

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO THE GPO

#### HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, March 4, 2011, is the 150th anniversary of two important events in the history of our Nation. On this day in 1861, not far from this spot, Abraham Lincoln of Illinois took the oath of office as the 16th President of the United States. On that same day, the United States Government Printing Office opened for business, on the very site from which it operates today. From that day it has been the source of the legislative documents we need—the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, hearing transcripts, committee reports, bills, calendars, and other congressional documents—in digital and printed form to carry out our work for the people we represent.

The GPO traces its roots to the very beginning of our Republic. At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, held in my hometown, Delegate James Wilson of Pennsylvania declared, “The people have a right to know what their agents are doing or have done, and it should not be in the option of the legislature to conceal their proceedings.” Wilson’s words helped lead to the adoption of the requirement in Article I, section 5 of the Constitution that “Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same . . .”

Following the example of Philadelphia’s greatest citizen, Benjamin Franklin—the patron saint of printing in America, who had been an early provider of “public printing,” the documents needed by government—the first Congresses took steps to ensure that their proceedings, records, and legislative documents were printed and made available to the public. By the mid-19th century, however, the high costs, ineffective service, and scandals that came to be associated with this system prompted Congress to create its own printer, the GPO. This effort was rewarded almost immediately with a reduction in costs, vastly improved service, and the elimination of scandal. Put to the test early in meeting the emergency demands imposed by the Civil War, the new GPO carried out its work coolly and professionally, counting among its early jobs the printing of the Emancipation Proclamation. In the 150 years that followed, this pattern—economy, efficiency, and prompt and effective service—continued to repeat itself as GPO, quietly and expertly, has carried out its mission of keeping America informed.

As the new Public Printer, William J. Boarman, clearly points out, while GPO’s past has been about printing, its present and future are being defined by digital information technologies. In fact, the GPO today is the product of more than a generation of investment in digital production and dissemination technologies, an investment that has yielded un-

precedented improvements in productivity, capability, and savings for the taxpayers. Once an agency of more than 8,000 staff and employing just 2,200 today, fewer than at any time in the past century, the GPO now provides a range of products and activities that could only have been dreamed of 30 years ago: online databases of Federal documents with state-of-the-art search and retrieval capabilities available to the public without charge, Government publications available as e-Books, passports and smart cards with electronic chips carrying biometric data, print products on sustainable substrates using vegetable oil based inks, and a public presence not only on the Web but on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube.

The work of the GPO is so fundamental to our work that we frequently lose sight of all the services they actually provide. We like to say that all congressional information is on the Internet, but many of us don’t seem to know that it’s the GPO that puts that information online on its site, GPO Access, and now on the successor site, FDSys. GPO’s legislative information databases are shared with the Library of Congress for the operation of the THOMAS information system and for the legislative information systems provided by the Library to the House and Senate. The GPO makes Senate conference reports available online in advance of a vote, and the agency is developing a system for making the Constitutional Authority Statements required for House legislation available online. The GPO is currently working with the Library of Congress to digitize historical documents, including the Statutes at Large and the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and in collaboration with the Library GPO will provide updated digital access to the Constitution Annotated. Since GPO first began computerizing its prepress functions in the 1970s, the agency’s use of digital information technology has generated productivity improvements that have reduced the cost of congressional information products by approximately 66% in real economic terms. Since GPO first began providing free online access to Government documents in the early 1990s, similar reductions have been achieved in the cost of disseminating information to the public.

And the GPO does more than just support Congress. Through GPO’s efforts, the online Federal Register is being made available in XML to support bulk data downloads via data.gov and GPO developed the online Federal Register 2.0. GPO’s advanced authentication systems, supported by Public Key Infrastructure, are an essential component for assuring the digital security of congressional and agency documents. GPO produces all U.S. passports for the State Department and secure credentials for a variety of agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security. Passports contain advanced electronic and print security systems consistent with international standards and agreements. GPO is the only Federal agency certified to graphically personalize/print HSPD-12 secure identification cards on a government-to-government

basis. In addition, GPO’s partnership with the printing industry is responsible for producing 75% of the Government’s needs and enormous savings to the taxpayer, while supporting tens of thousands of jobs in the small printing businesses throughout the Nation, and its partnership with more than 1,200 Federal depository libraries across the country regularly supplies the Federal information needs of millions of students, researchers, businesses, and others every year with both digital and print products.

In a day when we are working hard to cut costs and improve services, the GPO provides a model of how an agency with a history of taking advantage of technological change has used that capability to generate lasting savings while expanding services to Congress, Federal agencies, and the public. The dedicated men and women of GPO have resorted continually to technology improvements to perform their work more efficiently, at one time using ink on paper to set the text for The Emancipation Proclamation, and today—as another President from Illinois leads the Nation—using e-Books, digital databases, and other new and emerging applications to achieve its founding mission of Keeping America Informed.

Mr. Speaker, Benjamin Franklin and the Founding Fathers would be surprised and pleased by what the GPO is and does today. On behalf of all us in this House who daily rely and depend on the products and services the GPO provides, I say congratulations and best wishes to Public Printer Bill Boarman and the men and women of the United States Government Printing Office, and convey our thanks and deepest appreciation for all their hard work.

### HONORING JARON WALKER HENDRIX

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jaron Walker Hendrix. Jaron is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 75, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jaron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jaron has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jaron Walker Hendrix for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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

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

IN HONOR OF MAJOR ANDRE  
MCCOY

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate MAJ Andre C. McCoy of Bala Cynwyd, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, on his 25 years of military service and to honor him on his outstanding career of accomplishment.

Major McCoy joined the Marines in August of 1985. After completing basic training at Paris Island, South Carolina, he became an Artillery Fire Direction Control man through Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He served with Golf Battery, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines (Reserve) based in Trenton, New Jersey. During Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Major McCoy was on active duty with 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force. He left the Marine Corps as a Corporal in 1991 to join the Bloomsburg University ROTC.

Major McCoy's training as a ROTC cadet included Fort Bragg, North Carolina and Fort Benning, Georgia, where he also completed Airborne School and received his silver jump wings. He was commissioned as an Army Armor officer in 1993 and stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Major McCoy transferred to 3rd Battalion, 103rd Armor, 55th Brigade, 28th Infantry Division of the Pennsylvania National Guard. As part of the United States' global war on terror, he was sent to Hohenfels, Germany as the Executive Officer for Force Protection. Major McCoy transferred to 56th Stryker Brigade headquarters in Philadelphia. There, he participated in a number of state emergency responses as well as the response to Hurricane Katrina.

Major McCoy served in Operation Iraqi Freedom with 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division in Diyala Province, and later in Operation Enduring Freedom with 4th Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division in Afghanistan. Throughout his exemplary career, Major McCoy has served 5 tours of duty. He was selected and approved for the rank of Major on June 3rd, 2010 and has received over 20 awards and medals for his service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing MAJ Andre C. McCoy for his invaluable contributions to his country in his quarter century of military service.

IN HONOR OF MR. ALEX A.  
BOUDREAUX

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday March 3, 2011*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the life and achievements of the late Mr. Alex A. Boudreaux.

A member of World War II's illustrious Tuskegee Airmen, Mr. Boudreaux was also believed to be the nation's first black civilian air-traffic controller, dedicating three decades of his life to Port Columbus.

Alex Boudreaux first fell in love with aviation while growing up in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

He left college after two years during World War II to join the Army Air Corps training program. After the Tuskegee program ended, Mr. Boudreaux received training in air-traffic controlling. Although he never flew with the Air Corps, he continued to pursue his passion for flying and earned his civilian pilot's license. Following the war he commenced working as an air-traffic controller at Rickenbacker Air Force Base and went on to serve Port Columbus for 30 years before retiring in 1977.

Mr. Boudreaux acquired many distinct honors and accolades throughout his impressive time on this planet and always remained active in his community. He was a great supporter of numerous veteran organizations such as the Tuskegee Airmen Association and Motts Military Museum in Groveport, Ohio. He also devoted much of his time to the Columbus Urban League, YMCA and Knights of Columbus. In 2007, he was among 330 Tuskegee Airmen presented with the Congressional Gold Medal from President George W. Bush.

The story of the famed Tuskegee Airmen is one worthy of immense respect. The many tales of courage and patriotism exhibited by men such as Alex Boudreaux during America's efforts to defeat the Axis powers make up a truly remarkable contribution to U.S. history. Alex Boudreaux's commitment to his country, the famed Tuskegee Airman, and central Ohio was eclipsed only by his passion and dedication for his family. He left behind a loving family spanning three generations including four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

After 90 years of life, Alex Boudreaux recently passed away leaving a legacy of unwavering service to his country and to central Ohio. In light of his contributions and service, I believe he deserves great respect and admiration. He will be a sorely missed member of the central Ohio community and his influence will be felt for years to come.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. JAMES RUBINO

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Mr. James Rubino, a dedicated member of our community who was known to the hundreds of people whose lives he touched simply as "Papa."

Jim was born in San Francisco on January 31st, 1913. He was a first-generation American, born to immigrant parents, Sebastiano and Maria Rubino. He met his wife, Ebe Rubino, in 1938 and they were married in 1940.

During WWII, Jim worked for Matson, refinishing the inside of war planes and selling vegetables out of his truck that he called "Jim's Market on Wheels." After a few years he wanted a healthier life for his children, so he moved his family to a ranch in San Martin. He raised "layers" and "fryers" (chickens) along with his two children, Mike and Lynne.

Jim's son Mike became the band director of Live Oak High School and started the Emerald

Regime Marching Band and Color Guard in 1970. Jim, with the help of his wife Ebe, cooked and catered each year for the band members and their families for band retreats, competitions, and fundraisers. He often fed a few hundred students and parents at once. Jim was one of the first chefs of the Gilroy Garlic Festival's Gourmet Alley creating his now famous Stuffed Mushrooms which are still a festival favorite and fundraiser for the band.

For nearly three decades, Jim fed our young musicians on trips all over the country, and even on three trips abroad. He was there when the students won the Bands of America Championship in with the highest overall point score ever recorded in that competition, a record which was held for 30 years. He was there again when his son led the Emerald Regime as they played "Stars and Stripes Forever" across the Great Wall of China.

Last year, Jim and Ebe celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Jim passed away on February 7th of this year at the age of 98. He lived at his ranch in San Martin until the day he died, and Ebe still lives there now.

I want to commend the life of a true American—the son of immigrants, the father of a teacher, the grandfather of musicians, a farmer, and a friend to everyone he met.

REMEMBERING SHAWN WEBB

**HON. TOM McCLINTOCK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Shawn Webb of Meadow Valley, California.

Shawn was born on May 7, 1973 in San Diego, California and was raised in Descanso. He grew up in the beauty of the California wilderness. Shawn rode his dirt bike in the desert and learned to work on hotrods and tractors.

Shawn's lifelong dream was to serve as a police officer and after graduating from Mountain Empire High school he entered the police academy. Shawn graduated from the academy in 1995 and began his lengthy service, first as a Reserve Officer and then as a Sworn Officer, to the residents of El Cajon, California as a member of the El Cajon Police Department. It was also in 1995 that Shawn married the love of his life, Chrissy, with whom he had grown up in Descanso. The couple were blessed with their first daughter Courtney that same year, followed two years later by the birth of their second daughter, Samantha.

In 2008 the family relocated to Plumas County, California, where Shawn joined the Sheriff's Department as a deputy and serving with a kindness, compassion and purpose that affected so many on a level that is impossible to quantify, and hard to even imagine. In the course of providing this outstanding service, Shawn earned multiple citations and awards including the Life Saving Award, the Meritorious Unit Citation, nine commendations for work with vehicle theft and twice being named the Officer of the Month. Shawn not only fulfilled his dream to become a police officer, but distinguished himself as one of the finest to bear that title.

In 2009, Shawn was diagnosed with highly-aggressive brain cancer and he began what would be a long, hard battle with that disease.

Mr. Speaker, Shawn was a dedicated public servant, but he was first-and-foremost a loving father and husband and a fierce friend. Those who knew Shawn adored him for his generous, considerate nature and robust sense of humor. It was impossible not to take notice of his stature as we watched the community rally behind him and his family, doing all they could to help the man they had come to love. Sadly, last week Shawn's long battle with cancer came to a close. He leaves behind his wife of almost sixteen years, his two teenage daughters and too many friends to count.

William Faulkner once said he refused to accept the concept of death "because [man] has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance." Faulkner continued, saying that it is our duty to ensure this endurance by reminding men of "the courage and honor and hope and pride and compassion and pity and sacrifice which have been the glory of his past." Mr. Speaker, it is doubtless that Shawn Webb's story is one that is filled with all of the virtues that Faulkner described. It is my honor to rise today in his remembrance, and to commit to the record of history Shawn's legacy of love, service and honor.

HONORING LAURIE ANN MELROOD  
FOR HER LIFETIME OF SOCIAL  
SERVICE AS AN ADVOCATE AND  
EDUCATOR FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
IN LATIN AMERICA

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Laurie Ann Melrood. For more than 40 years, Laurie Melrood has dedicated her life to social justice, speaking as a voice for people with no voice in the United States and other countries. Her initiative and persistence have changed the lives of countless individuals and communities.

The oldest of three children of Paul Melrood and Gitel Kastrul, Laurie Melrood is a second generation American. Her Jewish relatives survived pogroms in the Ukraine from which her father fled as an infant. Her life has been characterized by service since her earliest days.

As a young person in the 1960's, she advocated with African American and Jewish youth for desegregation of Milwaukee Public Schools.

She lived, worked, and studied in Israel during the late 1960's.

She was a member of the International Association of Yiddish Clubs.

In 1971, for her undergraduate internship at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, she started Pathfinders, a shelter for runaway teens.

In 1972–1973, Laurie served as a community mental health worker in the "Back of the Yards" neighborhood in South Chicago.

In 1975, she graduated with a Master's Degree in Community Social Work from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. For her graduate internship she started a community service project for high school seniors who received credit for their service.

In 1974–1982, Laurie served as the Program Director of Jewish Social Services in

Madison, Wisconsin. She established the culturally-based and ground breaking model L'Chaim Program for seniors at Madison Jewish Social Services, breaking the social isolation of Jewish and non-Jewish seniors.

From 1981–1982, Laurie was the Director for Community Action on Latin America in Madison, WI.

From 1982–1986, she was a principle organizer in South Texas and Wisconsin for the Underground Railroad and Public Sanctuary of the National Sanctuary Movement helping refugees from Central America to find shelter in the United States. She also assisted numerous refugees immigrate from Russia and Iran to the United States through HIAS, a Jewish Refugee Aid Agency.

From 1986–1990, Ms. Melrood assisted Central American refugee minor children who were detained in Texas by placing them with sponsoring families.

In 1992, Laurie became a staff member for the Pima County Juvenile Court's Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, she recruited volunteers to accompany and advocate for youth in the juvenile justice system. At Pima County Juvenile Court she also served as the Adoptions Examiner, specializing in foreign adoptions.

In 1994, she was one of three co-founders of a health training project in northern Guatemala, specializing in acupuncture and medical aid. The program is unique in training rural health promoters in acupuncture for curative medicine.

In 2000, Laurie was a principle program organizer and collaborator; starting the Kinship and Adoptions Resource Center KA.R.E. Family Center (KARE) in Tucson, Arizona in 2002. KARE is a full service family program helping grandparents and relatives who are raising grandchildren. This center has become a model of social services of its kind for the nation. Laurie has presented this model at child welfare conferences, written about the unmet need of this growing national population of Americans, and strongly advocated for their empowerment.

Mr. Speaker, Laurie Ann Melrood is a true leader of social justice. Her lifetime work of social service and advocacy in the United States and Latin America profoundly affected the lives of innumerable individuals. I want to thank her for her service to this country and to the international community.

IN HONOR OF ALFIE TEWFICK  
KHALIL

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a good friend and great American who passed away tragically on November 18, 2006. The Defense Language Institute is dedicating its newest classroom building for Middle Eastern languages in honor of Alfie Tawfick Khalil.

Alfie, who was a native of Egypt, came to this country in the late 1960s. In 1979, Alfie joined the faculty of the Monterey, CA Defense Language Institute (DLI) where he taught Arabic to U.S. military personnel. He soon stood out as a leader among the DLI

faculty. In 1980, he became a shop steward with AFGE Local 1263, the union representing the DLI faculty. By 1987 he was elected president of Local 1263.

In the post 9–11 world, foreign language capacity is a national security tool. In 2005, General John Abizaid, former Commander of U.S. Central Command, testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs, that the "ability to cross the cultural divide is not an Army issue. It is a national issue. We have to be able to deal with the people in the rest of the world as the globe shrinks in terms of communication and problem solving and sharing." As the world's largest foreign language school, DLI plays an indispensable role in moving this defense strategy forward. But DLI can't do it without its faculty. They are native speakers of their mother languages who, like Alfie, come from the distant places of the globe to help our nation better defend itself.

Alfie understood this and made the advocacy for DLI faculty and staff his life's work. After my first election to Congress, I learned quickly that there were two people I needed to know at DLI: the commandant, a Colonel who would move on or retire after a two year stint, and Alfie, who would always be there representing the best interests of the faculty. Alfie made his presence felt in so many ways.

One of the best examples of this was his hard work on behalf of "locality pay"—the small salary boost for federal workers based in particularly high cost areas. Alfie pointed out that Monterey County was, indeed, one of those areas, but that the federal government still considered it rural so paid DLI faculty at much lower rates. Alfie and I worked together for more than three years to secure a decision by the Office of Personnel Management that Monterey County based civil service workers deserved locality pay. This hard work on Alfie's part has helped DLI attract and retain the best language teachers in the world.

However, Alfie was about more than just pay at DLI. He was about professionalism. That became clear in the most recent fight to keep DLI off the base closure list. Alfie was a never-ending resource to my office and the BRAC Commission. He provided information and statistics on the level of expertise and depth of training of the DLI faculty. With this information it was easy to make the case that DLI could not be recreated anywhere else—that it was dependent on and unique to the talent of the Monterey area. Alfie was a key player in keeping DLI open and in Monterey.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the entire House of Representatives in sharing our sincere condolences to Alfie Khalil's family both here in the United States and in Egypt and to his extended family of students and colleagues throughout the DLI community.

TO HONOR THE CHINESE EXPULSION  
REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer special recognition to my constituents and friends at the Chinese Expulsion Remembrance Project as they commemorate the

125th anniversary of the expulsion of Chinese residents from the State of Washington.

Thousands of Chinese immigrants were forced to leave their homes and businesses in the greater Seattle area during the fall of 1885 and winter of 1886.

The expulsion of Chinese workers in Washington State stemmed from the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, a measure passed in Congress at the request of labor unions because of competition from Chinese laborers. A few years after the expulsion, Chinese immigrants were welcomed back, and they helped rebuild the city after the Great Seattle Fire of 1889.

The Chinese Expulsion Remembrance Project reminds us of the critical role immigrants have played in the development of our community, city, state and country. A deeper understanding of our past gives us a strong context for understanding immigration issues as we move forward.

The Chinese Expulsion Remembrance Project also helps us to better understand the vital role that Chinese immigrants, as well as immigrants from other countries, play in Washington State. This results in our communities being more educated and less inclined to allow fear and intolerance to go unquestioned.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the organizers of the Chinese Expulsion Remembrance Project for their time, talent and contributions. Thanks to the vision and leadership of Bettie Sing Luke, Ron Chew, Maxine Chan, Edward Echtle, Tim Greyhavens, Theresa Pan Hosley, Kathy Hsieh, Brian Lock, Debbie Louie, Chieko Phillips, Cynthia Kan Rekdal and Connie So, the awareness and appreciation of Chinese American history has greatly risen in our community.

As Seattle commemorates the 125th anniversary of the Chinese expulsion, it is important for us to remember that our country's diverse population has been, and will continue to be, a key factor in growing our economy and creating jobs. The efforts of the Chinese Expulsion Remembrance Project have touched so many of us, and they have shown that education is an invaluable asset to the Seattle community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRANK  
WOODRUFF BUCKLES

HON. NAN A.S. HAYWORTH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, our country lost its last American Doughboy on Sunday. Frank Buckles was our last living connection to an era in which a 16-year-old could lie about his age in order to join his nation's army to fight the "Great War." It would probably be impossible for a 16-year-old to enlist today without being discovered, but there are many young Americans that share Mr. Buckles' spirit of patriotism.

Although we have lost this last Doughboy, we have not lost the spirit of patriotism and sacrifice in the name of country that Frank Buckles and so many of his comrades embodied. That spirit is present all across Amer-

ica, including in my district, the 19th district of New York, where we are the home of 4,400 cadets at the United States Military Academy. These young men and women have also dedicated service to our country before turning 18. Their devotion to duty, honor and country continues a great tradition of military service and embody the life Frank Buckles and the millions of service men and women they follow.

I hope that Mr. Buckles' legacy continues to serve as an inspiration for future generations of Americans, who continue to fight for our protection and freedom. May God bless America and our men and women in uniform.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF  
SHARON SCOTT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Sharon Scott, who passed away on February 24, 2011. Sharon was a tremendous public servant and valued member of our community, and I am honored to recognize her life of dedication and service.

Mrs. Scott has been a long-time member of our Northwest Florida family. As a former council member for the town of Century, Florida, she served with both honor and distinction. Century, a small town in Escambia County with a population of less than 2,000, is well-known for its active politics and citizens. The town is full of local pride, exemplified by Sharon, who always let others know she was from Century and not from its bigger-city neighbor, Pensacola. Sharon was the consummate small-city council member, responding to those she represented as if they were an extension of her own family with a sense of humility required of those who serve their community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the life of Sharon Scott of Century, Florida. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for her entire family. She will be truly missed by all of us.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION  
EXTENSION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 2, 2011*

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the legislation before us, which will extend funding for our federal transportation programs through the end of this fiscal year in September.

This will be the seventh short-term extension we have passed—hopefully this will be the last. I commend Chairmen MICA and DUNCAN, and Ranking Members RAHALL and DEFAZIO, for their work on crafting this measure, and look forward to working with each of them as the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee continues its work on a long-term surface transportation bill.

Madam Speaker, this so-called "clean extension" of our nation's transportation programs is vitally important for the travelling public. Not only does it continue federal construction projects that we know create jobs—it also extends programs that keep our families safe on the road.

This extension gives our states and communities certainty, at least until the end of this fiscal year, with regard to critical infrastructure projects. It will also provide a level of stability for those working to improve our roads and bridges and build new transit and commercial systems—and the families that are dependent on their income.

While members of both sides of the aisle have spoken of the importance of infrastructure, to date, we have not been able to come up with a forward-looking transportation bill. We all should share a sense of urgency about getting this done. Meanwhile, without continuing the authority for the programs under this bill, more than \$800 million in highway reimbursements and transit grants to states and urban areas would not be dispersed. This inaction would endanger more than 28,000 jobs nationwide.

And so, for the second time this week, we have averted catastrophe—which begs the question, is this how we will continue on for the next two years?

This is a legitimate question, one which was raised at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' annual meeting earlier today. These are the people who have to figure out how to complete long-term projects—and plan new ones—while we lurch forward in short increments. They live in a world where they have to think in months and years, not weeks or news cycles.

In response to a question about getting a long-term bill done, all Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood could say was: "If we don't get something significant done this year I think it will be very difficult." I'd say that is an understatement.

Certainly, the irresponsible, indiscriminate, and short-sighted 24 percent cut to transportation funding contained in H.R. 1 did not inspire a great confidence. We need to do better.

Every community has transportation needs for which federal help is vital. For example, in Hawaii, we are using federal funds to expand the capacity of our ports, and to build new rail transit for our citizens. These are projects that are putting people to work now, and will pay significant dividends for our economy for years to come. These projects will help to connect people with businesses, and businesses with workers. They will help to get cars off our streets, and expand the amount of commerce that can move in and out of our islands.

Again, I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will now come together on a long-term transportation bill. This is our opportunity to show that we can do something that will be a game-changer for our economy in the 21st century. Over the few months that this bill gives us, we can spend our time wisely debating how best to direct federal dollars to help our states and cities. I hope that this is a bipartisan effort, and look forward to working with my colleagues on the Committee to make this happen.

CONGRATULATING THE DILLARD HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the girls' basketball team of Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Led by Coach Marcia Pinder, whose 776-171 career record is top among all Florida basketball coaches, male or female, the Panthers crowned a 22-7 season by winning the Florida state championship for the second consecutive year. Under Coach Pinder's tutelage, the Dillard girls have consistently been recognized for being among the best at their sport, having won six titles overall.

In this year's title game, the Panthers led most of the way and, with their key rebounds and clutch free throws, the game, which went to overtime, and the title ultimately belonged to Dillard.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the Lady Panthers and Coach Pinder, who have once again reached the pinnacle of success in their sport, and I am glad that they represent my district. They are all fine sportswomen and people of whom we can all be very proud. It is my distinguished honor to recognize their achievements.

23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACRE OF ARMENIAN CIVILIANS IN AZERBAIJAN

### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I speak today in solemn remembrance of a dark chapter in modern history. This past weekend marked the 23rd anniversary of the massacre of Armenian civilians in Azerbaijan. On the evening of February 27, 1988, a three-day rampage against Armenian civilians living in Sumgait, in Soviet Azerbaijan, began.

Armenian civilians were maimed, raped, beaten, and burned alive at the hands of rioters. International media outlets reported that Armenians were "hunted" down and killed in their homes.

The calls for help for those innocent Armenians were ignored by the local police, and the victims' fate was left to those who ruthlessly and senselessly ended their lives.

The official figure from Soviet authorities, who had prohibited journalists from entering the area, was just over 30 people dead and over 200 injured. However, many believe that in fact hundreds were murdered.

Sadly, Sumgait was not the end to the tragedies. Anti-Armenian pogroms followed in Kirovabad on November 21, 1988 and in Baku on January 13, 1990. During the Nagorno-Karabakh War of 1988 to 1994, Armenian civilian population centers were indiscriminately attacked.

If we hope to stop future massacres, and conflicts, we need to acknowledge those hor-

rific acts of the past, make sure they do not happen again, and make sure that we do not have renewed war between Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Nagorno-Karabakh. That is why I would like to commemorate the victims of the Sumgait massacre.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, February 18, 2011, had I voted, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 93.

Additionally, on February 16, 2011, it was my intention to vote "yes" on rollcall No. 57.

### WE HAVE LOST A FRIEND

#### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because of a tragic event—the March 2 assassination of Pakistan's Federal Minister for Minority Affairs Shahbaz Bhatti, a heroic man of faith whose courageous and outspoken leadership against his nation's draconian blasphemy law made him a prime target of extremist Islamist elements in his country.

Bhatti was the only Christian member of the Pakistani cabinet.

We have lost a friend and an ally and our prayers are with Bhatti's family and those in Pakistan who mourn his loss and who stood with him in his fight against injustice and intolerance. Bhatti devoted his life to defending the most vulnerable—he is literally a modern day martyr.

Among those whose causes he championed were Asia Bibi, a young Christian mother of five, who was sentenced to death under Pakistan's blasphemy law. Only after international intervention was her execution delayed. Her fate, however, remains unclear.

Pakistan's blasphemy laws are often used to victimize both religious minorities and Muslims. In fact, Punjab's influential governor, Salman Taseer was shot and killed by his own bodyguard who reportedly told police, "that he killed Mr. Taseer because of the governor's opposition to Pakistan's blasphemy law."

With Bhatti's life tragically cut short, a critical moderating voice in Pakistan has been lost. And I fear others will be silenced if justice is not brought to bear in Pakistan. Bhatti spoke of the importance of these voices during a recent Washington Post editorial board meeting. I submit for the RECORD a piece by Post editorial page editor, Fred Hiatt, who recalled Bhatti's message, "that millions of Pakistanis remain committed to a vision of a Muslim country living in peace with its neighbors and with non-Muslims within its borders." Hiatt continued, "As it became increasingly dangerous for such people to speak up, they were becoming decreasingly visible. But they are still there, Bhatti told us, and he urged Americans not to forsake or forget them."

This must be our clarion call in the days to come.

I urge the Government of Pakistan to seek justice in this case and to give Bhatti a state funeral, reflective of the import of his life and legacy. Similarly, I urge our own government to send a high-ranking delegation to attend the funeral and to carry Bhatti's torch in continuing to press for the repeal of the blasphemy laws in Pakistan.

I also submit an Associated Press story which references the fact that Bhatti was "aware of the danger he faced, saying in a videotaped message that he had received death threats from al-Qaida and the Taliban." The video was recorded several months before his ultimate assassination and can be viewed at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/mar/02/pakistan-minister-shot-dead-islamabad>.

Bhatti pointedly says he will continue to speak out for persecuted Christians and other religious minorities. In a chilling allusion to future events, he says, "I will die to defend their rights."

Indeed Bhatti's convictions cost him his life. He must not have died in vain.

ANOTHER MODERATE IN PAKISTAN IS ASSASSINATED

(By Fred Hiatt)

Shahbaz Bhatti, who was assassinated outside his home in Pakistan today, came to visit a few of us at The Post one month ago. He was soft-spoken and matter-of-fact about the dangers he faced—and about his refusal, almost his inability, to trim his sails to lessen those dangers. The risks he faced, as a voice for tolerance in an increasingly intolerant country, were risks that Pakistan faced—and if he and like-minded figures stopped speaking up, what future would the country have?

Bhatti was a Christian in an overwhelmingly Muslim country, a minister in the government in charge of minority affairs, and most of all an unimaginably courageous voice of moderation. He opposed the nation's anti-blasphemy law, which increasingly is being used to silence and oppress. When another moderate leader, Punjab governor Salman Taseer, was killed two months ago, his assassin frighteningly became a hero for many in Pakistan. Bhatti was one of the few public figures willing to forthrightly condemn the murder.

Now Bhatti, too, is gone. There will be investigations, I suppose, into why his police guard was absent when gunmen surrounded his Toyota sedan this morning, despite calls from many (including Americans like Virginia Republican Rep. Frank Wolf) for increased security. There will be tributes and mourning, but they will be muted. Hopefully there will be deep thinking inside the U.S. government about what it can do to better support the forces of moderation.

On that subject, I remember two essential messages from Bhatti's visit. He said Americans maintained too little contact with the part of Pakistani civil society that believes in interfaith tolerance, that sees Islam as a peaceful religion willing to live alongside others. Bhatti himself had organized a network of such people, he told us, but U.S. officials were too busy dealing with the government, army and intelligence agencies to show support or even establish much contact.

His second message was that millions of Pakistanis remain committed to a vision of a Muslim country living in peace with its neighbors and with non-Muslims within its borders. As it became increasingly dangerous for such people to speak up, they were becoming decreasingly visible. But they are still there, Bhatti told us, and he urged Americans not to forsake or forget them.

MILITANTS KILL CHRISTIAN MINISTER IN  
PAKISTAN

(By Nahal Toosi and Chris Brummitt)

ISLAMABAD.—Militants gunned down the only Christian in Pakistan's government outside his widowed mother's home Wednesday, the second assassination in two months of a high-profile opponent of laws that impose the death penalty for insulting Islam.

Shahbaz Bhatti was aware of the danger he faced, saying in a videotaped message that he had received death threats from al-Qaida and the Taliban. In it, the 42-year-old Roman Catholic said he was "ready to die" for the country's often persecuted Christian and other non-Muslim minorities.

The slaying in Islamabad followed the killing of Salman Taseer, a liberal politician who was gunned down in the capital by one of his guards. Both men had campaigned to change blasphemy laws in Pakistan that impose the death penalty for insulting Islam and have been loudly defended by Islamist political parties.

The Taseer slaying triggered fears the country was buckling under the weight of extremism, especially since the government, fearful of militants and the political parties that champion their causes, did not loudly condemn the killing or those who publicly celebrated it.

Wednesday's slaying will only reinforce those concerns and further undermine confidence in the government, which appears paralyzed by political rivalries and unable to fix a stagnant economy or provide basic services for the country's 180 million mostly poor people.

The turmoil comes despite attempts by the Obama administration to support Pakistan, which it sees as key to ending the war in neighboring Afghanistan and defeating al-Qaida, whose leadership is believed to reside in the mountainous northwestern regions.

Pakistani government ministers usually travel with police escorts, but Bhatti was without such protection when he was killed as he and a driver left his mother's home. Bhatti, who was minister for religious minorities, had been given police and paramilitary guards but had asked them not to accompany him while he stayed with his mother, said Wajid Durrani, a senior police official.

A friend of the politician, Wasif Ali Khan, said Bhatti was nervous about using guards after the Taseer killing and had requested a bulletproof car, but had not received one.

Bhatti had just pulled out of the driveway when three men opened fire, said Gulam Rahim, a witness. Two opened the door of the car and tried to pull Bhatti out, Rahim said, while a third fired a Kalashnikov rifle repeatedly into the dark-colored Toyota, shattering the windows.

The gunmen then sped away in a white car, said Rahim, who took shelter behind a tree. Bhatti was hit with at least eight bullets and was dead on arrival at hospital.

In leaflets left at the scene, al-Qaida and the Pakistani Taliban Movement in Punjab province claimed responsibility. They blamed the government for putting Bhatti, an "infidel Christian," in charge of an unspecified committee, apparently in reference to his support for changing the blasphemy laws.

"With the blessing of Allah, the mujahdeen will send each of you to hell," said the note, which did not name any other targets.

Government officials and political party workers condemned the killing, but made no reference to the blasphemy law controversy. Muslim clerics contacted by The Associated Press or interviewed on Pakistani TV either offered a tepid condemnation or claimed the assassination was part of an American-led

conspiracy to drive a wedge between Muslims and Christians.

Bhatti, a soft-spoken minister who rose to prominence defending a Christian woman sentenced to death for blasphemy, often spoke of the threats against him from extremists. Very few Pakistani politicians were willing to talk about changing the blasphemy law because of the danger.

"They (the Taliban) want to impose their radical philosophy in Pakistan. And whoever stands against their radical philosophy, they threaten them," he said in the video message, which was posted on the website of the First Step Forum, a Finland-based group that promotes religious harmony, rule of law and democracy.

"These threats and these warnings cannot change my opinions and principles. I'm living for my community and suffering people," said Bhatti, who was an adviser to the group and had asked that his message be released in the event of his death.

The slaying robbed Pakistani Christians of their most prominent advocate.

"We have been orphaned today!" wailed Rehman Masih, a Christian resident of Islamabad. "Now who will fight for our rights? Who will raise a voice for us? Who will help us?"

Christians are the largest religious minority in Pakistan, whose population is 95 percent Muslim. They have very little political power and tend to work in lower-level jobs, such as street sweeping.

As Christians took to the streets Wednesday to protest in several cities, relatives and friends went to Bhatti's home to pay their respects. "Tell the mullahs that the man who was the voice of the Christians is silent. Where are they now?" Samuel David, one of the visitors, shouted to a television crew.

The assassination drew condemnation from Christian and government leaders.

A Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, called the slaying a "new episode of violence of terrible gravity," saying it "demonstrates just how justified are the insistent statements by the pope regarding violence against Christians and religious freedom."

Lombardi noted that Pope Benedict XVI had met with Bhatti in September.

President Barack Obama condemned the slaying, saying Bhatti "fought for and sacrificed his life for the universal values that Pakistanis, Americans and people around the world hold dear"—including rights to free speech and religious freedom.

In Britain, leaders of the Anglican Church expressed shock and sorrow and urged Pakistan's government to do more to protect Christians.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the attack was "not only on one man but on the values of tolerance and respect of all faiths and backgrounds."

The blasphemy laws were originally framed by the Asian subcontinent's British colonial rulers but were toughened in the 1980s during the military rule of Gen. Mohammad Zia ul-Haq, who pushed a politicized, austere brand of Islam.

Human rights groups have long warned that the laws are vaguely worded and open to abuse because people often use them to settle rivalries or persecute religious minorities.

Right-wing Islamist parties, looking for an issue to rally their supporters, have campaigned against any change to the laws, accusing those who seek to amend them of blasphemy—and creating an environment that led to the latest killings.

"Bhatti's murder is the bitter fruit of appeasement of extremist and militant groups both prior to and after the killing of Punjab Governor Salman Taseer," said Human

Right Watch. "An urgent and meaningful policy shift on the appeasement of extremists that is supported by the military, the judiciary and the political class needs to replace the political cowardice and institutional myopia that encourages such continued appeasement despite its unrelenting bloody consequences."

Another prominent opponent of the blasphemy laws, ruling party member Sherry Rehman, recently dropped her bid to get them changed. Rehman, who has said she had to abide by party leaders' decisions, faces death threats and has been living with heavy security.

RECOGNIZING EMILY McMILLAN  
AS THE 2012 ESCAMBIA COUNTY,  
FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE  
YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Emily McMillan as the 2011 Escambia County, Florida Teacher of the Year. Ms. McMillan joined the Escambia County School District in January 2008. From day one she has inspired her students to strive for excellence, and I am honored to recognize her achievements.

Ms. McMillan was identified as an exceptional candidate for the teaching profession years before she stepped into the classroom. In high school, Ms. McMillan began taking dual enrollment courses at a local college. Her dedication to achieving scholastic excellence during her high school career put her on track to graduate from the University of West Florida in just two years. Ms. McMillan's undergraduate studies were completed on an accelerated time frame; however, during her time at UWF she received myriad awards and scholarships, including the Florida Retired Educators Association's Scholarship for Teachers of Tomorrow.

Ms. McMillan arrived at Ferry Pass Elementary School ready to teach; nonetheless, she also knew that even the best teachers always have room to improve and new methods to employ. She joined the Reading Leadership Team, which meets on a monthly basis to create and implement reading goals for the entire school. She now serves as the Reading Committee Chairwoman, meeting with teachers from each of the seven grade levels at Ferry Pass Elementary and Middle School to work on the implementation of the Reading Leadership Team's goals. She also works with the Media Specialist to develop innovative methods to foster a love of reading.

While the overall goal of education remains the same, teachers today must be able to adapt to the changing needs of their students. Ms. McMillan serves her students and, as a result, she incorporates a variety of instructional strategies to ensure that every student meets their specific learning needs. Her sedulous dedication to her students facilitates learning and creates an educational environment where students are given the time and support to ensure that they meet their goals.

Ms. McMillan realizes that parents are fundamental to the educational success of their children. She creates lines of communication between herself and parents by sending home

daily citizenship reports, a weekly folder with detailed notes, and a monthly newsletter. Her dedication to her profession earns her respect from students, parents, and colleagues alike.

The importance of teachers cannot be overstated. They play an integral role in shaping the future of our nation. To be selected as Teacher of the Year, chosen from a large pool of extremely qualified applicants, is an immense honor. This award is a reflection of Ms. McMillan's assiduous work ethic and steadfast dedication to the students of Escambia County, Florida. She has proven to be among the many exceptional teachers in our nation, and I am proud to have her as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Emily McMillan for her accomplishments and her continuing commitment to excellence at Ferry Pass Elementary School and in the Escambia County School District. Her passion for her students is laudable, and her dedication to her profession is exemplary. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Ms. McMillan, and we wish her all the best.

IN HONOR OF U.S. MARSHAL  
DEREK HOTSINPILLER

**HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness over the tragic loss of U.S. Deputy Marshal Derek Hotsinpiller. 24 year old Derek Hotsinpiller of Bridgeport, West Virginia, was killed in the line of duty while serving a federal search and arrest warrant in Elkins, West Virginia. It deeply saddens me to see anyone hurt in the line of duty, let alone lose their life such as Derek Hotsinpiller did.

Deputy Marshal Hotsinpiller was a dedicated hero who defended our community with the utmost dignity. He always went above and beyond the call of duty for his partners, colleagues, and country. Derek served our community selflessly.

Deputy Marshal Hotsinpiller was born June, 2 1986, and graduated from Fairmont State University in 2009. After excelling in both high school and college, he became a U.S. Deputy Marshal in 2010. Many who knew this brave young man say law enforcement was in his DNA, and since childhood he dreamed of following in the footsteps of his late father and brother, who both served in the Bridgeport Police Department. Derek wanted nothing more than to serve our country as a Marshal.

After witnessing so many recall their experiences with this brave young man at his funeral, it's clear to me that Derek Hotsinpiller was a unique American hero. So many in our community have felt this tremendous loss. He was truly loved by those who knew him. There is no question that Derek's memory should be honored.

Derek leaves behind an inspiring legacy and serves an example of what we can accomplish if we put our hearts and minds towards serving others. My thoughts and prayers are with Derek's mother Pam, his brother Dustin, his high school sweetheart Megan and the rest of the Harrison County-area community.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PLANNED  
PARENTHOOD FEDERATION OF  
AMERICA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Pence Amendment #11 regarding the defunding of Title X health programs including Planned Parenthood. The Planned Parenthood Federation of America provides essential medical services to millions of men and women. For more than 90 years Planned Parenthood has promoted the health and well-being of women and men. More than 90 percent of the care Planned Parenthood provides is primary and preventive. These services include wellness exams, cancer screenings, immunizations, contraception and STD testing and treatment.

Often the only medical care women and men will receive is at Planned Parenthood. More than 6 in 10 patients who receive care at centers like Planned Parenthood consider it their primary source of care. Three-quarters of Planned Parenthood patients live at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty rate. These patients need centers like Planned Parenthood more than ever. Without their services millions of patients will go without health care.

The Pence Amendment would defend all of these services. Planned Parenthood is the only national provider that has developed a set of evidence-based guidelines to define health care delivery, and they review them annually. For every public dollar invested in family planning services, \$3.74 is saved in Medicaid-related costs. This amendment would cut these savings to the federal government and state governments. Title X funding provided 2.2 million Pap tests, 2.3 million breast exams, over 6 million tests for sexually transmitted infections, and nearly 1 million HIV tests. This amendment would cause women to experience unintended pregnancies, face potentially life-threatening cancer and other disease that could have been prevented. This amendment is not about fiscal responsibility or legality, it is about denying women the right to affordable medical care.

In Colorado and across this country Planned Parenthood is providing care to over 3 million people a year. Their services are essential to women, men and their families. No one should go without affordable health care, and Planned Parenthood leads the way in providing it.

INTRODUCING THE MARRIAGE  
PROTECTION ACT OF 2011

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Obama made an unprecedented decision to declare a Federal law unconstitutional and thereby abdicate his responsibility to uphold and defend that law.

The law in question is the 1996 "Defense of Marriage Act" written "to define and protect the institution of marriage." It allows all states, territories, possessions, and Indian tribes to

refuse to recognize an act of any other jurisdiction that designates a relationship between individuals of the same sex as a marriage.

This law was properly passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and the United States Senate and properly signed by then-President Clinton. The law was passed to reflect the desire of the American people that we clarify the meaning of "marriage" so that the definition of the word could not be changed by activist judges.

The Constitution of the United States grants certain powers to the President, but not the power to unilaterally legislate based on personal preference. The power to legislate was given specifically to the Congress and it is Congress' responsibility to pass or repeal legislation. Neither does the Constitution of the United States grant courts the power to legislate, although many activist judges have attempted to redefine the legal definition of marriage through the judicial process.

Furthermore, the Constitution does not grant the Federal government the power to regulate marriage. In fact, the Tenth Amendment specifically states: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or the people." The responsibility to regulate marriage properly belongs to the people of the various States and it is time for us to return that power to the people.

That is why I, along with a number of my colleagues, am today reintroducing the Marriage Protection Act of 2011. This bill simply states that no courts created by an act of Congress—meaning Federal courts—will have jurisdiction to hear cases regarding same-sex marriage. Additionally, the Supreme Court will not have appellate jurisdiction to hear these cases. In short, the bill makes same-sex marriage an issue to be determined by the people through their State legislatures or via referendum, not to be determined by Federal judges.

If this bill is passed then no President, Justice Department official, or Judge will be allowed to unilaterally define marriage. Only the people will have the power to decide the definition of marriage.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this important and timely bill.

SUPPORT OF MR. KLINE'S  
AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on February 17, 2011, Mr. KLINE offered an Amendment to H.R. 1 to prevent the use of funds toward implementing the Department of Education's harmful gainful employment rule. Although that amendment passed, I mistakenly voted against it. I apologize to Mr. KLINE, my colleagues, and supporters of the amendment for my mistake.

Whereas we cannot support programs that offer little to no substantive education and mislead students down a path to insurmountable debt, I do not support a rule that will eliminate many quality programs and block access to higher education for many non-traditional, low-

income and minority students who want to better themselves by pursuing careers in valuable fields such as nursing, technology, criminal justice and design.

I hope that future courses of action will allow for a more meaningful review of the issues concerning career colleges.

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HONORING TWO UNIVERSITY OF  
PACIFIC McGEORGE SCHOOL OF  
LAW TEAMS

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**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor two University of Pacific McGeorge School of Law teams that were named regional champions at the American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition held February 24–26, 2011, at the U.S. District Courthouse in San Francisco. Both will now advance to the National Appellate Advocacy Competition National Finals, Finals scheduled for April 7–9, 2011 in Chicago, IL.

The team of Kim Bowman, '11, Conness Thompson, '11, and Jeremy Ehrlich, '12, defeated George Mason University in the final round. Bowman was named Best Oralist of the 96 competitors while Thompson took ninth in that category. The team, which went undefeated and was seeded No. 1 in the entire field at the end of the competition, was also recognized for the sixth best brief.

The team of Caitlin Urie Christian, '11, Jill Larrabee, '12, and Leo Moniz, '12, defeated UC Hastings in the final round to earn its trip to the 32nd annual National Championship Finals. The team was honored with the Best Brief Award, and Leo Moniz was named the fourth-best oralist.

Both teams were coached by Professors Ed Telfeyan, '75, and Erich Shiners, '06, and assisted by Andrea Dupray, '11, a member of the 2009–2010 Moot Court Honors Board. "This is the equivalent of a 'Grand Slam,'" said Telfeyan, director of the Moot Court Program. "For McGeorge to send two teams to Chicago is fantastic, but to also get top brief, top oralist, and three of the top ten speaker awards is a remarkable, and perhaps, unprecedented achievement."

The American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition is the largest law school moot court competition, with 207 teams competing in six regional events for 24 coveted invitations to the Finals. A team from UC Berkeley and a team from Baylor also advanced from the San Francisco regional. South Texas College of Law is the defending national champion.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the students and coaches from McGeorge School of Law on their outstanding performance at the 2011 regional competition in San Francisco and wishing them the best of luck in the Finals in April.

HONORING FORT LUPTON MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

**HON. CORY GARDNER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fort Lupton Middle School located in Fort Lupton, Colorado.

This year, Fort Lupton Middle School was selected as the National Middle School of the year by the National Association of Middle School Principals. This award recognizes middle schools that have been committed to the educational and developmental needs of young adolescents. Fort Lupton Middle School excels at this responsibility.

The statewide Colorado Student Assessment Program is conducted every year to evaluate how students are learning. Fort Lupton Middle School has showcased outstanding academic achievements with gains in reading and math test scores for the last four consecutive years.

In addition to their outstanding academic achievements, Fort Lupton offers over 27 different academic programs and honors, 29 student activities, and 10 sports. The middle school sees 442 participants in these programs among a population of 441 enrolled students.

The Fort Lupton faculty and students both acknowledge that the school library is truly the heart of the school. This acknowledgement reinforces why Fort Lupton is the National Middle School of the Year. The school excels because of the dedicated and exceptional faculty, because of the great Fort Lupton community, and because the students are engaged in and out of the classroom. It is a true example of excellence in education.

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TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSEPH M.  
NORBECK

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the campus of the University of California at Riverside, and the science community, has been extraordinary. UCR has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated professors who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to, not only educate their students, but also pioneer new advances in the fields of science and technology. Dr. Joe Norbeck is one of these individuals. Today, a retirement celebration in honor of Dr. Norbeck is being held at the Bourns College of Engineering, the Center for Environmental Research & Technology (CE-CERT).

In 1970, Dr. Norbeck earned his B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Nebraska and four years later earned his Ph.D. in Theoretical Chemistry from the same institution. He joined the University of California, Riverside, in January 1992 after working as head of the Chemistry Department, Research Staff, at the Ford Motor Company. Dr. Norbeck heads the UCR Environmental Research Institute and is

the Yeager Families Professor of Environmental Engineering. His is also the former Director of CE-CERT.

Dr. Norbeck has published more than seventy-five papers in theoretical chemistry, atmospheric modeling, vehicle emissions, and advanced vehicle technology. His most recent research included the relationship between vehicle emissions and air quality, development of renewable fuels, and development of advanced vehicle technology.

Dr. Norbeck was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1999. He received the South Coast Air Quality Management District Clean Air Award in 1995, the Valley Group Award in 1997 for Excellence in Environment and Research, and was elected as local leader for the City of Riverside and received the Regional Leader of the Year Award in 1998. He has held a gubernatorial appointment as an Air Quality Expert on the California Inspection/Maintenance Review Committee and is a member of several other committees including the Cal/EPA Environmental Technology Partnership Task Force, the Executive Research Advisory Committee of the Society of Automotive Engineers, and Scientific Review Committee for the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

In light of all Dr. Norbeck has done for the U.C. Riverside, our community, the region and the state, we wish him the very best as he moves onto the next stage of his life. Dr. Norbecks' tireless passion for learning and education has contributed immensely to the betterment of U.C. Riverside and its students. His contributions in the fields of chemistry, emissions and air quality have been extraordinary and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many fellow educators, community leaders, students and many others are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires from UCR.

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AMENDMENT NO. 296 TO H.R. 1, OF-  
FERED BY MR. McCLINTOCK OF  
CALIFORNIA

**HON. WALLY HERGER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, as a staunch supporter of dams, I understand my colleague's position on this issue and I intend to support this amendment. The Department of the Interior has been studying the potential removal of four hydroelectric facilities, three of which are located in the Congressional District I represent, and my constituents in Siskiyou County have rightfully expressed overwhelming opposition to the prospect of removing functioning hydropower dams and their associated benefits. I fully share that concern, as well as the disturbing precedent it sets with respect to other hydroelectric projects. From my longtime advocacy for projects such as the proposed Sities Reservoir in Colusa County, the Auburn Dam on the American River, a dam on the Yuba River and raising Shasta Dam, few Members of Congress have been a stronger supporter of increasing surface water storage. These marvels of engineering have allowed California to prosper by providing critical water to get us through drought years,



flood control, and cheap, renewable hydroelectric power. Put simply, we need more dams, not fewer.

For those reasons, it is troubling that we are even here discussing this issue. We need to change the current regulatory structure that gives perceived “environmental benefits” unyielding priority—often at unbearable cost—over the social and economic benefits provided to people by dams and other wise-use of our resources: These laws and regulations have forced the owner and operator of the dams on the Klamath River to a point where decommissioning these facilities—by way of the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement—is the least-cost option for its customers and ratepayers in California and elsewhere, as opposed to relicensing. These laws and regulations also caused the tragic 2001 water shutoff that affected 1,200 farm families in the Klamath Basin and led them to enter into this settlement process in the hopes of bringing greater stability and water reliability to the Basin in order to continue their way of life.

It represents a monumental failure at the federal level when we consider that, under the laws and regulations that are on the books at this moment, there is currently no alternative that will allow these facilities to be operated as cost-effectively as it had during the several decades of its previous license term, or allow the federal government to fully meet the obligations it made over a century ago with the development of the Klamath Reclamation Project.

I say this to make the point that, unfortunately, this amendment by itself will not address the real underlying issue—the appalling environmental extortion that continues to affect property owners across the rural West and the hardworking people who put food on our tables and provide the raw materials that make life comfortable for the rest of us. Clearly, our laws are grossly out of balance, and I look forward to working with Chairman MCCLINTOCK, Chairman HASTINGS, Mr. WALDEN and my other colleagues to implement the necessary environmental reforms to prevent the continued degradation of our economic infrastructure at the hands of environmental activists and bring greater certainty to the Klamath Basin’s agricultural community.

HONORING ANNE THEROUX

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of one hundred years of inspiration and joy that Anne Theroux of Massachusetts has given to those fortunate enough to know her well. A 35-year resident of Cape Cod, Anne turns 100 years old on March 4 and continues to thrive in her West Dennis home, as independent as ever before.

Mother to seven, grandmother to thirteen, and great-grandmother to fifteen children, Anne has maintained an energy and youthfulness beyond her 100 years. She has served her community with many years of teaching elementary school, and she is known to always have a book in hand or story to share. Anne

continues to exercise her intellect as an ace crossword puzzle enthusiast, and has participated as a member of the woodcarving group at the Dennis Senior Center, where she brings the spirit of Cape Cod to each and every one of her bird carvings.

And so, surrounded by her loving children, extended family, and many friends, Anne will celebrate her centennial with a luncheon honoring her 100th birthday. I wish Anne and her whole family best wishes for many years to come.

THANKING THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA FOR SUPPORTING THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL EDUCATION CENTER

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, next week the Prime Minister of Australia, the Honorable Julia Gillard, will be in Washington, DC on a state visit. This will be Prime Minister Gillard’s first visit to Washington since becoming Prime Minister in June of last year; and her visit will also mark the 60th anniversary of the U.S.-Australia alliance.

In addition to many other official meetings and ceremonies, Prime Minister Gillard will take time out of her schedule to present a \$3 million check from the Australian government to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to help build the Education Center at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Regrettably, a last minute scheduling conflict is going to prevent me from attending this ceremony, but I want to extend my deep appreciation and thanks to the Prime Minister and the Australian people for this very generous contribution.

Australia has always been a steadfast ally and partner to the United States. This contribution further underscores the deep ties of kinship and friendship between Australia and the United States.

Many Americans tend to think of the Vietnam War as a solely American conflict. In reality the conflict involved troops from a number of nations, including Australia. Between 1962 and 1972 approximately 60,000 Australian military personnel served in Vietnam. Australia’s soldiers had a distinguished and remarkable record of service and courage in Vietnam where more than 500 were killed, and some 3,000 were wounded or disabled defending the South Vietnamese people from communist aggression.

For Australia, as well as the United States, the Vietnam War was the longest major military conflict in which Australians have been involved. Completed in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Constitution Gardens adjacent to the Lincoln Memorial has become one of our Nation’s more recognized and beloved memorials. Some 3 million visitors each year come to view The Wall and not only reflect upon those who suffered and died in Vietnam but how this nation let that generation of Americans down when they returned home.

Ninety-one thousand eight hundred Hoosiers served in Vietnam and the names of the

1,530 who died in Vietnam are etched on The Wall. The Education Center, which will be built adjacent to the Wall, will help educate future generations of Americans by sharing the stories of these exceptional individuals from Indiana and across the America, who served their country with honor. By telling these stories visitors will hopefully understand the courage, sacrifice and devotion of those who fell, those who returned, and those who waited for their loved ones to come home. Along the way, visitors will also discover how the Memorial shaped the way Americans mourn, and the vital part The Wall played in helping to heal the bitter divisions that tore at our nation’s heart and soul.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Prime Minister Gillard for her leadership, her friendship and her dedication to helping us to ensure that the Education Center gets built so that the voice of the 58,000 plus names on the Wall and the millions of Americans—and thousands of Australians—who fought in the Vietnam War can be heard and remembered. And I also ask my colleagues to join me in extending my heartfelt appreciation to the people of Australia for their support and friendship.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AMENDMENTS, 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I agree with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that we must get our fiscal house in order. That is why Democrats sought to cut more than \$40 billion from the President’s 2011 budget request in December. We have a responsibility to our constituents to evaluate every program and determine whether it merits taxpayer funding.

Although I will vote for it, I do not support every cut in the underlying bill. We must make targeted reductions that make our government more efficient while prioritizing critical investments in innovation if we are to remain a global leader. Instead of reducing our deficit by eliminating education programs, we should find savings by ending taxpayer-funded subsidies to large oil companies, which fleece taxpayers of tens of billions of dollars.

However, it is imperative that Congress do everything it can, and reach common ground whenever possible, to avoid a government shutdown. We cannot allow for the possibility of seniors going without Social Security checks or veterans losing access to the health benefits they have earned.

The seven month continuing resolution the House passed in February is a dangerous bill that would create not a single job, hurt federal programs essential to economic growth, and compromise our security. We must adopt this short-term continuing resolution to keep the government operating while we negotiate spending for the remainder of the fiscal year that will continue economic growth.

INTRODUCING THE VETERANS  
PENSIONS PROTECTION ACT OF  
2011

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans Pensions Protection Act of 2011, which will protect veterans from losing their pension benefits because they received payments to cover expenses incurred after an accident, theft, loss or casualty loss.

When assessing a veteran's eligibility for a pension, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) considers a variety of sources of revenue to determine a veteran's annual income. If such income exceeds the income limit set by the VA, the veteran does not qualify for a pension or loses their benefits. Currently, the VA considers any reimbursement that compensates a veteran for his/or her expenses due to accidents, theft or loss as income. Only reimbursements of expenses related to casualty loss are currently exempted from determination of income.

Under current law, if a veteran is seriously injured in an accident or the victim of a theft and receives insurance compensation to cover his/or her medical expenses, the cost of replacement of the stolen items, or for pain and suffering, he/or she will likely lose their pension. This means that the law effectively punishes veterans when they suffer from such an accident or theft.

Such a tragedy happened to one of my constituents, a Navy veteran with muscular dystrophy who was hit by a truck when crossing the street in his wheelchair. His pension was abruptly cut off after he received an insurance settlement payment to cover medical expenses for himself and his service dog, and material expenses to replace his wheelchair. As a result, he fell below the poverty line, could not cover his daily expenses and mortgage payments, and almost lost his home!

There is clearly something wrong with a law that cancels veterans' pensions following the award of an insurance payment, which was only intended to cover exceptional medical expenses. I am distraught that the VA can cancel the pensions of unemployed and disabled veterans without further notice. The VA has a moral responsibility to care for our veterans and ensure that they live decent lives.

The Veterans Pensions Protection Act will amend the U.S. Code to exempt the reimbursement of expenses related to accidents, theft, loss or casualty loss from being included into the determination of a veteran's income. This will guarantee the continuity of our veterans' pensions and that no veteran will have their benefits unfairly and abruptly depreciated or cancelled.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will fix a loophole under existing law to ensure that pensions are issued to veterans who legitimately meet the income criteria and rely on such benefits to survive. We must enact regulations that help veterans live better lives, not hurt them. At a time when our nation's servicemen and women are fighting two wars abroad, we have a duty to our past, present, and future veterans to provide them with the very best services and benefits. We owe our veterans

an enormous debt, and cannot thank them enough for their service. I urge my colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation.

CONGRATULATING SILVER STAR  
RECIPIENT JOSHUA R. LABBE

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Army SGT Joshua R. Labbe for receiving the prestigious Silver Star—the third highest honor for valor in the Army. I also want to share with you a brief account of the remarkable story that earned him this award while serving in the Baghlan Province of Afghanistan.

Labbe, a former tight end on Stonington High School's football team, was raised in Pawcatuck, Connecticut. To the surprise of his family and friends but with their support, Joshua enlisted in the Army shortly after graduating, expressing his deep desire to make a difference. He did just that.

Joshua was awarded the Silver Star for leading his squadron through more than 6 hours of consecutive battles on October 6 of this year. He and his platoon began the day before dawn sweeping for mines in a mountainous region—one deemed critical in the fight to protect supply routes and crack down on drug trafficking in the province.

Not long after the operation had finished, Labbe and his squad came under heavy small arms fire from a group of Taliban fighters outnumbering them by roughly three to one. Following an order to retreat from their hillside position, Labbe returned—through enemy gunfire—to accompany several soldiers to safety including one who fell and had to be carried. Later, while towing a damaged truck in the midst of an ambush, Labbe provided cover fire—from close range and from an exposed position—for the recovery team. They all returned to base with no casualties.

Sergeant Labbe is one of just 195 soldiers to receive a Silver Star in Afghanistan since 2003. While this account provides only a glimpse of the heroic actions that earned him this honor, Joshua's contributions and deep devotion to protecting this country are clear. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and honoring SGT Joshua R. Labbe for his service and sacrifice to this great nation.

HONORING THE GARFIELD BABE  
RUTH LEAGUE ON ITS 50TH AN-  
NIVERSARY

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Garfield Babe Ruth League on 50 years of service to the youth of Garfield, New Jersey. Since its founding in 1961, the League has provided countless young people with the opportunity to participate in a quintessential American pastime: youth baseball.

The Garfield Babe Ruth League is a proud member of the Middle Atlantic Region of Babe

Ruth Baseball. Comprised of two divisions, 13–15 year olds and 16–18 year olds, the League provides an important team experience and extracurricular outlet for as many as 200 young people each year. All of the coaches and league officials are volunteers, devoting their time to bring baseball into the lives of teenagers. These volunteers also maintain Columbus Field, home to all games played in the Garfield Babe Ruth League. Over the years, with the help of its invaluable volunteer coaches and officials, the League has been able to add a press box, score board, dugouts, club house, fencing, lighting, bleachers, and numerous other field enhancements. Garfield has hosted many District All-Star Tournaments and has been selected to host this year's New Jersey State Final Tournament for the 14-year-old division.

Throughout its half-century of service to the City of Garfield, the League has always provided the youth of the community with the opportunity to create cherished memories, have important character-building experiences, and celebrate proud accomplishments, both on and off the baseball field. The legacy of this organization only grows stronger as the League continues to touch the lives of all who become involved with it.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to celebrate the Garfield Babe Ruth League's 50th anniversary and honor all of its volunteers and participants for their role in keeping this wonderful tradition going for so many years. I wish the League continued success as it continues to proudly serve the community of Garfield, New Jersey.

MARKEY AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. MARKEY. This amendment would strike a strange provision in law that allows for royalty-free production for certain offshore drilling leases.

I have introduced legislation, the No New Drilling Act of 2011, which would stop the Interior Department from pursuing any new exploration, development or production of oil, gas or any other mineral anywhere off America's coasts. The fact remains that opening up new drilling for fossil fuel development is unnecessary, poses a serious threat to our shores, and is the wrong approach.

If oil companies are going to drill in our waters, at the very least they should be required to pay royalties to the federal government on the profits they make at the expense of our environment. We have seen the environmental catastrophe that can occur, most notably with the BP oil spill last year.

I don't support issuing any new leases for offshore drilling in areas not currently leased. I support this amendment so that we can hold these companies financially accountable for the benefits they are reaping from our coastal environment. I urge all of my colleagues to vote aye.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ACCESS TO BOOKS FOR CHILDREN ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the Access to Books for Children Act. This bill would amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to provide a \$5 voucher to mothers for the purchase of educational books for infants and children participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, WIC.

As a lifelong advocate for reading and early education, I am introducing this bill to help provide nourishment for both the body and the mind to children who need it most. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommend daily reading to a child beginning when the child is 6 months old. The Access to Books for Children Act will make it easier for children in the WIC program to develop literacy skills by placing books in the hands of children who may not otherwise have their own books in the home. Children who are exposed to books and reading before they start school are much more likely to graduate from high school than those who are not. I urge you to support this bill to invest in early education by instilling the love of reading in all children during the formative years that matter the most.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND CIVIL RIGHTS EQUALITY AMENDMENT ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commemorating the one-year anniversary of the passage of the District of Columbia Religious Freedom and Civil Rights Equality Amendment Act of 2009 (L18-0110).

One year ago, the District, led by the law's authors, D.C. Council member David Catania and then D.C. Council Chairman Vincent Gray, now the mayor of the District of Columbia, joined five states in affording full marriage equality to our residents. Our landmark marriage equality legislation is not the first time the District has led the country in enacting human rights legislation. The District's unique history makes our residents particularly sensitive to human rights, not only for themselves but for others, as well. Even though some of our residents do not favor same-sex marriage, there is among them a deep tradition of tolerance and respect for the rights of others that could serve as a model for other Americans.

It has been refreshing and heartwarming to see the happiness of our new same-sex marriages. Many have had wedding celebrations that have, in turn, brought great happiness to their families and friends. At the same time, the city's new law has benefited our local economy.

We celebrate the first year of the District of Columbia Religious Freedom and Civil Rights

Equality Amendment Act for the many benefits it has brought to our city and our residents. I ask the House to join me in commemorating the one-year anniversary of the passage of the Religious Freedom and Civil Rights Equality Amendment Act.

HONORING DAYMON DOSS

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daymon Doss and recognize his contribution to health care in Sonoma County California. Mr. Doss is retiring after forty-five years of leadership and collaboration in building a healthy community.

Daymon received his education in Sonoma County, attending middle school, high school, Santa Rosa Junior College and Sonoma State University. His work as a registered nurse and respiratory therapist greatly informed his career path and decisionmaking; he is known as an administrator who understands the needs of clinicians.

My hometown of Petaluma would be a very different place, were it not for Daymon's vision and sense of social justice years ago. He saw that people without health insurance were using the hospital Emergency Room as their means of obtaining health care. He knew they needed a medical home that offered a full range of care, and used his collaborative skills to establish the Petaluma Health Center. When Petaluma Valley Hospital was facing financial challenges, Daymon negotiated a contract with the St. Joseph Health System to run the hospital. When St. Joseph's threatened to close the OB section of the hospital, Daymon was instrumental in saving the department by bringing all stakeholders to the table to find a solution that worked.

You see Mr. Speaker, that is what Daymon Doss does best; he is a consensus builder, a facilitator, a communicator, an inspiration. Daymon knows and holds the respect of our community so that a call from him brings people to the table to find common goals and build workable solutions. An active member of the community, he has served on multiple boards, including Community Health Foundations, COTS, Healthy Community consortium, Sunrise Rotary of Petaluma, Housing Land Trust Sonoma County, and Partnership Health Plan. He has served in a variety of management positions at the Petaluma Health Care District and currently as the CEO.

Mr. Speaker, I have turned to Mr. Doss myself, for factual updates of events that unfold while I am working in Washington, DC. He does not color his words with his own opinion, but he does color them with optimism and a strong belief that there is a solution that will benefit everyone. It is appropriate at this time that we thank Mr. Daymon Doss for his many years of service on behalf of the people of Sonoma County. He has worked tirelessly to promote the health of our community; for this, he deserves our appreciation.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL JOSE S. MAYORGA

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Major General Jose S. Mayorga, who is completing his service as the Adjutant General for the State of Texas and Commander of the Texas National Guard. General Mayorga has served our United States and the State of Texas for over 33 years in the Active Army Component, in the Army Reserve, and as a member of the Texas National Guard.

Jose Mayorga began his career on a Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship at Texas A&I University in Kingsville, Texas graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. During his studies, he was recognized as a Distinguished Military Student and was inducted into the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society—an honor that acknowledged his distinguished scholarship and exemplary character.

He began his military service with four years on active duty as an Army Engineer Officer. In the following years, as a National Guard Officer, he held progressively more responsible command positions including Deputy Commanding General for United States Army South and Commander of the 36th Infantry Division. Among his many accomplishments was the advocacy of strong ties between the Texas National Guard and the Czech Republic and the Republic of Chile under the State Partnership Program. As Division Commander and Adjutant General he was responsible for deploying over 12,000 soldiers and airmen to Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as, for the development of the first ever Joint Strategic Plan for the Texas National Guard.

General Mayorga has gone on to earn a Master of Business Administration from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas and a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

General Mayorga is the recipient of the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

In the true spirit of the citizen-warriors who make up our National Guard, General Mayorga, born in Brownsville, is a life long resident of Texas, where he and his wife, Maria, have raised their son, Jose, a recent proud graduate of Baylor University. General Mayorga, a registered Professional Engineer, also served the State for 27 years in the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission as a Petroleum Engineer and Director, responsible for plugging over 20,000 non-producing oil and gas wells.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the dedication, commitment, and leadership of the Adjutant General for the State of Texas, Major General Jose S. Mayorga.

IN HONOR OF FAUSTINO "MANG  
PEPING" BACLIG

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American hero, Faustino "Mang Peping" Baclig, who passed away Sunday, February 27, 2011. Family and friends will be gathering for a memorial service on March 4 in Los Angeles to honor his long and full life, which was marked by heroism, dedicated community service, and incredible friendships. We are comforted knowing that today he rests in peace.

Faustino Baclig was born in the Philippines on February 14, 1922 to Irene Imperio Baclig and Fermin Gonzales Baclig. Known as Cabugao's town scholar, he completed his primary schooling in four years, skipped two grades and went on to study law at Lyceum of the Philippines University. He also received his Bachelor of Science in Political Science at the University of the Philippines and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the Philippine College of Arts and Trade. After finishing his education by age 17, he began his military career at Camp John Hay in Baguio City, Philippines.

In 1941, by military order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, all members of the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines were inducted into the United States military. Faustino Baclig was among those who served and fought heroically under the American flag in World War II. He survived the Death March of Bataan in 1942, the 61 mile forced trek where 75,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war suffered inhumanities and only 54,000 reached their destination alive.

After World War II and the liberation of the Philippines, Faustino Baclig met the love of his life, Francisca, and they married in 1952. They were blessed with two children, Freecie Maria and Filomin "Omi" Antonio. In the Philippines, Faustino Baclig enjoyed a successful career as a college professor, vice president of Provident Memorial Life Plans and as a principal in the family business.

In 1986, at the age of 64, Faustino, known to all as Mang Peping for the respect and honor he had earned, immigrated to the United States with his family. Soon after, he took the United States Oath of Allegiance and became a U.S. citizen. He spent his later years advocating for the issues that he most cherished and volunteered in the community. Mang Peping served as a commissioner on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' Adult Day Health Care Planning Council, co-founded the Golden Agers of Los Angeles, and served as a board member for People's Core, a local community organizing agency. He also was a member of the Filipino American Service Group (FASGI) and Fil-Am Vote.

In 1993, Mang Peping began a historic journey for Filipino veteran justice in 1993, when he convened the first Southern California Veterans Conference. This important meeting brought together hundreds of Filipino veterans to advocate for recognition, justice and equity for those who fought bravely alongside American soldiers in World War II. For while Mang Peping and Filipino soldiers had sworn allegiance to the United States flag and helped

America defeat the Axis powers in 1945, the U.S. Congress committed an enormous injustice one year later when it passed the Rescission Act of 1946. This act intentionally stripped Filipino veterans of the benefit they had earned as soldiers fighting under General Douglas MacArthur.

This is how I was first introduced to Mang Peping. He personally took on the struggle for justice for all Filipino veterans and became an inspiration for my work in the House of Representatives for Filipino veteran equity. Our country owes an invaluable debt of gratitude to veterans like Mang Peping who risked their lives on battlefields throughout this world to protect the basic freedoms that Americans enjoy today. At its very core, the exclusion and discrimination against Filipino veterans by the Rescission Act of 1946 was a supreme injustice.

In 2009, after more than 60 years of waiting, the Filipino Veteran Equity Compensation Fund became law. Filipino veterans finally received compensation for their courageous service during World War II. Because of the heroic work of individuals like Mang Peping, Filipino veterans not only received just compensation but the overdue recognition for their contributions to America's stand for freedom and democracy.

I have never been more certain about anything as this: Mang Peping's leadership and his fighting spirit will never be forgotten. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his loving wife Francisca; children, Freecie and Filomin "Omi" and their families, on the passing of their champion for dignity and humanity.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep affection and heartfelt sorrow, yet with great pride and abundant admiration that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Faustino "Mang Peping" Baclig, an American hero and a man I was honored to call my friend. May he rest in peace.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,178,525,108,267.60.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,540,099,361,973.80 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION  
EXTENSION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 2, 2011*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 662—The Sur-

face Transportation Extension Act of 2011. This bill provides much needed funding to keep the transportation projects in our nation going and provides assurance to State Departments of Transportation that vital infrastructure projects can continue without delay. Additionally, this bill buys the House time to put together a comprehensive, longer term surface transportation bill that can adequately address the needs and challenges facing this nation.

I look forward to working on a new surface transportation bill with Highways and Transit Subcommittee Chairman DUNCAN and with Chairman MICA's leadership along with our colleagues on the full Committee.

I am confident that our Committee will put together a bill that will meet the serious challenges we face in maintaining and improving our infrastructure. I am also confident that we will have the appropriate focus on what we must do to help move our economy forward and the elimination of earmarks will allow us to develop strong legislation that focuses more on need instead of narrow interests.

Throughout history economic growth has followed our transportation grid. Whether it was sea routes, canals, wagon trains, rail, roads and airlinks, growth in our economy has always been dependent on our transportation infrastructure.

I believe this will help to ensure that the most needed projects get funding and help to eliminate any unnecessary projects.

Madam Speaker, it is critical that we make sure that spending stays in line with revenues, and one way in which to do this is to prevent the use of "donor states," or states that give more to the Highway Trust Fund than they receive. My home state of Michigan is such a donor state, and we and other donor states have for too long been at the short end of funding for projects.

My state of Michigan has been ground zero for this difficult economy. We have had among the highest unemployment rates for many years and it is simply unacceptable that hard-working Michigan taxpayers are asked to subsidize transportation funding for states that have not been nearly as hard hit.

This extension is our first step in the process and I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation so that we can continue our important work to develop the best transportation network in the world.

HONORING CONSTANCE H. LAU AS  
A RECIPIENT OF THE 2011 WOMEN'S  
COUNCIL ON ENERGY AND  
THE ENVIRONMENT WOMAN OF  
THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Constance Lau for being recognized as the 2011 Woman of the Year by the Women's Council on Energy and the Environment.

As President and CEO of Hawaiian Electric Industries, Hawaii's largest public company, and Chairman of the Board of Hawaii Electric Company (which serves 95 percent of the state), Connie Lau has played a critical role in helping Hawaii—the most oil-dependent state

in the country—reduce its reliance on imported oil by investing in a clean energy future.

Under her direction, Hawaiian Electric signed a landmark agreement with the State of Hawaii so that the State could achieve 70 percent of its energy needs with clean energy by the year 2030. Since then, the company has expanded net energy metering, instituted

a feed-in tariff for renewable projects, started a pilot electric vehicle program, and instituted declining block rates to encourage conservation.

In addition to being the first company to use sustainable biodiesel in a utility-scale combustion turbine, Hawaiian Electric has implemented new purchase power contracts for

geothermal, photovoltaic, wind, and biomass projects.

For these and other initiatives, Connie richly deserves this distinguished national award. All of Hawaii is proud of her. Her pioneering spirit serves as an inspiration to us all.