he was not ruling it out.

The other recipient of the warning, Jonathan Musonera, said he was a former Rwandan Army captain who fled to Britain in 2001 after defecting while the army was fighting in Congo. He said he was subsequently tortured by the Rwandan government. Now a critic of the government, he said the British police visited his home about an hour before the visit to Mr. Mugenzi.

"They told me about the Rwandan government," Mr. Musonera said, "that they put my life in danger and they were trying to kill me."

Critics of the Rwandan government have been killed or have simply vanished. Seth Sendashonga, a former member of the governing party, was fatally shot in Kenya in 1998. Augustin Cyiza, a former vice president of Rwanda's Supreme Court, disappeared and is believed to have been killed in 2003. Leonard Hitimana, an opposition politician, disappeared the same year.

A Rwandan journalist covering the apparent assassination attempt of the general in South Africa was shot dead the day his story was published. The shooting strained relations between South Africa and Rwanda, with South Africa recalling its ambassador in August.

Last month, *The Independent*, a British newspaper, reported that Britain's domestic intelligence service, MI5, had warned Rwanda's high commissioner in London that a harassment campaign against Rwandan dissidents must be stopped or more than \$100 million in foreign aid to Rwanda could be cut.

The Rwandan government has repeatedly denied that it represses its citizens or has had a hand in any of the attacks on high-profile dissidents.

MR. DOUGLAS RAY BARR—
IN MEMORY OF HIS MORE THAN 32
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, I have the privilege of recognizing Douglas Ray Barr for his more than 32 years as a veteran of the fire service and 21 years as a veteran of the Violet Township Fire Department, and honoring his many accomplishments prior to his passing on February 27 of this year.

Douglas Ray Barr was born to Daniel and Julia Barr on July 20, 1958, in Pleasantville, Ohio where he grew up with his two younger brothers Keith and Brad. A gifted athlete, he played multiple sports at Fairfield Union High School as well as collegiate baseball at Otterbein University. After college, Douglas followed his love of working with kids by teaching students with learning disabilities at his alma mater, Fairfield Union High School, and P.E. at Pleasantville Elementary School before entering the fire service in 1978.

Doug began his firefighting career with the Pleasantville Fire Department and the Newark Air Force base where he volunteered for 12 years. He began working at the Violet Township Fire Department in 1990 where he was promoted to Lieutenant in 1996, and Assistant Chief in 2008.

Doug was extremely active in the community as well. He was very active in organizations such as the United Way, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Pickerington Area Chamber of Commerce and the Central Ohio Fire Chiefs Association, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Fairfield Union Local School District board of education where he served as a member from 2002 to 2009. He was also an instructor for the Ohio Fire Academy and Eastland Vocational School for fire and EMS training.

Among his numerous achievements, Douglas received the American Red Cross Safety Hero award in 2006 and was a two-time recipient of the Knights of Columbus Blue Coat Award for his invaluable contributions.

On Sunday, February 27, 2011, Douglas Barr passed away at the age of 52, at Fairfield Medical Center surrounded by family and friends. We are all eternally grateful for the countless hours he spent during his 24 years of service.

Douglas Barr was a man dedicated to his friends, family and community. His family remembers him as always putting others first and for the pride he took in his job as Assistant Fire Chief.

Douglas Barr has been regarded as selfless, courageous, driven and flexible by his friends and co-workers. It is these attributes that make Douglas Barr truly representative of America.

Douglas Barr will be remembered for his selflessness, his bravery and for his life of service to his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain my absence from votes cast on the evening of May 25, 2011. My voting percentage is 97.5 percent for the 112th Congress, and I rarely miss votes, but due to a prior commitment scheduled before we knew the House would be in session late tonight, I was required to fly back to Houston and miss the vote to concur with Senate amendments to the PATRIOT Act.

On the vote I missed:

To approve and concur with the Senate amendments on the PATRIOT Act, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

And on final passage of the PATRIOT Act, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING BEVERLY MAYO AS
THE 2011 FLORIDA BIG SISTER
OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Beverly Mayo as the 2011 Florida Big Sister of the Year. For ten years, Ms. Mayo has been an inspiration to young women, her colleagues, and the Northwest Florida community. I am honored to recognize her achievements.

The children of today are the leaders of tomorrow, and these young men and women look to the adults in their lives for support and guidance. Ms. Mayo understands how vital it is for children to have positive role models in their lives. Her solid character, invaluable advice and kind heart exemplify the characteristics of a Big Sister. Through her tireless dedication, Beverly Mayo has made an incredible impact on the lives of these young women, providing them a strong foundation for their future success. I am confident that her influence will continue to inspire them to achieve excellence as they grow to lead and serve our great nation.

Volunteers of Big Brothers Big Sisters play an integral role in the lives of all the young men and women of whom they mentor. Every year, thousands of people volunteer their service to this important organization. Last year, in Florida alone, over 15,000 men and women served as Big Brothers or Big Sisters, and from this exemplary group Beverly Mayo was selected as the Florida Big Sister of the Year. This honor is a reflection of the enduring impact Ms. Mayo has made in the lives of her Little Sisters, and Northwest Florida is blessed to have her a part of its community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor Beverly Mayo for her accomplishments and her continuing commitment to the youth of Florida.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 24 at 6 p.m. through the morning of Wednesday, May 25, I was unavoidably detained in Chicago, Illinois for personal reasons, resulting in my absence from recorded votes for H.R. 1216, to amend the Public Health Service Act to convert funding for graduate medical education in qualified teaching health centers from direct appropriations to an authorization of appropriations.

If present I would have recorded my votes as the following: on rollcall vote 335 "aye"; on rollcall vote 336 "aye"; on rollcall vote 337 "aye"; on rollcall vote 338 "no"; on rollcall vote 339 "aye"; on rollcall vote 340 "no."

IN HONOR OF AVA BERRY TURNER
ON THE OCCASION OF HER RE-
TIREMENT

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated individual, a proud veteran, and an exemplary civil servant, Ms. Ava Berry Turner. She is retiring after almost thirty-five years of dedicated service to her country.

Ms. Turner has served her country in a number of ways over the last four decades. In 1974, she enlisted in the U.S. Army, where she rose through the ranks to serve as a Supply Sergeant. She honed her excellent communication skills in the Army and became an Army communications specialist. She was honorably discharged in 1980, and then went on to pursue academic endeavors, utilizing benefits under the GI bill.

In 1982, she enrolled at the North Carolina Central University in Durham. She graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1985, majoring in Public Administration, with a minor in Business Administration, and then began work at the Internal Revenue Service. She rose through the ranks of the IRS, starting her career as a Revenue Officer and advancing to the position of Bankruptcy Specialist. From there, she became Assistant Problem Resolution Officer, then Problem Resolution Officer. She was appointed to serve as the Local Taxpayer Advocate for the State of Arizona, then promoted to the national headquarters of the Taxpayer Advocate Office in Washington, DC, where she was the Manager in Systemic Advocacy, followed by appointment as the Manager in the office of Low Income Tax Payer Clinics.

Using her exceptional communication and management skills, she now serves as a Senior Program Analyst in Technical Analysis and Guidance. Her colleagues describe her work as outstanding, and her accomplishments are the result of years of hard work and dedication to her chosen profession.

There is no doubt that her service will continue, even into her retirement. She will be greatly missed by her colleagues at the Internal Revenue Service. It will be difficult to replace her, but her incredible work ethic is an inspiration to those who have served with her.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to stand before you today to congratulate Ms. Ava Berry Turner on her retirement and to thank her for her many years of distinguished service to our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I am recorded as voting "aye" on rollcall vote No. 344; this was inadvertent. I intended to vote "no," as I do not support Congressman HUNTER's amendment (#12) to H.R. 1540. Amendment #12 would create a five-year pilot program to provide school vouchers set at \$7,500.00 to dependent children with special

needs for the purpose of attending a public, private, or charter school of choice.

Because I oppose this initiative, I ask the record to reflect my intention to vote as follows:

1. On rollcall No. 344, I intended to vote "no." Hunter Amendment (#11) to H.R. 1540.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EXPE-
DITING AGRICULTURE THROUGH
SCIENCE (EATS) ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue of great importance to family farmers and agricultural businesses. The world's population is predicted to be 9.1 billion by 2050, greatly straining the world's food supply. Family Farmers across this country will lead the world in the production of a safe, secure food supply. In order for tomorrow's agriculture community to meet the need of an ever growing population, we must have a clearly defined timetable for agriculture's biotechnology approval process, while ensuring the safety of our environment. This reason for this is simple; it is the law of supply and demand. As demand for food rises, more efficient, higher yielding crops, which are more resistant to weeds and pests will be needed to feed 9.1 billion people. Providing a defined timetable for the approval process of agriculture biotechnology will provide certainty to make decisions and encourage companies to make investments in biotechnology products, which in turn will create jobs and provide the United States with the ability to meet the world's food needs.

The Plant Protection Act of 2000 (7 USC §7701 et seq.) as amended, directs the Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to regulate biotech organisms and plants in order to ensure no biotech product poses a risk to the environment. However, the regulatory uncertainty created by APHIS not following their own timetable hinders job creation and stifles innovative agriculture breakthroughs that will lead to a safer, more secure food supply. That is why I am proud to introduce the Expediting Agriculture Through Science Act, otherwise known as the EATS Act, which clearly defines the amount of time to approve or deny a petition for non-regulated status for biotech crops. Countries throughout the world are developing and implementing biotech crops that produce more and cost less. In today's global economy, Congress must act quickly to ensure family farmers in the United States maintain their superiority in the biotech field and continue to compete globally.

A clearly defined timetable to approve a petition for biotech crops allows businesses to plan and invest in the biotech field while maintaining the protections needed to ensure any biotech product introduced into the environment poses no threat to the environment. The EATS Act will simply codify the current time limit in §340.6 of the Federal Code of Regulations, which is currently 180 days. Under current agency practice, APHIS is not following the 180 day time limit for approval or denial of the petition. The EATS Act gives APHIS 180

days to approve or deny a petition for non-regulated status with an additional 60 days if needed to ensure the safety of our environment and compliance is met before deeming the petition approved.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the EATS Act in order to ensure the agricultural community can compete globally and meet the food supply needs of the world.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST
HOSPITAL IN JOHNSON CITY,
TENNESSEE

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 100th anniversary earlier this month of the construction of the first hospital in Johnson City, Tennessee. Johnson City Memorial Hospital opened on May 10, 1911, as a 10-bed facility in a white, wooden-framed house. High demand for medical care would lead to larger facilities, culminating with Johnson City Medical Center.

Today, JCMC serves 29 counties and a population of more than 1.1 million people in four states with its Level 1 trauma program, the region's top heart program, a comprehensive cancer center, the region's state-designated perinatal center, and Wings Air Rescue.

This facility, and the evolution of health care in Northeast Tennessee, illustrates the effect of consumer demand on health care, and its power to improve it. It did not take a 2,000 page bill for this network to evolve. Instead, medical professionals and members of the local community did what was necessary to meet changing needs. I congratulate Johnson City Medical Center on its 100 year anniversary, and wish it further success in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, from Wednesday, May 25 until Thursday, May 26 at 3 p.m., I was unavoidably detained in Chicago, Illinois for personal reasons, and missed recorded votes for H. Res. 276, and H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

If present, I would have recorded my votes as the following: on rollcall vote 341 "no"; on rollcall vote 342 "no"; on rollcall vote 343 "aye"; on rollcall vote 344 "no"; on rollcall vote 345 "aye"; on rollcall vote 346 "aye"; on rollcall vote 347 "no"; on rollcall vote 348 "aye"; on rollcall vote 349 "aye"; on rollcall vote 350 "aye"; on rollcall vote 351 "aye"; on rollcall vote 352 "aye"; on rollcall vote 353 "aye"; on rollcall vote 354 "no"; on rollcall vote 355 "no"; on rollcall vote 356 "aye"; on rollcall vote 357 "no"; on rollcall vote 358 "aye"; on rollcall vote 359 "no"; on rollcall vote 360 "aye"; on rollcall vote 361 "aye"; on

rollcall vote 362 “no”; on rollcall vote 363 “no”; on rollcall vote 364 “aye”; on rollcall vote 365 “aye”; on rollcall vote 366 “aye”; on rollcall vote 367 “aye”; on rollcall vote 368 “aye”; on rollcall vote 369 “aye”; on rollcall vote 370 “aye”; on rollcall vote 371 “aye”; on rollcall vote 372 “no”; on rollcall vote 373 “aye”; on rollcall vote 374 “aye”; on rollcall vote 375 “no.”

HONORING GEORGE H. STROHSAHL

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of an American hero and my friend, Rear Admiral George H. Strohsahl. RADM Strohsahl passed away on Sunday, May 22, 2011. Over the course of his life, his vision and dedication to Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) and the Ventura County community at large were greatly inspiring. It is truly an honor to pay tribute to him today.

Admiral Strohsahl's Navy career spanned 39 years starting as a Midshipman at the Naval Academy in 1955 and finishing as the Commander for the Naval Air Warfare Center, the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation organization of Naval Aviation with 10 installations across the country and over 25,000 employees. During his career he flew jet attack aircraft from aircraft carriers in both the Pacific and Atlantic fleets which included two tours of combat flying in Vietnam and command of an A-6 squadron. He was the Air Boss on USS *Nimitz* and played himself in the popular Kirk Douglas movie “Final Countdown.”

He was the director of the Tactical Air Analysis office in the Pentagon which was part of the McNamara systems analysis team known as the “Whiz Kids.” He was Program Manager for the F/A-18 Hornet Family of aircraft which was and still is the largest aircraft acquisition program in the Navy. He commanded the Pacific Missile Test Center at Point Mugu from 1988 to 1990 and as senior Naval officer for the South Central California area was active in many civic organizations in Ventura County at that time.

Over the years, I have worked with RADM Strohsahl on many issues that affect Naval Base Ventura County. I particularly appreciated his leadership during our fight against the Base Realignment and Closure Commission process. His testimony before the 2005 Commission was instrumental in minimizing the amount of technical work being removed and job loss from our base. He was a steadfast advocate for the Navy and worked endlessly to ensure others understood the importance of our military.

RADM Strohsahl was married for 44 years to the late Marvalyn Fiske. They raised three children, one of whom resides now in Ventura with her husband and family. He is blessed today to be married to Mary Anne Vernallis of Newbury Park whose late husband, Sam, was a long-time associate of George's in the Navy and a well-respected civic leader in Ventura County. Together, George and Mary Anne share 5 children and 8 grandchildren.

I know I speak on behalf of the entire Ventura County community when I say RADM

Strohsahl will be greatly missed. His commitment and hard work on behalf of NVBC and our community at large will be felt for generations to come. While his resume is tremendously impressive, he might best be known by his family, friends and co-workers as a generous, patriotic and altruistic man. It is a great honor to pay tribute to his life.

THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1450) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chair, I was pleased to support Mr. LANGEVIN's Amendment #49 to H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 earlier today. In the 111th Congress, I supported substantially similar language, H.R. 4900, offered by Representative Watson and approved by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

I agree with President Obama that the “cyber threat is one of the most serious economic and national security challenges we face as a nation.” Given the increasing connectivity between information systems, the Internet, and critical infrastructure such as our electrical grid, telecommunications systems, and financial systems, we must be able to defend these systems against cyber attacks from any origin.

Cyber threats and attacks against information systems have continued to grow in both volume and intensity in recent years. Statistics from the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team indicate that the number of reported cyber incidents at federal agencies has increased over the last five years from approximately 5,000 in fiscal year 2006 to more than 41,000 in fiscal year 2010.

Mr. LANGEVIN's amendment represents an important step to help secure our nation from cyber attacks by codifying multiple policy recommendations made by the Obama Administration, public-private sector working groups, and the Government Accountability Office. I am pleased to support these efforts, and I look forward to working with Mr. LANGEVIN and the rest of my colleagues in the House and Senate to develop a comprehensive legislative proposal to strengthen our nation's cybersecurity.

I am also pleased that the Obama Administration released its initial legislative proposal on cybersecurity last week. The proposal represents the start of a serious bipartisan discussion on cybersecurity legislation, and I look forward to participating in those conversations.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN ON “REPUBLIC DAY”

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 93rd anniversary of Republic Day on May 28th. Later this year, Azerbaijan will also celebrate the 20th anniversary of its freedom from the Soviet Union and the beginning of diplomatic relations with the United States.

Located at the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe, Azerbaijan was established in 1918 becoming the first democratic and secular republic in the Muslim world before being incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1920. The country regained its independence in 1991.

The U.S. and Azerbaijan have developed a strong relationship through the opening of Caspian energy sources for development by American companies, which has also allowed the country to emerge as an essential player in global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project has become a vital part of delivering Caspian Sea resources to the U.S. and our partners in Europe, and serves as a prime example of the development of the South Caucasus region. Most notably, in 2009 nearly one quarter of all crude oil supplies to Israel were provided by Azerbaijan, and the country emerged as a leading potential natural gas provider for the U.S. supported Nabucco pipeline.

Azerbaijan has continually assisted the United States on matters of international security, supporting and participating in operations in both Kosovo and Iraq as well as being actively engaged in Afghanistan. In addition to recently doubling its military presence in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan has regularly facilitated landing and refueling operations for U.S. and NATO forces in the region. Furthermore, Azerbaijan offered strong and immediate aid to the United States directly following the devastating events of 9/11.

Again, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 93rd anniversary of Republic Day, and to recognize the valuable bilateral relationship between the United States and Azerbaijan.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST INDIANAPOLIS 500

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day Weekend means many things to Americans. It is a time to remember those who have taken up arms on our behalf and did not make it home. It is also the unofficial start of summer. But to Hoosiers and race fans across the country, this weekend also means that it is time to head to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for this year's Indianapolis 500.

For just over one hundred years, the center of the auto racing world has been located in

central Indiana. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway has been the testing ground that has led to the development of many of the technologies that we see in today's passenger vehicles.

This weekend marks the 100th anniversary of the Speedway's premier event: The Indianapolis 500 Mile Race. Over the last century, race fans from all walks of life have been treated to some of the most compelling stories ever seen in the sporting world.

The winner of the 1911 race completed the 500 miles with an average speed of 75 miles per hour, while the racers attempting to make history this weekend will circle the 2.5 mile track at speeds well in excess of 200 miles per hour.

Like many Hoosiers, I look forward to the Race, one of our proudest traditions each and every year. We have come to know the names of Harroun, Foyt, Unser and Andretti in the time since Carl Fisher, Arthur Newby, Frank Wheeler and James Allison helped found the Speedway back in 1909.

Following World War II, Indiana businessman Tony Hulman purchased the track from then-owner, World War I flying ace Eddie Rickenbacker. Since that time, the Speedway has been owned by the Hulman-George family.

The stewardship of Mari Hulman and Tony George, along with entire the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Board of Directors has helped the 500 Mile Race become the world's largest single day sporting event, and you can bet that the more than a quarter of a million seats at the Speedway will be packed with race fans this weekend from Indiana and beyond.

So, this weekend my family and I will once again return to the Speedway to see history made at amazing speeds and I am eager to once again be Back Home Again in Indiana for the Greatest Spectacle in Racing.

HONORING BRIDGEPORT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS OF 2011

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the graduating Class of 2011 from Bridgeport High School in Bridgeport, Washington. These students were finalists in President Obama's Commencement Challenge, and because of their inspiring story, deserve to be recognized.

Bridgeport is a public school in eastern Washington State where students are forging a way to bring energy and talent to a small, rural orchard community. Most of the students I recognize today have overcome incredible challenges in order to graduate this June. Many of them will be among the first in their families to do so and all of them are on free or reduced lunch plans, an indicator of the difficult economic circumstances overcome by these students and their families.

Only two students in the class have parents that graduated from high school. Yet, 90 percent of the students will receive their diplomas and 82 percent of the students are college-bound. This is a remarkable accomplishment

and something for which all schools should strive.

The principal, teachers, students, and families of Bridgeport High School should be commended for their success. They have demonstrated that by working together, we can close the academic achievement gap, improve graduation rates, and most of all, help students realize their dreams.

Congratulations to the exemplary graduating class at Bridgeport:

Adriana Gomez Saucedo—Valedictorian; Ana Berta Soto Mendez—Salutatorian; Javier Aguilar; Elvis Alcaraz; Michael Baca; Norma Camacho; Brooke Desjardins; Fredy Eduardo Flores; Elizabeth Gameros Garcia; Maria Elizabeth Garcia Gomez; Miranda Garza Trevino; Alejandro Jr. Gomez Camacho; Irma Gomez Garcia; Nadia Gonzalez Garcia; Lizbet Lopez Casillas; Maria Alexis Macedo Ruiz; Baltazar Muñoz Perez; Mauro Efrain Mosqueda; Marisol Vanessa Valdovinos Aleman; Carina Ochoa Valdovinos; Christian Perales Barboza; Ricardo Perez Rojas; Miguel Angel Ramos Parbol; Paige Leone Rodriguez; Rosendo Rodriguez Hernandez Jr.; Erika Berenice Saucedo Rubio; Samuel Soto Rojas; Alfredo Ubaldo Rosas; Joaquin Valdovinos Infante; Xenia Valdovinos Perez; Daniel Velasco Velasco; Jasmine Mogollan Roa; Olivia Silva Dominguez; Veronica Nicole Saucedo; Elodia Isabel Jimenez Valdovinos; Carina Velasquez.

VICKI GOTTLICH; A TRUE
ADVOCATE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Vicki Gottlich for her more than three decades of advocacy on behalf of senior citizens and their families. She has been a treasured resource for all of us concerned about protecting and strengthening Medicare and Medicaid and improving the wellbeing of older Americans. Along the way, she has also worked on issues that affect persons with disabilities and working families.

Vicki is leaving the Center for Medicare Advocacy, where she has served as Senior Policy Attorney since January 2000. Before that, she worked as staff attorney for the National Senior Citizens Law Center, the managing attorney for the Prince George's County Senior Citizens Law Project, and the associate director of the National Law Center's Institute of Law and Aging at George Washington University.

In each of those roles, Vicki demonstrated her absolute commitment to improving the lives of senior citizens. In my work as co-chair of the Seniors Task Force and a member of the House Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health, I am able to work with many skilled policy analysts. Vicki is certainly one of the very best. She has provided my office with in-depth and cogent analyses of legislative proposals and regulations for years. We have come to rely heavily on Vicki's knowledge and experience and she has always been available to answer questions, provide recommendations or undertake research.

Vicki, though, brings more than policy astuteness to her work. She always keeps her

eye on the real-life impacts that policies have on our constituents and their families. A typical conversation with Vicki will include plenty of discussion about legal points and policy precedents, but it will also include numerous examples of the specific problems facing actual people and how solutions can be crafted to solve those problems.

I want to thank Vicki for sharing her wisdom and skills over the past years. I wish her well in her new role at the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight at CMS, where she will continue to work to improve access to affordable health care for all Americans.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the Chaffetz Amendment to H.R. 1540, the Defense Authorization Bill. The amendment, if passed, would require the immediate withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan with certain limited counterterrorism operations permitted to remain on the ground.

I appreciate the motivation behind the amendment because I too question the wisdom of our continued presence in Afghanistan. We are engaged in a protracted war there, and unlike our operations in Iraq, have yet to see stability and a solid foundation for independence emerge from the sacrifice of our men and women serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.

While I believe that it is time to commence a timely discussion regarding Afghanistan, I do not believe that this amendment to the defense bill is the answer. The amendment short circuits the process necessary for thoughtful action and does not regard seriously the impact of the unintended consequences of immediate withdrawal on the stability of the region.

U.S. forces in Afghanistan have made great strides in the last 6 months. In light of the recent death of Osama Bin Laden, the U.S. military must have the opportunity to consider the ramifications of his death on our current Afghanistan strategy. We have a short window in which the intelligence gained in his death can be leveraged successfully.

How successful further action can or will be is unclear. Al-Qaeda may be able to regroup and revitalize. Regardless, immediate withdrawal will bring neither clarity nor stability to a region in which the United States has offered its highest currency, the blood of our young men and women in uniform.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, today I will vote against the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (NDAA). While nothing is more important than providing the resources needed to keep America and our men and women in uniform safe, this authorization spends too much while falling short in important areas.

The bill authorizes \$690.1 billion for defense programs in FY12. This level of defense spending is almost as much as the rest of the world combined—most of which is done by friendly allies such as NATO (approximately \$350 billion). It also includes an additional \$118.9 billion in specific funds for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan without a plan for a full redeployment from the region. I am disappointed that amendments to require a rapid and thoughtful withdrawal from Afghanistan were not approved. For me, this is reason enough not to support this legislation.

The bill continues the misguided affront on civil liberties by further stalling the implementation of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and requires that "marriage" for any regulation or benefit program at DoD means only a legal union between one man and one woman. This is a step backwards and unacceptable.

It reverses the House victory from earlier this year that finally eliminated the unnecessary alternate engine for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. Similarly, the bill continues to fund the Marine Corps' Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle (EFV) which has also been cited as uneconomical and unwanted by the Secretary of Defense.

Embarrassingly, this authorization contains two key provisions that continue to tie the President's hands by restricting his ability to transfer detainees to the United States for trial in Federal court and to release detainees to countries willing to take them. It is absurd to think that the United States, which currently has thousands of dangerous criminals locked safely behind bars, is incapable of doing the same for terrorists. These provisions continue the Guantanamo quagmire which is ill-advised and a sign of failure at home and to those observing abroad.

There are many positive elements in the bill, such as new rights and protections for victims of sexual assault in the military and increased access to mental health providers for our Reserves. I am pleased three of my amendments were included in the legislation. One amendment lifts the veil on classified immunity for defense contractors, a practice that exposed 36 of our Oregon National Guardsmen to toxic chemicals in Iraq. The other two will help protect our troops on the battlefield and save billions of dollars through energy efficiency initia-

tives. Their inclusion, however, does not offset the overall authorization which fails to reflect America's priorities or our national security realities.

At a time when Americans are calling for reform, this bill—despite some positives—continues our operations in Afghanistan with no plan for withdrawal, ramps up spending and discriminates against our service members. I am hopeful that my colleagues in the Senate can remove some of the provisions that do little to make America secure while we continue to spend almost as much on defense as the rest of the world combined.

REMEMBERING MEMORIAL DAY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day has significant meaning to so many Americans. Unlike the day every fall when we thank those who fought and came home, Memorial Day is that day every spring when we remember those who didn't make it back.

In a tradition that began just three years after the end of the Civil War, Americans set aside the 30th day of May each year to remember the sacrifice made by our service men and women who lost their lives in defense of freedom. Each one of those brave souls answered the call to duty, offering to give whatever it would take to keep us safe.

On May 30, 1868, flowers were placed on the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. This tradition continues to this day, as millions of Americans have continued to take part in this humble offer of thanks.

It is our duty to make sure those who served and their families who endure the many stresses of military life know that we appreciate their willingness to sacrifice for our cause that is freedom. We can never repay the debt we owe, but we will continue to honor their service and sacrifice.

I urge all Hoosiers to take time on Memorial Day to attend a local service remembering our fallen heroes and the families who have made freedom possible. We must mourn those who have fallen and pray for those who stand firmly in the face of unspeakable horrors at this very hour in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

As Americans, we inherit what Lincoln called in his first inaugural address the "mystic chords of memory stretching from every patriot grave." They bind us to the great and the humble, the known and unknown, of Americans past.

The brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces, both past and present, it was their duty to serve. As proud Americans, let this Memorial Day serve as a reminder that it is our duty to always remember those soldiers who have laid down such a sacrifice on our behalf.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act.

It does not make sense to waste billions of tax dollars on an already bloated defense department, particularly in our current economic state. This bill is loaded with unnecessary and redundant funding. For example, it calls for the reckless continuation of the V-22 Osprey program, which has killed over 30 Americans in training alone, and whose termination could save us \$10-12 billion over the next 10 years.

Defense spending currently constitutes almost 60 percent of our discretionary spending. As we are forced to consider cutting important programs that working families depend on, we cannot continue to spend money we do not have—especially on an overly saturated Department of Defense. Americans have voiced their priorities: They want jobs, affordable health care and better education. This Congress must listen.

I have not voted in support of a defense authorization bill throughout my tenure in Congress and I do not intend to start now.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Chair, Chairman MCKEON and Chairman SMITH, thank you for working together on thoughtful procurement reform in the context of this NDAA. As I have said many times before, procurement should not be about theology. Decisions to insure or outsource should never be made on the a priori assumption that less or more government participation will save money. Therefore, I was supportive of including language in the NDAA which would restore the A-76 process. While we must be vigilant to ensure this process accurately accounts for costs, there is no question that analysis must precede insourcing or outsourcing decisions, and A-76 at least attempts to create an analytical process. The fact that such a process was abused during the Bush administration

should not obscure the need for analysis in the future. In a similar vein, I opposed draft proposals which would have established across the board prohibitions on conducting work in-house if the tasks were not inherently governmental. While Federal employees certainly should conduct inherently governmental work, it may also make sense in some cases for them to do work that the Office of Federal Procurement Policy has deemed “closely associated with inherently governmental,” or other functions. For example, when I was Chairman of Fairfax County, our vehicle maintenance were county employees who did outstanding work. There was nothing inherently governmental about oil changes, but Fairfax got the best deal with county employees. We should not preclude analogous arrangements from the Federal Government any more than we should preclude outsourcing vehicle maintenance. In addition to the Committee’s thoughtful approach to insourcing and outsourcing, I greatly appreciate your support for other steps to improve the acquisition environment through improved Federal efficiency. These reforms include adoption of the Federal Acquisition Institute Amendment that Mr. PLATTS and I introduced as well as Mr. LANGEVIN’s amendment to rationalize the responsibilities of the Chief Technology Officer and other executive branch officials with technology policy portfolios. This National Defense Authorization Act represents significant progress for our procurement and technology communities, including both Federal employees and Federal contractors. Thank you for you and your staffs outstanding work on these important issues for our economy and the Federal Government.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, this will be the first time that I have voted against a Defense Authorization Act and I do so with great reluctance. But I also do so with confidence that it is the right decision.

Section 1034 of this bill gives this President and all future Presidents vastly expanded authority to take America to war without further congressional action. It gives the Executive a virtual blank check by authorizing the President to deploy an unlimited number of troops into a war of unlimited duration based on ill-defined standards. The language in 1034 represents a total abdication of congressional responsibility under the Constitution.

The President already has broad authority to use military force against al Qaeda and Taliban forces pursuant to the Authorization of the Use of Military Force (AUMF) that was adopted in 2001. That provision states:

That the President is authorized to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons, in order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States by such nations, organizations or persons.

This bill replaces the existing AUMF with a new provision that provides the President with vast new war-making authority. Under the umbrella of the war against terrorism, it expands the existing broad authority in at least three ways:

DE-LINKS USE OF FORCE FROM 9/11 ATTACKS

The original language gave the President the authority to use military force against any entities he determined to be connected to the attacks of September 11, 2001 or any nation, organization or persons he determined harbored such entities. The new language expands the authority to target entities regardless of their connection to the September 11 attacks.

PERMITS ATTACKS ON UNDEFINED “ASSOCIATED FORCES”

The original language authorized all necessary force against the entities responsible for the 9/11 attacks, but did not provide the authority to wage war against undetermined “associated forces.” The term “associated forces” is totally undefined and would allow any President to apply that term with great elasticity to go to war without congressional approval in any number of situations.

ALLOWS USE OF FORCE AGAINST ENTITIES THAT “SUPPORT” THE TALIBAN, AL QAEDA OR “ASSOCIATED FORCES”

The original language allowed the use of force against entities that “harbored” the terrorist groups that perpetuated the attacks of 9/11. The new language allows the President to wage war, without additional congressional consent, against any entities that substantially support the Taliban, al Qaeda or “associated forces.” This is a much weaker standard than the existing requirement.

Had the Congress included this language in the 2001 AUMF, President Bush could have sent American troops into Iraq without seeking a separate resolution to use force. This language authorizes the Executive to launch military action against an entity that had nothing to do with the attacks of September 11, 2001 so long as the President determines that a country or organization is substantially supporting the Taliban, al Qaeda or “associated forces.” The Bush administration claimed that the regime of Saddam Hussein was allowing Iraqi territory to be used to train al Qaeda elements.

While I believe the Congress made a mistake in voting to authorize President Bush to go to war in Iraq, at least Congress debated and voted on the decision. With this new provision in place, no such vote would have been required.

Under the Constitution, the President of the United States already has relatively broad powers to use military force as Commander in Chief. In addition, the existing Authorization of the Use of Military Force provides the President with additional authority to take military action in a wide array of situations without seeking additional congressional approval or a declaration of war. It is a reckless surrender of congressional responsibility for the Congress

to write this new open-ended blank check for the use of military force. Not even the Executive has been brazen enough to request this new broad grant of authority.

The language in Section 1034 is sloppy, ill-considered and poorly conceived. No hearings were held to consider its full ramifications. This Congress should be ashamed of itself for its careless and cavalier approach to a question of such grave national significance.

I urge the Senate and the President to reject this provision and hope to have an opportunity to vote for a revised Defense Authorization Act that doesn’t undermine the constitutional responsibilities of the Congress.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my concern over a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012 that would limit the access of certain military retirees to the TRICARE Uniformed Services Family Health Plan (USFHP).

As you know, USFHP has been an extremely popular program within the Military Health System since its introduction in 1981, serving more than 115,000 active duty service members, veterans, and their families 16 states, including more than 11,000 in Washington state. USFHP consistently earns a 90 percent satisfaction rating among its enrollees—by far the highest among military beneficiary programs. In addition to its success and popularity, this program plays an integral component in the Department of Defense (DoD) meeting its commitment to provide health care to those who have served our country in uniform.

The provision included in this year’s Defense Authorization bill would terminate health care services under the plan when beneficiaries reach the age of 65 and become eligible to transfer to Medicare. Over one third of all USFHP beneficiaries are currently over 65 and are taking advantage of the USFHP managed care structure. Removing them from the program could undermine the highly effective disease management and prevention aspects of the USFHP, not to mention potentially ending longstanding patient-doctor relationships due to the change in coverage.

USFHP is a fully capitated program, providing quality and efficient care to beneficiaries. Even recently, Congress highlighted the effectiveness of USFHP in the 111th DoD authorization bill, while directing DoD to examine opportunities to improve the broader TRICARE Program. Additionally last year the Director of TRICARE Management engaged USFHP to assist in educating the rest of the DoD system about their highly successful prevention and disease management programs.

As we look to improve the quality of care while addressing high costs, we can learn from effective programs like USFHP, which provides managed care and includes a focus on preventative care and managing chronic illnesses to improve the lives of our service members and potentially creating savings in the long run. Transferring beneficiaries to Medicare will only shift costs, rather than improve the quality of care for those who have served our country.

In light of this, and the success this program has had in providing for those who have served in uniform, I wish to reiterate my support for USFHP. I hope we can avoid major alterations to the US Family Health Plan and continue to offer this service to all eligible beneficiaries, including those over the age of 65, who I believe have earned a right to this high quality program through service to our country.

SIXTH DISTRICT CHEERS AMERICAN IDOL SCOTTY MCCREERY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, for years, the sounds and drama of American Idol have captivated the eyes and ears of Americans, gluing them to their TVs to find out who the next great singing star would be. Over the 11 seasons of American Idol mania, the state of North Carolina and the Sixth District have been well represented in the finals of this singing competition. This season's American Idol competition was no different, ending with 17-year-old Scotty McCreery, from Garner, North Carolina, crowned as the latest American Idol.

Scotty has strong connections to the Sixth District, as well. Several members of Scotty's family live in our area. His grandmother and grandfather, Paquita and Bill McCreery, reside in the Moore County town of Aberdeen, while his aunt and uncle, Tina and Billy Creech, live just down the road in Pinehurst.

The members of Scotty's family, however, are just some of a long line of connections to the Sixth District of North Carolina. We have been home to two previous finalists in the American Idol competition, Fantasia Barrino and Chris Daughtry. Fantasia, from High Point, won the American Idol competition during its third season. Daughtry, from McLeansville, though he did not win the competition, has gone on to become a successful recording artist, releasing several multi-platinum albums.

North Carolina is one of only two states that can boast more than three finalists over the competition's history; the other is Alabama. North Carolina has had a total of seven finalists over the years.

Joining Barrino, Daughtry and McCreery as American Idol finalists are four other proud North Carolinians. Clay Aiken of Raleigh, Bucky Covington of Rockingham, Kellie Pickler of Albermarle, and Anoop Desai of Cary, a UNC-Chapel Hill alumnus, all represented North Carolina in the finals of the competition, as well.

Even Scotty McCreery's grandmother, Paquita, got some face time on American Idol. Like any proud grandmother would do, she

used her chance at the microphone to tell the world, "That's my Scotty."

On behalf of the residents of the Sixth District, we offer our congratulations to Scotty and his family who live in the Sixth District. And from the state of North Carolina, we say again, congratulations, "That's our Scotty."

IN HONOR OF MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT (RET) LEWIS JAY STACK

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero, MGy Sgt (Ret) Lewis Jay Stack. Mr. Stack is being honored by his church, the Avalon United Methodist Church in Albany, Georgia this Sunday. Master Gunnery Sergeant Stack was born on April 21, 1914, and recently celebrated his 97th birthday.

Spurred by a love of country and selfless sacrifice, Master Gunnery Sergeant Stack joined the United States Marine Corps on February 28, 1937 at the age of 23. He served admirably with the 1st Marine Division for several campaigns in World War II, which included Guadalcanal, Cape Gloster, Pllilieu and Okinawa. Master Gunnery Sergeant Stack also served one tour with 1st Marine Air Wing in Japan.

He was stationed at Intin during the Korean War and later served a tour in Vietnam. His final station in the military was at Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia on March 1, 1971. For his service to our country, he was awarded the Purple Heart, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Navy Achievement Medal, Nine Good Conduct medals, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

He has been married to the lovely Ruth Stack for 65 years. They have four children, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren. He has been a member of the Avalon United Methodist Church for almost 47 years.

GEN Douglas Macarthur once said that: "Duty, Honor, Country: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be." Master Gunnery Sergeant Stack did his duty by serving his country, and he did it with honor and dignity because of his deep and unwavering love of his country.

Because of him and thousands of brave men and women like him, millions of Americans and billions more around the world are able to taste the fruits of freedom. God Bless Master Gunnery Sergeant Stack and God Bless the greatest country in the world, the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE 21ST ANNUAL DC BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

SPEECH OF

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me

in recognizing the 21st annual DC Black Pride celebration, to be held in Washington, DC on May 26–30, 2011.

The DC Black Pride celebration is a multi-day festival featuring music, dance, films, a poetry slam, a church service, community town hall meetings, and a health and wellness expo, among other things. The DC Black Pride celebration is widely considered to be one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations, drawing more than 30,000 people to the Nation's capital from across the United States as well as from Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

The DC Black Pride celebration has deep roots in the DC community, dating back to 1975. It grew out of the Club House's annual Memorial Day weekend celebration, called the Children's Hour. After the Club House closed in 1990, local individuals and groups kept the tradition alive by organizing the first DC Black Pride celebration on May 25, 1991, at Banneker Field. The celebration has grown from a few hundred people to the thousands expected for the 2011 celebration.

The DC Black Pride celebration fostered the beginning of the International Federation of Black Prides and the "Black Pride Movement," which now consists of 40 Black Pride celebrations on three continents.

Fittingly, the DC Black Pride celebration's organizing body, Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc., a local affiliate of the International Federation of Black Prides, chose "21 Years and Legal!" as the theme for this year's celebration. The theme reflects the 21 years DC Black Pride has fulfilled its mission to increase awareness of and pride in the diversity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender African-American community, as well as support for organizations that focus on health disparities, education, youth and families.

DC Black Pride is led by a volunteer Board of Directors, which coordinates this annual event and smaller events throughout the year. We are pleased to also recognize DC Black Pride 2011 board members: George Birdson, Jimma Elliott-Stevens, Earl Fowlkes, Jr., and Danielle King.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing the 21st annual DC Black Pride celebration, and to welcome its attendees.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SENIOR ACTION COUNCIL

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of the Massachusetts Senior Action Council (MSAC). For the past 30 years, the MSAC has served as a champion for low- and moderate-income seniors, achieving gains in promoting the rights and well-being of seniors.

Since its first meeting in April 1981, the MSAC has brought together thousands of area seniors to participate in public meetings, rallies and government hearings and has succeeded in bringing necessary services to seniors in need.

Shortly after its inception, the MSAC restored local bus routes, established medical

and transportation services, and ensured the improvement of maintenance at local subsidized housing complexes. It has won hard-earned victories in creating low-cost drug programs for seniors, passing legislation to provide home care as an alternative to institutional care, and ending "balance billing" for Medicare patients.

Today, the MSAC has over 1,000 active members of all ages working at the grassroots level to continue to ensure that seniors have access to the resources they need most. Seven chapters throughout Massachusetts provide support, leadership training, and opportunities to advocate for those members of the senior community who otherwise would have no voice.

I join my friends in the North Shore chapter and so many others in congratulating the Massachusetts Senior Action Council on 30 successful years. I wish them the best as they continue to serve as a voice for all vulnerable residents of Massachusetts.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise to express my concerns with repealing Section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act through the Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This provision of the NDAA would undermine Department of Defense efforts to reduce oil dependence and could cripple America's nascent algal biofuel industry.

Our Armed Forces are making great progress to reduce their dependence on oil in a manner that promotes climate security. For example, the Air Force plans to procure 50 percent of its domestic aviation fuel from alternative sources by 2016. It has already developed the "Green Hornet," a fighter jet that runs on algae-based biofuel. The Navy is in the process of deploying its "Great Green Fleet," which will run entirely on alternative fuels and be operational by 2016.

These improvements to national security parallel new economic opportunities for the biofuel industry. According to the Biotechnology Industry Association, "Section 526 is helping low carbon fuels bridge the 'valley of death' between development and commercialization," and is "already helping the Air Force and Navy meet its alternative fuel goals." The domestic biofuels industry contributes 400,000 jobs and \$53 billion to the American economy while supporting deployment of domestically-produced biofuels for our Armed Forces.

We cannot abort this critical effort to help our military achieve energy independence. It is imperative that repeal of Section 526 be strick-

en from the National Defense Authorization Act before this legislation proceeds to the President for his signature.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SECTION 526 OF THE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007 TO THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF ADVANCED BIOFUELS

MAY 2011

What Section 526 Does

Prevents federal agencies from purchasing unconventional fuels with higher greenhouse gas emissions than conventional fuels.

Most relevant to the Department of Defense (DOD) because it is the Nation's largest fuel purchaser and is leading federal efforts to support, develop and commercialize domestic alternative sources of fuel for military use.

For instance, the U.S. Air Force intends to procure 50 percent of its domestic aviation fuel from alternative sources by 2016.

Also, the U.S. Navy plans to deploy a "Great Green Fleet" by 2016, which will be entirely operated on alternative fuels.

Why Section 526 Is Important to the United States and to the Advanced Biofuels Industry

Section 526 is helping low carbon fuels bridge the "valley of death" between development and commercialization by preventing large, carbon intensive fossil fuel facilities from crowding out their opportunities. Section 526 is therefore already helping the Air Force and Navy meet its alternative fuel goals and the country move toward greater energy independence and security and create jobs.

The domestic biofuels industry is now contributing more than 400,000 jobs and \$53 billion in new activity to the Nation's economy. A recent report found that additional job creation from advanced biofuels production could reach 807,000 by 2022.

Since its enactment, Section 526 has provided a clear signal that energy security and climate security will be advanced in parallel to federal alternative fuel procurement. This has helped to focus private investment and early DOD testing on advanced biofuels, which offer substantial greenhouse gas reductions in addition to their energy security benefits.

The prospects of a stable and long-term customer in the DOD is a major driver of early investment in advanced biofuels for aviation and marine applications. Eliminating Section 526 could seriously undermine this investment certainty, leading to less and less investment and capital access for advanced biofuels.

Congress must maintain Section 526 to assure continued U.S. leadership on biofuels, especially advanced and cellulosic biofuels for aviation and other military applications. *Advanced Biofuels Companies and Projects That Could Be Negatively Affected if Section 526 Were Eliminated*

The maps below illustrate existing and planned cellulosic biofuel biorefineries and algae production projects at various stages of development in North America.

Currently, there are more than 70 pilot and demonstration advanced biofuel biorefineries across North America—including cellulosic, algae, and other advanced biofuel technologies—representing hundreds of millions of dollars in investment.

There have been successes at each stage of research and development and all are in the process of scaling-up.

Commercial development was slowed by the recession but is regaining momentum as a result of supportive federal programs, such as Section 526, and some thawing of capital markets.

Many of the facilities and projects shown may be negatively impacted by the elimination of Section 526.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2011

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on rollcall 376. Had I cast my vote, I would have voted "yea" for rollcall 376. I am proud to support the intelligence community, as well as local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in their efforts to protect our homeland and combat global terrorism.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AZERBAIJAN ON THEIR 93RD REPUBLIC DAY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2011

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan on the 93rd anniversary of Republic Day on May 28. Additionally, the Republic of Azerbaijan will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of its independence from the Soviet Union.

Azerbaijan has become a critical ally of the United States due both to its location in the Caucasus Region and its access to rich energy sources in the Caspian Sea. Additionally, Azerbaijan has been an example of religious and ethnic tolerance. As a predominantly Muslim country, Azerbaijan has maintained strong and active Jewish and Christian communities.

Azerbaijan was one of the first nations to offer the United States support in the aftermath of 9/11. They have participated in many joint military efforts since their independence and recently doubled their military presence in Afghanistan. They have also offered logistical support for our efforts in Afghanistan, offering refueling stations and over-flight permission.

Once again, I am happy to honor and congratulate Azerbaijan on their 93rd Anniversary of Republic Day. Azerbaijan has been a great ally to the United States, and I think it is important that we highlight all the efforts they have made to support efforts to bring peace and freedom to parts of the world that have known nothing but tyranny.

OPPOSING REPUBLICAN EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE MEDICARE AS WE KNOW IT

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2011

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly oppose the Republican's plan to eliminate Medicare as we know it. The Republican budget ends the Medicare benefits guarantee and replaces it with an inadequate voucher system where seniors will have to buy their own health insurance in 2022. These actions

will fulfill Republicans' longtime goal of privatizing Medicare. Their plan eliminates critical provisions of the Affordable Care Act, including those that provide no-cost preventative screenings for all seniors and eliminates a 50 percent discount for brand-name drugs for seniors in the 'donut hole.' Above all, the Republican plan increases the age eligibility for Medicare from 65 to 67, raising health care costs for millions of seniors who will have to wait longer to gain access to Medicare.

The plan to dismantle Medicare will have a devastating impact in my district. There are over 76,000 seniors in El Paso, and over 2.4 million seniors in Texas according to the most recent U.S. Census 2010 numbers. Based on Congressional Budget Office (CBO) analysis,

the Republican plan would more than double a senior's out-of-pocket health care spending in 2022, compared to what their costs would be under traditional Medicare—increasing their out-of-pocket costs by more than \$6,000 annually. By 2030, the GOP plan would nearly triple this cost to seniors.

These drastic changes to Medicare are a clear reflection of continued efforts to cut vital services for hardworking families to subsidize tax breaks for millionaires. It is simply irresponsible to balance the budget on the backs of seniors, while millionaires who can afford the high cost of health care, benefit from more tax breaks. Republicans are wrongly targeting vulnerable seniors, many of whom survive on limited incomes. Their plan will undoubtedly

place additional burdens not only on seniors, but on their children, who will bear more costs to help meet the health care needs of their parents. This plan will also have a disproportionate impact on low income communities, such as those in the district that I represent, that will be overburdened with uninsured patients who will use public hospitals to meet their health care needs.

We have an obligation to protect our seniors and ensure they continue to have access to Medicare and receive the health care they need in the years ahead. That is why I will strongly oppose any effort to privatize Medicare and to increase health care costs for seniors.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Senate met at 9:30:09 a.m. in pro forma session, and adjourned at 9:30:34 a.m. until 10 a.m., on Tuesday, May 31, 2011.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: There were no public bills or resolutions introduced.

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H3762**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 1667, to postpone the date for the transfer of functions to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection if the Bureau does not yet have a Director in place (H. Rept. 112–93). **Page H3762**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Rooney to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3761**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H3761.

Senate Referrals: S. 627 was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and S. Con. Res. 4 was referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services. **Page H3761**

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of May 30 through June 4, 2011

Senate Chamber

Senate will meet in pro-forma sessions, with no business conducted on Tuesday, May 31, 2011 at 10 a.m., and Friday, June 3, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, June 2, Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, and Credit—Public, hearing to review recent investigations and audits of the USDA Inspector General, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, May 31, full Committee, markup of Agriculture Appropriations FY 2012, 5 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

June 1, Subcommittee on Defense, markup of the Defense Appropriations bill FY 2012, 10 a.m., H–140 Capitol. This is a closed meeting.

June 2, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, hearing on U.S. Capitol Police FY 2012 Budget Request, 9 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, June 1, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on efficacy of the Department of Defense's 30 year aviation and shipbuilding plans, 10 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, June 2, full Committee, hearing on Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and FHA: Taxpayer Exposure in the Housing Markets, 10:30 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, June 1, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled "Education Reforms:

Exploring the Vital Role of Charter Schools.” 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

June 2, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled “Investigating Financial Mismanagement at the U.S. Department of Labor.” 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, May 31, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing on legislation “Protecting the Electric Grid: The Grid Reliability and Infrastructure Defense Act.” 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

June 1, full Committee, markup of the H.R. 1705, the Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation Act of 2011; and H.R. 2021, the Jobs and Energy Permitting Act of 2011. 4 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

June 1, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing “Promoting Broadband, Jobs and Economic Growth Through Commercial Spectrum Auctions.” 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

June 2, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, hearing entitled “Sony and Epsilon: Lessons for Data Security Legislation.” 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

June 2, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “PPACA’s Effects on Maintaining Health Coverage and Jobs: A Review of the Health Care Law’s Regulatory Burden.” 2 p.m., 2322 Rayburn.

June 3, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “The Views of the Administration on Regulatory Reform: An Update.” 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

June 3, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled “The American Energy Initiative,” 9 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, June 3, full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of HUD’s HOME Program,” 9:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

June 1, full Committee, hearing entitled “Hearing To Receive the Annual Testimony of the Secretary of the Treasury on the State of the International Financial System.” 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

June 1, Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy and Technology, hearing entitled “Federal Reserve Lending Disclosure: FOIA, Dodd-Frank, and the Data Dump.” 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

June 2, Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade, markup of legislation Securing American Jobs Through Exports Act of 2011, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, May 31, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, hearing entitled “Global Perspectives on Autism—A Growing Public Health Crisis.” 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

June 1, Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, hearing entitled “Preserving Progress: Transitioning Authority and Implementing the Strategic Framework in Iraq, Part 1.” 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

June 2, full Committee, hearing on Religious Freedom, Democracy, Human Rights in Asia: Status of Implementation of the Tibetan Policy Act, Block Burmese JADE Act, and North Korean Human Rights Act, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

June 2, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing on Piercing Burma’s Veil of Secrecy: The Truth Behind the Sham Election and the Difficult Road Ahead, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

June 2, Subcommittee on Europe and Eurasia, hearing on European and Eurasian Energy: Developing Capabilities for Security and Prosperity, 2:30 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

June 3, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health and Human Rights, hearing on International Religious Freedom: Strengthening Its Promotion in United States Foreign Policy, 9:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Homeland Security, June 2, Subcommittee on Transportation Security, hearing entitled “Authorizing the Transportation Security Administration for Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013.” 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, May 31, Subcommittee on Courts, Commercial and Administrative Law, hearing on Formal Rulemaking and Judicial Review: Protecting Jobs and the Economy with Greater Regulatory Transparency and Accountability, 4 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

June 1, Subcommittee on the Constitution, hearing on the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

June 1, Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition and the Internet, hearing entitled “Promoting Investment and Protecting Commerce Online: The ART Act, the NET Act and Illegal Streaming.” 1:30 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

June 3, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, hearing on H.R. 1793, the Clean Up Government Act of 2011, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, June 1, full Committee, hearing entitled “American Energy Initiative: Identifying Roadblocks to Wind and Solar Energy on Public Lands and Waters, Part II—The Wind and Solar Industry Perspective.” 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

June 2, Subcommittee on Water and Power, hearing on H.R. 1837, to address certain water-related concerns on the San Joaquin River, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

June 2, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled “Domestic Oil and Natural Gas: Alaskan Resources, Access and Infrastructure.” 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

June 3, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on: H.R. 2011, the National Strategic and Critical Minerals Policy Act; and H.R. 1314, the Resource Assessment of Rare Earths Act of 2011, 9:30 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, June 1, full Committee, hearing entitled “Cybersecurity: Assessing the Nation’s Ability To Address the Growing Cyber Threat.” 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

June 1, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service and Labor Policy, hearing entitled “Official Time: Good Value for the Taxpayer?” 1:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

June 1, Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, Stimulus Oversight and Government Spending, hearing entitled

“Duplication, Overlap, and Inefficiencies in Federal Welfare Programs.” 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

June 2, full Committee, hearing entitled “Making the Gulf Coast Whole Again: Assessing the Recovery Efforts of BP and the Obama Administration After the Oil Spill.” 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

June 2, Subcommittee on Government Organization, Efficiency, and Financial Management, hearing entitled “IRS E-file and Identity Theft.” 12:30 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

June 2, Subcommittee on Health Care, District of Columbia, Census and the National Archives, hearing entitled “FDA Medical Device Approval: Is There a Better Way?” 1:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

June 3, Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and Procurement Reform entitled “H.R. 735 and Project Labor Agreements: Restoring Competition and Neutrality to Government Construction Projects.” 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, May 31, full Committee, hearing on H.R. 2017, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2012, 5:30 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

June 1, full Committee, hearing on legislation for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012, 3 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, June 1, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, hearing on Harmful Algal Blooms: Action Plans for Scientific Solutions, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

June 2, Subcommittee on Research and Science Education, hearing on Social, Behavioral and Economic

Science Research: Oversight of the Need for Federal Investments and Priorities for Funding, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, June 1, full Committee, hearing entitled “Access to Capital: Can Small Businesses Access The Credit Necessary To Grow and Create Jobs?” 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

June 2, Subcommittee on Healthcare and Technology, hearing entitled “Not What the Doctor Ordered: Health IT Barriers for Small Medical Practices.” 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, June 1, full Committee, hearing on Putting America's Veterans Back to Work, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

June 2, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing on Transition Assistance Program and VetSuccess on Campus Program, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

June 2, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing on An Examination of Poorly Performing VA Regional Offices, 1:30 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, June 2, full Committee, hearing on How Business Tax Reform Can Encourage Job Creation, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

June 3, Subcommittee on Social Security, hearing on the findings in the 2011 Annual Report of the Social Security Board of Trustees, 9 a.m., B-318 Rayburn.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, June 2, full Committee, hearing entitled Israel/Palestinian Authority Update, 10 a.m., HVC-304. This is a closed hearing.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, May 31

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 p.m., Tuesday, May 31

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

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