

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE GENESEE COUNTY FREE MEDICAL CLINIC

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on March 30th the Genesee County Free Medical Clinic will honor the healthcare providers that volunteer their time and talents to ensuring the uninsured low-income people of Genesee County have access to quality medical care.

Conceived in 1991 by Dr. M. Nagaraju, the Genesee County Free Medical Clinic started as a one night a week clinic. Because there was no waiting room, the patients had to wait outside regardless of the weather. Today the clinic has its own building with 10 exam rooms, a licensed on-site pharmacy, and a waiting room. During an average week between 80 and 85 patients are treated and the clinic is the primary care provider for 3,000 uninsured patients. To be treated, a patient must be a Genesee County resident between 18 and 64 years old, have no medical coverage and income under 200 percent of the federal poverty level. The clinic is funded through their annual fundraising event—the Healing Hands 5K Run/Walk, grants and private donations.

The commitment of the medical community is integral to the success of the clinic. Thirty-nine physicians, 48 nurses, 8 pharmacists, and other professionals donate their time and skills to treat patients. Sixty specialty care physicians and the 3 hospitals in Genesee County; Genesys Health Park, Hurley Medical Center and McLaren Regional Medical Center; work with the clinic to provide hospitalizations, laboratory services and diagnostic tests.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding the work of the staff, medical community, volunteers, and supporters of the clinic for their selfless dedication to serving those in need. Twenty years ago the medical community saw a need in the greater Flint area to help those individuals that did not have health insurance and the Genesee County Free Medical Clinic was born. For the past 20 years the men and women of the medical community have been steadfast in their commitment to the clinic and I commend them for their enthusiasm, devotion, work and compassion.

INTRODUCING THE FREE COMPETITION IN CURRENCY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Free Competition in Currency Act. Currency, or money, is what allows civilization to flourish. In the absence of money, barter is the name of the game; if the farmer needs shoes,

he must trade his eggs and milk to the cobbler and hope that the cobbler needs eggs and milk. Money makes the transaction process far easier. Rather than having to search for someone with reciprocal wants, the farmer can exchange his milk and eggs for an agreed-upon medium of exchange with which he can then purchase shoes.

This medium of exchange should satisfy certain properties: it should be durable, that is to say, it does not wear out easily; it should be portable, that is, easily carried; it should be divisible into units usable for everyday transactions; it should be recognizable and uniform, so that one unit of money has the same properties as every other unit; it should be scarce, in the economic sense, so that the extant supply does not satisfy the wants of everyone demanding it; it should be stable, so that the value of its purchasing power does not fluctuate wildly; and it should be reproducible, so that enough units of money can be created to satisfy the needs of exchange.

Over millennia of human history, gold and silver have been the two metals that have most often satisfied these conditions, survived the market process, and gained the trust of billions of people. Gold and silver are difficult to counterfeit, a property which ensures they will always be accepted in commerce. It is precisely for this reason that gold and silver are anathema to governments. A supply of gold and silver that is limited in supply by nature cannot be inflated, and thus serves as a check on the growth of government. Without the ability to inflate the currency, governments find themselves constrained in their actions, unable to carry on wars of aggression or to appease their overtaxed citizens with bread and circuses.

At this country's founding, there was no government controlled national currency. While the Constitution established the congressional power of minting coins, it was not until 1792 that the U.S. Mint was formally established. In the meantime, Americans made do with foreign silver and gold coins. Even after the Mint's operations got underway, foreign coins continued to circulate within the United States, and did so for several decades.

On the desk in my office I have a sign that says: "Don't steal—the government hates competition." Indeed, any power a government arrogates to itself, it is loathe to give back to the people. Just as we have gone from a constitutionally-instituted national defense consisting of a limited army and navy bolstered by militias and letters of marque and reprisal, we have moved from a system of competing currencies to a government-instituted banking cartel that monopolizes the issuance of currency. In order to introduce a system of competing currencies, there are three steps that must be taken to produce a legal climate favorable to competition.

The first step consists of eliminating legal tender laws. Article I Section 10 of the Constitution forbids the States from making anything but gold and silver a legal tender in payment of debts. States are not required to

enact legal tender laws, but should they choose to, the only acceptable legal tender is gold and silver, the two precious metals that individuals throughout history and across cultures have used as currency. However, there is nothing in the Constitution that grants the Congress the power to enact legal tender laws. We, the Congress, have the power to coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, but not to declare a legal tender. Yet, there is a section of U.S. Code, 31 U.S.C. 5103, that purports to establish U.S. coins and currency, including Federal Reserve notes, as legal tender.

Historically, legal tender laws have been used by governments to force their citizens to accept debased and devalued currency. Gresham's Law describes this phenomenon, which can be summed up in one phrase: bad money drives out good money. An emperor, a king, or a dictator might mint coins with half an ounce of gold and force merchants, under pain of death, to accept them as though they contained one ounce of gold. Each ounce of the king's gold could now be minted into two coins instead of one, so the king now had twice as much "money" to spend on building castles and raising armies. As these legally overvalued coins circulated, the coins containing the full ounce of gold would be pulled out of circulation and hoarded. We saw this same phenomenon happen in the mid-1960s when the U.S. government began to mint subsidiary coinage out of copper and nickel rather than silver. The copper and nickel coins were legally overvalued, the silver coins undervalued in relation, and silver coins vanished from circulation.

These actions also give rise to the most pernicious effects of inflation. Most of the merchants and peasants who received this devalued currency felt the full effects of inflation, the rise in prices and the lowered standard of living, before they received any of the new currency. By the time they received the new currency, prices had long since doubled, and the new currency they received would give them no benefit.

In the absence of legal tender laws, Gresham's Law no longer holds. If people are free to reject debased currency, and instead demand sound money, sound money will gradually return to use in society. Merchants would have been free to reject the king's coin and accept only coins containing full metal weight.

The second step to reestablishing competing currencies is to eliminate laws that prohibit the operation of private mints. One private enterprise which attempted to popularize the use of precious metal coins was Liberty Services, the creators of the Liberty Dollar. Evidently the government felt threatened, as Liberty Dollars had all their precious metal coins seized by the FBI and Secret Service in November of 2007. Of course, not all of these coins were owned by Liberty Services, as many were held in trust as backing for silver and gold certificates which Liberty Services issued. None of this matters, of course, to the government, who hates to see any competition.

• 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.

The sections of U.S. Code which Liberty Services is accused of violating are erroneously considered to be anti-counterfeiting statutes, when in fact their purpose was to shut down private mints that had been operating in California. California was awash in gold in the aftermath of the 1849 gold rush, yet had no U.S. Mint to mint coinage. There was not enough foreign coinage circulating in California either, so private mints stepped into the breach to provide their own coins. As was to become the case in other industries during the Progressive era, the private mints were eventually accused of circulating debased (substandard) coinage, and with the supposed aim of providing government-sanctioned regulation and a government guarantee of purity, the 1864 Coinage Act was passed, which banned private mints from producing their own coins for circulation as currency.

The final step to ensuring competing currencies is to eliminate capital gains and sales taxes on gold and silver coins. Under current federal law, coins are considered collectibles, and are liable for capital gains taxes. Short-term capital gains rates are at income tax levels, up to 35 percent, while long-term capital gains taxes are assessed at the collectibles rate of 28 percent. Furthermore, these taxes actually tax monetary debasement. As the dollar weakens, the nominal dollar value of gold increases. The purchasing power of gold may remain relatively constant, but as the nominal dollar value increases, the federal government considers this an increase in wealth, and taxes accordingly. Thus, the more the dollar is debased, the more capital gains taxes must be paid on holdings of gold and other precious metals.

Just as pernicious are the sales and use taxes which are assessed on gold and silver at the state level in many states. Imagine having to pay sales tax at the bank every time you change a \$10 bill for a roll of quarters to do laundry. Inflation is a pernicious tax on the value of money, but even the official numbers, which are massaged downwards, are only on the order of 4 percent per year. Sales taxes in many states can take away 8 percent or more on every single transaction in which consumers wish to convert their Federal Reserve Notes into gold or silver.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, allowing for competing currencies will allow market participants to choose a currency that suits their needs, rather than the needs of the government. The prospect of American citizens turning away from the dollar towards alternate currencies will provide the necessary impetus to the U.S. government to regain control of the dollar and halt its downward spiral. Restoring soundness to the dollar will remove the government's ability and incentive to inflate the currency, and keep us from launching unconstitutional wars that burden our economy to excess. With a sound currency, everyone is better off, not just those who control the monetary system. I urge my colleagues to consider the redevelopment of a system of competing currencies and cosponsor the Free Competition in Currency Act.

HONORING KIRSTEN A. CLEMONS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the outstanding achievement of Kirsten Clemons of Blue Springs, Missouri. Kirsten is the assistant principal of Blue Springs South High School in Blue Springs, Missouri, and is the Missouri Assistant Principal of the Year. Kirsten has also been nominated by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) as a finalist for the 2011 NASSP/Vicro National Assistant Principal of the Year. This prestigious nomination recognizes Kirsten's ability to excel in the ever-demanding role of assistant-principal in all aspects of education.

Mr. Speaker, Kirsten is a major contributing factor to the collaborating leadership success at Blue Springs South High School by devising a comprehensive reading initiative along side the school's 1,400 students and their parents. Put in charge of curriculum and assessment, Kirsten used teamwork and collaboration amongst teachers, students and parents to strengthen the reading program at Blue Springs South High School. Kirsten is a true asset to the Blue Springs School District with her commitment to students, relationship building and long-range goals for students, teachers, and Blue Springs South High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in applauding Kirsten Clemons' outstanding professionalism and commitment to educating the American youth. I join with Kirsten's colleagues, family, friends, and students in congratulating Kirsten on her outstanding achievement, and wish her good luck in her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. PAUL
F. LEONARD, SR.

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. Paul F. Leonard, Sr., this year's recipient of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's Man of the Year award.

Mr. Leonard was born and raised in Pittston, and has long been involved in the community. After graduating from Pittston High School, Scranton University, and the McAllister School of Embalming in New York City, and serving in the United States Army, Paul worked for thirty-one years at St. John's/Seton Catholic High School. Paul was the school's athletic director, Physical Education and Business teacher, and coach of the baseball, basketball, and cross country teams. Since 1961 when he joined his father's business, Mr. Leonard has worked as a funeral director. Paul still resides in Pittston with his wife. He has eight children and five grandchildren.

Mr. Leonard is not only a member and past President of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, but he is also an active member of the Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish in Pittston. Paul belongs to the Luzerne County,

Pennsylvania, and National Funeral Directors' Associations. Paul is a part of the retired Athletic Directors' Association and the President John F. Kennedy Council #372 Knights of Columbus and its Fourth Degree Assembly. Mr. Leonard is also a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Dupont, the American Legion, Avoca, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Avoca, the Niagara Engine Hose Company, Pittston, the Fox Hill Country Club, the Northeast PA Retirees Golf League, and the Knights of Columbus Bowling League.

Mr. Speaker, Leonard has been a lifetime contributing member of our community. He has dedicated his life to serving Pittston and its people. Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Paul F. Leonard, Sr. on being named this year's Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's Man of the Year.

INTRODUCING THE FREEDOM TO
BANK ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation repealing two unconstitutional and paternalistic federal financial regulations. First, this legislation repeals a federal regulation that limits the number of withdrawals someone can make from a savings account in a month's time without being assessed financial penalties. As hard as it is to believe, the federal government actually forces banks to punish people for accessing their own savings too many times in a month. This bill also repeals a regulation that requires bank customers to receive a written monthly financial statement from their banks, regardless of whether the customer wants such a communication.

These regulations exceed Congress's constitutional powers and violate individual property and contract rights. Furthermore, these regulations insult Americans by treating them as children who are unable to manage their own affairs without federal control. I urge my colleagues to show their respect for the Constitution and the American people by cosponsoring the Freedom to Bank Act.

HONORING ADAM PASLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Adam Pasley. Adam 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 1051, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Adam has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Adam 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, Adam has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

HONORING MARIA GUZMAN-KENNEDY, DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria Guzman-Kennedy, a good friend and committed public servant who is retiring this week after twenty years of service to the State of California. Throughout her career, Maria has shown resourcefulness, creativity, and dedication in improving the lives of the people of California. Her energy and compassion will be greatly missed.

Raised in East Los Angeles, Maria began her career with the State of California in 1991, when she was appointed to the Department of Consumer Affairs as Assistant Deputy Director. She created the California C.A.R.E.S. (Career and Resource Exchange Seminar) program, which helped find new employment for workers who were laid off by the closure of the Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo. Acting without the benefit of additional funding or staff, Guzman-Kennedy organized more than 100 private businesses and government agencies for a one-day job-finding seminar for 5,200 former base personnel. Maria built upon this success with the second California C.A.R.E.S. at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard, and her program was duplicated again at Castle Air Force Base in Atwater. Her efforts brought new employment and opportunities for thousands of base personnel who had lost their jobs.

When Maria Guzman-Kennedy moved to the California Department of Social Services in 1996 during the implementation of the CAL Works welfare-to-work program, she created several new programs to help welfare recipients who were returning to the job market. Maria created the Fast Track Family Child Care licensing program to quickly establish qualified child care providers for the many parents participating in welfare-to-work. By helping provide trustworthy and effective childcare, her program made work possible for many parents who might otherwise have been forced to stay at home. Maria also ensured that many of the new childcare centers hired mothers who had previously been on welfare, creating new jobs. She continued this work with a collaboration between White Memorial Medical Hospital and the Mexican-American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF) in Boyle Heights, which helped many low-income parents in that area with child care and continues to operate successfully today. The Fatherhood Conference program, which Maria also created, helped CAL Works fathers with education, counseling, and networking opportunities by pooling the resources of several private partners and community groups.

When Maria Guzman-Kennedy moved to the California State License Board in 1998, she developed two innovative seminar series

that used public education to combat scam artists and fraudulent contractors. The Consumer Information Fairs helped Spanish-speakers avoid exploitation by scam artists who saw them as vulnerable targets. Through this program, Maria educated 15,000 people across California, again without budget or staff and relying on volunteers and community partners. She continued this model with the Senior Scam Stoppers seminars series, which educated senior citizens about fraud and helped protect them from scam artists. To date, 132 Scam Stoppers seminars have been held in 5 different languages, serving an estimated 90,000 Californians.

Maria Guzman-Kennedy has been a great partner and defender of the community. She has used her creativity, passion, and perseverance to deliver new services to Californians who needed help, and she never allowed a lack of resources to stand in the way. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating her on her many years of service, and I wish her much success in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I was unable to cast my votes on Monday, March 14, 2011 due to a scheduled meeting in my District with constituents to discuss local transportation issues and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote on H.R. 793 and H. Con. Res. 27.

Had I been present to vote on H.R. 793, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12781 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Inverness, California, as the "Specialist Jake Robert Velloza Post Office", I would have reluctantly voted in favor of this bill. I do not believe that in this time of high unemployment and rising deficit and debt levels we should be wasting time naming post offices. However, since I have a high respect for our military members and their sacrifices, on this bill I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present to vote on H. Con. Res. 27, providing for the acceptance of a statue of Gerald R. Ford from the people of Michigan for placement in the United States Capitol, I would have again reluctantly voted in favor of this bill. Again, at this time of high unemployment and record deficits and debts, I do not believe that we should be spending our time on placing statues in the U.S. Capitol. However, since we have set up a program allowing states to place statues in the Capitol and the people of Michigan have selected to honor President Gerald Ford, on this bill I would have voted "aye."

HONORING ELLIOTT J. KIEFFER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Elliott J. Kieffer.

Elliott 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 1214, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Elliott has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Elliott 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, Elliott has served as the Tamegonit Lodge Chapter Seven Chief and earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Elliott has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Elliott built a handicap-accessible ramp with handrails for St. James Catholic Church in Liberty, Missouri, providing easy access to the church's educational wing.

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

RAELEEE ROSSEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Raelee Rossel for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Raelee Rossel is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

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

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

INTRODUCING THE FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD ABOLITION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to restore financial stability to America's economy by abolishing the Federal Reserve. Since the creation of the Federal Reserve, middle- and working-class Americans have been victimized by a boom-and-bust monetary policy. In addition, most Americans have suffered a steadily eroding purchasing power because of the Federal Reserve's inflationary policies. This represents a real, if hidden, tax imposed on the American people.

From the Great Depression, to the stagflation of the seventies, to the current economic crisis caused by the housing bubble, every

economic downturn suffered by this country over the past century can be traced to Federal Reserve policy. The Fed has followed a consistent policy of flooding the economy with easy money, leading to a misallocation of resources and an artificial "boom" followed by a recession or depression when the Fed-created bubble bursts.

With a stable currency, American exporters will no longer be held hostage to an erratic monetary policy. Stabilizing the currency will also give Americans new incentives to save as they will no longer have to fear inflation eroding their savings. Those members concerned about increasing America's exports or the low rate of savings should be enthusiastic supporters of this legislation.

Though the Federal Reserve policy harms the average American, it benefits those in a position to take advantage of the cycles in monetary policy. The main beneficiaries are those who receive access to artificially inflated money and/or credit before the inflationary effects of the policy impact the entire economy. Federal Reserve policies also benefit big spending politicians who use the inflated currency created by the Fed to hide the true costs of the welfare-warfare state. It is time for Congress to put the interests of the American people ahead of special interests and their own appetite for big government.

Abolishing the Federal Reserve will allow Congress to reassert its constitutional authority over monetary policy. The United States Constitution grants to Congress the authority to coin money and regulate the value of the currency. The Constitution does not give Congress the authority to delegate control over monetary policy to a central bank. Furthermore, the Constitution certainly does not empower the federal government to erode the American standard of living via an inflationary monetary policy.

In fact, Congress' constitutional mandate regarding monetary policy should only permit currency backed by stable commodities such as silver and gold to be used as legal tender. Therefore, abolishing the Federal Reserve and returning to a constitutional system will enable America to return to the type of monetary system envisioned by our nation's founders: one where the value of money is consistent because it is tied to a commodity such as gold. Such a monetary system is the basis of a true free-market economy.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand up for working Americans by putting an end to the manipulation of the money supply which erodes Americans' standard of living, enlarges big government, and enriches well-connected elites, by cosponsoring my legislation to abolish the Federal Reserve.

HONORING MAYOR JOSEPH
ESQUIVEL

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Joseph Esquivel for his 39 years of public service to the people of Lakewood, California. Joe began his service to Lakewood as a member of the Lakewood Recreation and

Community Services Commission in 1972, and in 1990, began the first of his five terms on the Lakewood City Council. After 21 productive years of service on the Council, Joe is retiring from public service to spend more quality time with his family.

Joe and his wife Pat have called Lakewood home since 1963, raising three wonderful children, and in the process becoming proud grandparents and great-grandparents. As an active leader in his community, Joe has had a hand in the founding of many local organizations such as the Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame. Joe continues to be a member of the Hall of Fame Board of Electors, charged with recognizing Lakewood's young high school and collegiate standout athletes.

Throughout his time on the City Council and as Mayor, Joe made it his priority to ensure Lakewood remains a safe, family-friendly, and thriving community. Joe was instrumental in bringing together the resources needed to make Lakewood's state-of-the-art Sheriff's Station a reality and was integral to developing several crime prevention programs that have made our community safer.

Over the past two decades, Joe has worked tirelessly to make certain Lakewood operates on firm financial footing and never outside its fiscal means. While the struggling economy has impacted many cities throughout Southern California, Lakewood has managed to maintain funding for all city services and capital improvement projects. In addition, Lakewood has managed to be a leading destination for businesses and new business development.

Joe's involvement in public service reaches far beyond the confines of the City's Council Chamber. Joe is a dedicated member of Lakewood's Rotary Club, having served for many years as the coordinator of the Rotary Club's annual Project Shepherd holiday assistance program for families in need. Under his leadership, Project Shepherd aided hundreds of families each year with the help of volunteers of all ages from Lakewood schools, churches, and youth organizations. He was named Rotarian of the Year in 1995.

One of his joys as a Lakewood resident was serving as a volunteer coach of 8- and 9-year-old youngsters in basketball and football at Bolivar Park. He received the Mayor's Award for 11 consecutive seasons of volunteer coaching.

He has held various leadership positions, including President of the California Contract Cities Association, President of the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District, and President of the Private Industry Council of Southeast Los Angeles County. Joe sits on the Lakewood Regional Medical Center and Lakewood Weingart Family YMCA Boards of Directors. As a Navy veteran, Joe has been a proud member of the American Legion Post 496 for the past 19 years.

From one public servant to another, I praise Mayor Joseph Esquivel for his service and dedication to the City of Lakewood and the community. Lakewood would not be the community it is today without him.

RHETT GUTIERREZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rhett Gutierrez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Rhett Gutierrez is a 10th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

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

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR.
JOSEPH J. JOYCE, JR.

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. Joseph J. Joyce, Jr., this year's recipient of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's Swingle Award.

Mr. Joyce was born in Avoca, PA. He graduated from St. John the Evangelist's High School in Pittston, PA, and Luzerne County Community College in Nanticoke, PA. Joseph also attended Bloomsburg University, majoring in Business Education and Accounting. In 1989, Joseph became licensed in Property and Casualty, Life, Accident, and Health Insurance, and joined his father's business. Joseph is currently the Principal in Joyce Insurance Group, Joyce Haggerty and Bell Insurance, and the Joyce Financial Group, located in Pittston. Joseph resides in Hughestown with his wife of thirty-two years. He has five children and one grandchild.

Mr. Joyce is a long-time member and a past President of the Friendly Sons, where he is a Program Chairman. He is a part of St. Mary's R.C. Church, the Jolly Boys Association, the Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce, the Knights of Columbus John F. Kennedy Council #372, the Association of the Blind, Miles for Michael, and the Fox Hill Country Club. Joseph is a member of the Pittston YMCA where he was named Volunteer of the Year, and the Avoca Lions Club, where he has served as Secretary to the Board of Directors. Joe has also been named the Sunday Dispatch's Greater Pittston Person of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, Joseph has been a stand-out of our community. His service to Northeast Pennsylvania is something to be noted. Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Joseph J. Joyce, Jr. on receiving this year's Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's Swingle Award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE END THE
MANDATE ACT**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the End the Mandate Act. This legislation repeals the sections of the health reform law that force all Americans to purchase federally-approved health insurance plans.

As two federal courts have ruled, forcing every American to obtain health insurance is a blatant violation of the Constitution. Defenders of this provision claim the Congress's constitutional authority to regulate "interstate commerce" gives Congress the power to mandate every American obtain a federally-approved health insurance plan. However, even the broadest definition of "regulating interstate commerce" cannot reasonably encompass forcing Americans to engage in commerce by purchasing health insurance.

Forcing every American to obtain a congressionally-approved health insurance plan is not just unconstitutional; it is a violation of the basic freedom to make our own decisions regarding how best to meet the health care needs of ourselves and our families.

Mr. Speaker, the health care law does not just require Americans to buy health insurance—it forces them to obtain what the federal government decides is "minimum essential coverage." Some people may claim that the requirement to have "minimal essential coverage" does not impose an unreasonable burden on Americans. There are two problems with this claim.

First, the very imposition of a health insurance mandate, no matter how "minimal," violates the principles of individual liberty upon which this country was founded.

Second, the mandate is unlikely to remain "minimal" for long. The experience of states that allow their legislatures to mandate what benefits health insurance plans must cover has shown that politicizing health insurance inevitably makes health insurance more expensive. As the cost of government-mandated health insurance rises, Congress will likely respond by increasingly subsidizing health insurance for an ever increasing number of Americans.

When the cost of government-mandated insurance proves to be an unsustainable burden on individuals, small employers, and the government, Congress will likely impose price controls on medical treatments, and even go so far as to limit what procedures and treatments mandatory insurance will reimburse.

Mr. Speaker, Congress made a grave error by forcing all Americans to purchase health insurance. The mandate violates fundamental principles of individual liberty, and will lead to further government involvement in health care. I therefore ask all of my colleagues to join me in correcting this mistake by cosponsoring the End the Mandate Act.

POE POH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Poe Poh for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Poe Poh is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

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

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 10, 2011, and on Monday, March 14, 2011, I missed a series of votes because I was ill. If I was here, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 168, "no" on rollcall No. 169, "no" on rollcall No. 170, "yea" on rollcall No. 171; "yea" on rollcall No. 175; and "yea" on rollcall No. 176.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, due to my participation in a meeting with some of my constituents, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 174. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this vote.

NOAH BENNETT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Noah Bennett for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Noah Bennett is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Noah Bennett is exemplary of the type of achievement

that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, on March 11, 2011, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 172–174 due to a tsunami in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall No. 172, "aye;" rollcall No. 173, "aye;" and rollcall No. 174, "nay."

INTRODUCTION OF THE
AFFORDABLE GAS PRICE ACT**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Affordable Gas Price Act. This legislation reduces gas prices by reforming government policies that artificially inflate the price of gas. Because of a number of factors, including the instability in the Middle East, the average price of gas has risen approximately 13% since the beginning of the year. In some areas, the price of gas is approaching \$4.00 per gallon. There is thus a real possibility that the American people will soon be once again hard hit by skyrocketing gas prices.

High gas prices threaten our fragile economy and diminishes the quality of life for all Americans. One industry that is particularly hard hit is the trucking industry. The effects of high gas prices on the trucking industry will be reflected in increased costs for numerous consumer goods, thus further harming American consumers.

Unfortunately, many proposals to address the problem of higher energy prices involve increasing government interference in the market through policies such as price controls. These big government solutions will, at best, prove ineffective and, at worst, bring back the fuel shortages and gas lines of the seventies.

Instead of expanding government, Congress should repeal federal laws and policies that raise the price of gas, either directly through taxes or indirectly through regulations that discourage the development of new fuel sources. This is why my legislation repeals the federal moratorium on offshore drilling and allows oil exploration in the ANWR reserve in Alaska. My bill also ensures that the National Environmental Policy Act's environmental impact statement requirement will no longer be used as a tool to force refiners to waste valuable time and capital on nuisance litigation. The Affordable Gas Price Act also provides tax incentives to encourage investment in new refineries.

Federal fuel taxes are a major part of gasoline's cost. The Affordable Gas Price Act suspends the federal gasoline tax any time the average gas prices exceeds \$3.00 per gallon. During the suspension, the federal government will have a legal responsibility to ensure the federal highway trust fund remains funded. My bill also raises the amount of mileage reimbursement not subject to taxes, and, during times of high oil prices, provides the same mileage reimbursement benefit to charity and medical organizations as provided to businesses.

Misguided and outdated trade policies are also artificially raising the price of gas. For instance, even though Russia and Kazakhstan allow their citizens the right and opportunity to emigrate, they are still subject to Jackson-Vanik sanctions, even though Jackson-Vanik was a reaction to the Soviet Union's highly restrictive emigration policy. Eliminating Jackson-Vanik's threat of trade-restricting sanctions would increase the United States' access to oil supplies from non-Arab countries. Thus, my bill terminates the application of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 to Russia and Khazaskin, allowing Americans to enjoy the benefits of free trade with these oil-producing nations.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Affordable Gas Price Act and end government policies that increase the cost of gasoline.

SERGIO ALFARO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sergio Alfaro for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Sergio Alfaro is a 11th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 813

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on several occasions when we begin a discussion about taking care of veterans, we sometimes bypass or overlook the veterans' survivors.

Today, I am introducing a bill to help our veterans' survivors.

Mr. Speaker, survivors often serve as the backbone of our veterans. In many instances while they are serving and giving selflessly to their nation, their loved ones are holding down the homefront for when they return.

However, I believe that current law short-changes our survivors.

This bill speaks directly to the appropriateness of our current regulations regarding Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) because it would shorten the time period for which a veteran must be rated continuously totally disabled immediately preceding his or her death before the veteran's survivors are eligible for these benefits from 10 years to 1 year.

DIC is a monetary payment made to survivors of our service-connected disabled veterans. Survivors deserve to be taken care of when their spouse who served and gave their all has died.

Given the current backlog in the VA's claims processing system, veterans wait years, even decades, to receive their final rating. In the case of totally disabled veterans, the resulting benefits may, unfortunately, come too late. These delays should not negate our responsibility to these veterans' families and this legislation would ensure that their survivors receive the benefits due to them.

Mr. Speaker, when we provide for and protect our veterans we must always remember to include their survivors. They cannot be an afterthought.

When I was the Chair of this Committee, I always remembered our veterans' survivors and made them a priority. I hope we continue that tradition in this Congress.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

SALUTING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
CHESTER L. RICE

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and service of Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.) Chester L. Rice for his distinguished service to the U.S. Army and his nation.

LTC Rice honorably served his country for twenty-one years from 1955 to 1976.

Chester served as a member of my Service Academy Nominating Committee since 2009. He also served as a member of Congressman Weldon's Service Academy Nominating Committee from 1997 to 2008. I applaud his commitment to our youth, military and the future of our Armed Services.

On May 15, 2001, Chester was awarded the TROACC Award from the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Retired Officers Association for his leadership and dedicated work as Vice President and President of TROACC. Under his direction, the Chapter was twice selected as the TROA Chapter of the Year and the chapter magazine, the Intercom, was twice selected as the best in its category.

LTC Rice served as Chairman of the TROACC Student Affairs Committee and is credited for improvements to the program, which recognizes outstanding cadets from the Junior ROTC Programs in eleven Brevard

County High Schools and from the ROTC Panther Battalion at the Florida Institute of Technology. The excellent support that TROACC provided to these Junior and Senior ROTC programs is a direct result of the leadership and dedicated work of LTC Rice.

Born in Lawrenceville, Virginia on Nov. 28, 1933, he attended high school in Derry Township, Pennsylvania and was President of his high school class all four years. All his classmates loved him.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal and the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Chester is survived by his wife, Helen and brother, Donald Rice. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Harry Rice and Robert Rice, Jr. and his sister, Dolores Henderson. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

I am honored to rise and call attention to the service that Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.) Chester L. Rice has provided our nation. I am proud to have known him and to see his commitment to the cause of liberty and freedom.

RUSLAN PSHICHENKO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ruslan Pshichenko for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Ruslan Pshichenko is a 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

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

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

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SARASOTA BALLET

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of The Sarasota Ballet.

Jean Weidner founded The Sarasota Ballet in 1987 as a presenting organization. Her dream of a full resident ballet company was realized in 1990 when The Sarasota Ballet became the first and only professional ballet company on the Gulf Coast of Florida.

Through the seasons, The Sarasota Ballet has become an exceptional company of artistic and talented dancers.

In recent years, under the direction of Iain Webb, The Sarasota Ballet has achieved national and international recognition with critical acclaim from the New York and European press. In October of this year, the Company will be performing at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The Sarasota Ballet has made a significant contribution to the arts community for which Sarasota is famous.

I join my constituents in celebration of The Sarasota Ballet's 20th Anniversary.

INTRODUCING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today the Sanctity of Life Act. This legislation provides that the federal courts of the United States, up to and including the Supreme Court, do not have jurisdiction to hear abortion-related cases. Since the Supreme Court invented a "right" to abortion in *Roe v. Wade*, federal judges have repeatedly thwarted efforts by democratically elected officials at the state and local level to protect the unborn.

However, the federal courts have no legitimate authority to tell states and local communities what restrictions can and cannot be placed on abortion. Even some intellectually honest supporters of legalized abortion acknowledge that *Roe v. Wade* was incorrectly decided. Congress must use the authority granted to it in Article 3, Section 1 of the Constitution to rein in rogue federal judges from interfering with a state's ability to protect unborn life.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues will join me in support of using the power granted to the Congress by the Constitution to protect the ability of individual states and the people to restore respect for the sanctity of human life.

NOE GODINES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Noe Godines for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Noe Godines is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

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

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

HONORING FRANK WOODRUFF BUCKLES

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express honor and respect for Frank Woodruff Buckles. Frank was born on February 1st, 1901, and recently passed away on February 27, 2011 as the last of 4.7 million Americans who served in World War I. I rise today to memorialize and honor his amazing life.

Eager to serve his country, Mr. Buckles enlisted in the Army at the age of 16. Even though he was not old enough to serve in the military, Frank found a way. When asked for his birth certificate, Frank told the Army recruitment officer, "...the public records were not made of births in Missouri at the time I was born, and my record would be in the family Bible." He was subsequently deployed to Europe in 1917 and returned home in 1921 to begin his career.

During WWII Frank worked in Manila. After the Japanese invaded the Philippines in 1941, Frank spent three-and-a-half years in a Japanese prison camp before being rescued in 1945.

Frank was a true patriot, and made it a priority to contribute to the success of the country he loved. He lived a long and accomplished life, and it is very important to commemorate the conclusion of this generation of American soldiers. As Frank Buckles is laid to rest today at Arlington National Cemetery, with full military honors, let us pause and reflect on the sacrifices of his generation.

SAUL DELGADO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Saul Delgado for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Saul Delgado is an 11th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL WORK REINVESTMENT ACT TO COMMEMORATE WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate World Social Work Day, a day when the international social work and social welfare communities celebrate the profession's contributions to society. The 2011 theme is, "Social Work Voices Responding to Global Crises: Together We Develop the Agenda." This event, which occurs on the third Tuesday in March, is even more relevant this year as the United States and the international communities have faced significant economic, social, and political challenges.

Social work is the helping profession and social workers across the globe help people to address challenges in their lives, guide them to critical resources, counsel them on important life decisions, and help them reach their full potential. Social workers are a part of society's safety net. These highly trained professionals work with our most vulnerable individuals in communities across the country. Without the help of these professionals, many individuals would not have a voice.

It is for this reason that I am re-introducing the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young Social Work Reinvestment Act. Today we stand before pivotal crossroads. With crises in Japan, the Middle East, and the lingering effects on our economy of foreclosures and unemployment, social workers continue to assist those most in need.

Yet, as I stand before you today, our nation's social workers face daunting challenges. These challenges compromise the ability of the many dedicated professionals to provide their clients with unparalleled service and care. Many future social workers have opted to leave the field rather than endure the competing policy priorities, fiscal constraints, safety concerns, significant educational debt, and comparatively low salary that await them upon graduation.

The Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act is designed to address these challenges to the social work profession, thereby helping to ensure that millions of individuals and families throughout the nation can continue to receive necessary social work services. This legislation creates the foundation for a professional workforce to meet the ever-increasing demand for the essential services that social workers provide.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, as it is one step towards a stronger workforce in these challenging times.

INTRODUCING THE LIBERTY AMENDMENT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Liberty Amendment, which repeals

the 16th Amendment, thus paving the way for real change in the way government collects and spends the people's hard-earned money. The Liberty Amendment also explicitly forbids the Federal Government from performing any action not explicitly authorized by the U.S. Constitution.

The 16th Amendment gives the Federal Government a direct claim on the lives of American citizens by enabling Congress to levy a direct income tax on individuals. Until the passage of the 16th Amendment, the Supreme Court had consistently held that Congress had no power to impose an income tax.

Income taxes are responsible for the transformation of the Federal Government from one of limited powers into a vast leviathan whose tentacles reach into almost every aspect of American life. Thanks to the income tax, today the Federal Government routinely invades our privacy, and penalizes our every endeavor.

The Founding Fathers realized that "the power to tax is the power to destroy," which is why they did not give the Federal Government the power to impose an income tax. Needless to say, the Founders would be horrified to know that Americans today give more than a third of their income to the Federal Government.

Income taxes not only diminish liberty, they retard economic growth by discouraging work and production. Our current tax system also forces Americans to waste valuable time and money on complacency with an ever-more complex tax code. The increased interest in flat-tax and national sales tax proposals, as well as the increasing number of small businesses that questioning the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) "withholding" system provides further proof that America is tired of the labyrinthine tax code. Americans are also increasingly fed up with an IRS that continues to ride roughshod over their civil liberties, despite recent "pro-taxpayer" reforms.

Mr. Speaker, America survived and prospered for 140 years without an income tax, and with a Federal Government that generally adhered to strictly constitutional functions, operating with modest excise revenues. The income tax opened the door to the era (and errors) of Big Government. I hope my colleagues will help close that door by cosponsoring the Liberty Amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STARTUP VISA ACT OF 2011

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a new version of the StartUp Visa Act, a bill that would encourage innovation and economic growth by permitting immigrant entrepreneurs greater access to temporary U.S. visas. The bill matches legislation introduced this week by Senators JOHN KERRY, RICHARD LUGAR, and MARK UDALL in the Senate.

What do American household names such as Google, eBay and Proctor & Gamble have in common? They are all former start-ups founded by immigrants.

Our current visa laws have made it unnecessarily difficult for immigrants to launch new

companies in the United States. I am reintroducing the StartUp Visa Act because the economic dynamism of foreign-born talent has always been a crucial factor in our country's growth, and we must take steps to enable it to continue. By allowing immigrant entrepreneurs greater access to American visas, we truly can drive American job creation and channel the power of innovation.

This legislation would be an expansion of the bill from last Congress, extending the pool of eligible immigrants to include holders of H-1B visas and entrepreneurs living outside the United States with a market presence in the country.

The entrepreneurial spirit is ingrained in our country's history and success. I believe that this legislation is a vital component of promoting our global competitiveness. We must ensure a strong foundation for foreign-born, highly-skilled talent to create American jobs and promote economic prosperity and this bill works toward that end.

PATRICK RATNECHT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Patrick Ratnecht for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Patrick Ratnecht is a 12th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

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

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

FRANK WOODRUFF BUCKLES, OUR NATION'S OLDEST SURVIVING WORLD WAR I VETERAN

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Frank Woodruff Buckles, a fellow West Virginian and our Nation's oldest surviving World War I veteran, who was buried today at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

When asked to explain his long life, Frank Buckles answered, "Hope." All of America's veterans hope that their service will not have been in vain. They hope that their service leads to a better future for our Nation and the world. And they hope that the freedoms secured through their sacrifices will live long past their days with us on this Earth.

We honor our veterans and their dedication to duty and selfless sacrifice. Nourishing the memory of their contributions feeds our own generation of hope.

Today, our Nation honors the mortal remains of Frank Buckles and memorializes a generation of Americans, whose common purpose, whose lasting hope, was so nobly advanced by their last comrade.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. ROBERT CALPIN

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. Robert Calpin, this year's recipient of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Calpin was born in Minooka, PA. He graduated from Scranton Central High School and the University of Scranton. Robert has held positions at GEICO Insurance Company, RCA Picture Tubes, Karibe, Inc. He is currently employed at the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare in Wilkes-Barre, PA in the Nursing Home Division. Robert now resides in Pittston with his wife. They have three children and one grandchild.

A member, past President, and current Membership Chairman of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Mr. Calpin currently serves as an officer of President John F. Kennedy Council #372 Knights of Columbus and its Fourth Degree. Robert is also a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Wolf Tone Division, the Minooka Notre Dame Club, the Scranton Area Organized Runners, and the PIAA.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Calpin has been an active member of our community. He continues to go above and beyond to serve our area. Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Robert Calpin on receiving this year's Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's Lifetime Achievement Award.

PROVIDE SAN DIEGO WITH WATER

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced H.R. 917, the South San Diego County Water Reclamation Project of 2011, to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation's participation in Phase I of the South San Diego County Water Reclamation Project.

Southern California must reduce dependence on water that is imported from outside the region. The South San Diego County Water Reclamation Project is a comprehensive and coordinated approach by public water agencies to address this need by sustainably using groundwater resources through desalination of brackish water, and recycling of wastewater for non-potable uses.

When fully implemented, the Project will reduce dependence on imported water by approximately 18,600 acre-feet (or 4 billion gallons) per year, enough to provide service to about 37,000 households. This will minimize

supply and environmental impacts to the region's imported water sources, the Colorado River, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta. This water supply would also mitigate the potential impacts of planned or emergency water supply interruptions.

The Project includes the following components:

A Regional Concentrate Conveyance Facility would serve existing and future desalting and water reclamation facilities. The proposed Conveyance Facility will facilitate continued and expanded operation of the existing Reynolds Desalination Facility and potentially other facilities that may be developed in the region.

An additional groundwater desalination facility in the Otay River Valley.

A Recycled Water Membrane Bioreactor Facility to treat wastewater and produce recycled water that will be constructed as part of Phase II of the project.

The South San Diego County Water Reclamation Project will highly leverage scarce Federal resources. The maximum Federal share would be 25 percent, so each Federal dollar authorized would be matched by a minimum of three nonfederal dollars. In addition, no Federal funding would be used for the operation or maintenance of these facilities.

PETRA REAGAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

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

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

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

CONGRATULATING LINDA ELLIOT

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Linda Elliot, a loyal and committed LGBT rights advocate, who will receive the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Arizona Individual Equality Award on March 19, 2011. She is truly deserving of this unique honor, and we recognize her many contributions in addressing issues affecting Arizona's LGBT community.

Ms. Elliot's commitment to HRC is commendable, and will soon be marked by 20 years of service to this organization. Throughout her tenure, Ms. Elliot has served in a variety of diverse roles, including her most recent position as the National Co-Chair for the HRC Board of Director's Public Policy Committee. In this capacity, Ms. Elliot and her fellow committee members have helped achieve a series of accomplishments for the LGBT movement, including hate crimes legislation, the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell, and other gains related to the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and gender rights.

Ms. Elliot should also be congratulated for her efforts as a founding member of two HRC chapters in Phoenix and Denver, and for her dedicated membership on a host of community boards and steering committees, including Arizona's Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS, the One-Voice Community Center, the "No On Prop 107" steering committee, and the Colorado AIDS Project.

Ms. Elliot has maintained a constant presence in the community she serves, encouraging and inspiring the involvement and participation of numerous other LGBT activists in Arizona.

Personally, I also want to thank Linda for her continued friendship and support, which she has generously offered to me throughout the years.

In considering all of these achievements, I ask that you join me in recognizing Linda Elliot for her tireless advocacy efforts and offer her sincere congratulations upon acceptance of her laudable award.

A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BROWN-ALLEN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Barbara Brown-Allen.

Barbara has a feisty attitude and no-nonsense approach to life's obstacles; she believes there is nothing that cannot be achieved if one formulates a plan and acts on it. This ambition led to a life of exciting opportunity for this proud, Jamaican-born, businesswoman.

One of Barbara's greatest opportunities came from Crown Heights North in Brooklyn, New York. In 2000, she and her husband, Michael, lived in East Flatbush. They drove through Crown Heights North one day and noticed a neighborhood filled with potential. Barbara immediately invested in property there and spent the next few years developing it. Despite several construction obstacles, she accomplished her goal: a beautifully renovated five story townhouse to call home.

While developing her property in Crown Heights North, Barbara found herself in two new careers: community activism and real estate. She was originally a secretary for a federal bankruptcy judge, but wanted new challenges. Barbara took real estate classes and began bringing buyers and renters to Crown Heights North. To raise the reputation of the neighborhood, Barbara began lobbying local politicians for change. For example, she encouraged Borough President Marty Markowitz to offer homeowners tree guards to protect the

neighborhood trees, a successful program that remains in place today.

As her political strength grew, Barbara remained dedicated to improving the quality of life in Crown Heights North. She joined local organizations that advocated for land-marking, increased city services, and business improvement. To better the quality of life for all of Crown Heights' residents, she also worked with several organizations: Crown Heights North Association, CHARM, Nostrand Park and the Crow Hill Association. With a storefront on Franklin Avenue, Barbara's dedication to the community was exemplified by her actions as a landlord: she would only rent to the "right" tenant, one who would help revitalize the Crow Hill section of Crown Heights.

Barbara excelled in the real estate business and is now an agent for Prudential Douglas Elliman. She was voted Rookie of the Year in 2008, and received two awards in 2009: the Top Two Sales Agent in New York City for Individual Transactions and the 2009 President's Circle Award. In spite of the recent down market, Barbara sees a bright future for her business and her neighborhood. "I think long term," she says. "I just look around, and I know." The vision and continued success of Barbara will be no surprise to anyone who has encountered this determined force of nature.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Barbara Brown-Allen.

INTRODUCING THE TAXPAYER'S FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Taxpayers' Freedom of Conscience Act, which forbids federal funds from being used for population control or "family planning." President Obama's executive order allowing those who perform and/or promote abortion overseas to receive taxpayer money, as well as the health care law's failure to prevent taxpayer money from being used for abortions, bring new urgency to the need to protect pro-life Americans from being forced to subsidize abortion.

It is not enough to say that "family planning" groups may not use federal funds to perform or promote abortion. After all, since money is fungible, federal funding of any activities of these organizations forces taxpayers to underwrite the organizations' abortion activities. Thus, the Taxpayers' Freedom of Conscience Act is the only way to protect taxpayers from having to support what they "disbelieve and abhor."

Thomas Jefferson eloquently made the case for Taxpayer's Freedom of Conscience Act when he said that: "To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical."

I hope all my colleagues will join me in helping end the "sinful and tyrannical" policy of forcing pro-life Americans to subsidize, either directly or indirectly, abortion by cosponsoring the Taxpayer Freedom of Conscience Act.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RE-
ESTABLISHMENT OF US-ALBA-
NIAN RELATIONS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my warmest wishes to the people of Albania on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Albania. For more than 50 years, our countries were separated by more than just distance, and Albania lived in darkness. But, twenty years ago, the Albanian people threw off the yoke of repression and ushered in an era of democracy and freedom.

I believe that the renewal of ties between the United States and Albania flowed naturally following the end of the dictatorship. With the strong hand of President Woodrow Wilson and the United States early last century, the European powers were not able to divide Albania among its neighbors, and Albania's territorial integrity and sovereignty were ensured.

Today, our relations are strong and Albania has taken its rightful place within Europe and on the international scene. It has joined NATO and has begun the process of moving toward the European Union (EU). As a member of NATO, Albania has sent members of its armed forces to fight along side US and other countries' troops in the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. And, it is my fervent hope that through continued democratic progress, Albania will someday soon join the EU.

I have visited Albania many times since the early 1990s and have personally seen the immense progress the country has made. When I first walked the streets of Tirana, I was almost as likely to have seen a horse-drawn cart as a car driving down the streets and boulevards. Today, however, Albania's capital is a flourishing city and the country is full of life and has a European outlook.

So, again, on this twentieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Albania, I would like to offer my congratulations and my best wishes for the next twenty years of friendship and progress.

A TRIBUTE TO JEAN MARGARET
ELIGON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Jean Margaret Eligon.

Ms. Eligon was born in Grenada, West Indies, and immigrated to the United States at the age of seven. She graduated from Bishop McDonnell Memorial High School, received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brooklyn College, and a Master of Science degree from Long Island University.

Ms. Eligon is a Teacher, Educator, Special Education Itinerary Teacher, and a Resource Room Coordinator; she is licensed in General Education and Special Education. Ms. Eligon

taught Communication Arts, Math and Global History at Samuel J. Tilden High School. She retired in June 2009, after working in the public school system for 35 years.

Today, Ms. Eligon works with at risk children and has formed her own agency, known as the JME Agency. This agency was created to service children diagnosed with various disabilities, providing one-on-one support in daycare centers and in the home.

She has two children: a son, who is an elementary school teacher, and a daughter, who is a high school teacher. Besides her love for people, Jean loves reading, cooking, baking, and traveling.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Jean Margaret Eligon.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,166,030,787,779.80.

On January 6, 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 \$3,527,605,041,486.00 since then.

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

HONORING HENRY OGINSKY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Henry "Hank" Oginsky as he celebrates his 80th birthday. Hank is a dear friend, I have known for many, many years and I congratulate him on reaching this milestone in his life. A party will be held in his honor on March 27 in Corunna, Michigan.

Hank was born on March 1, 1931 in New Lothrop, Michigan. He graduated from Northeastern High School in Detroit and in 1950 he started working for Buick Motor Division of General Motors. He worked at Buick for 40 years. As a member of UAW Local 599, Hank was elected as a Committeeman, then Shop Committeeman, and as the Local's Financial Secretary. He served as Financial Secretary for 25 years. During this time he was also a member of the Executive Committee and continued serving when he became a retiree. Over the years he played a pivotal role in passage of the "30 and Out" retirement policy and obtaining dental benefits for the membership.

As a father of ten children, Hank also finds time to maintain two farms. He has his own farm in Lennon, Michigan and he operates his grandfather's farm in the New Lothrop area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding Henry "Hank" Oginsky as he celebrates his 80th birthday. I

have always welcomed his insight, thoughtfulness, astute judgment and assistance over the years. I wish him the best in the coming year and many, many more.

A TRIBUTE TO ANDREA PIPER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Andrea Piper.

Andrea Piper was born and raised in Albany, New York. She was fortunate to attend private school from kindergarten through eighth grade. She then attended Albany High School, where she graduated at the top of her class. Ms. Piper had a strong educational and ethical philosophy during her childhood, a philosophy that still remains with her. This foundation, along with continued support from family and friends, allowed Ms. Piper to embrace her dream of becoming an educational leader. After high school, Ms. Piper received a Bachelor's Degree from SUNY College at Cortland. She later went on to pursue a Master's degree from Cambridge College and a certification in Education and Administration from the College of St. Rose CITE Program.

Ms. Piper has been an educator for seventeen years with the New York City Department of Education. She started as a middle school science teacher, in 1993, at Intermediate School 55, in Brownsville. In 1999, she moved on to teach for another seven years at ACORN Community High School, in Crown Heights; during this time, she was recognized by the UFT as a Teacher of the Year. While at ACORN Community High School, Ms. Piper served on several committees and started various after school clubs, including the ACHS Chorus and the Forensics Science Club. Her Principal recognized her effectiveness as a classroom teacher and assigned her as Lead Teacher of the Science Department; this prompted Andrea to pursue her administrative license. Very soon thereafter, Andrea was offered an Assistant Principal ("AP") position at ACORN Community High School, where she served as AP of Supervision, Guidance, Security and Organization. Her hard work and devotion to educating the lives of the children of ACORN Community High School led her to her current position: Principal of ACORN Community High School.

Affectionately known as "Piper," Ms. Piper has been recognized by colleagues for her hard work and contributions to the legacy of the schools she taught in. During her tenure as teacher and educational leader, Ms. Piper strived to help students become aware of their self-worth and limitless potential. She sets the bar high for both students and staff members; she understands what it takes to succeed.

Ms. Piper's hobbies are singing, crocheting, shopping and drawing. She loves spending time with her two daughters, Akili and Cheyenne. Ms. Piper owes her success and work ethic to her parents, Hilliard Sr. (deceased) and Anna Piper, as well as her great mentors. Through their love and dedication, as well as their commitment to entrench her in a guided and religious background, Ms. Piper maintains her strength and identity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Andrea Piper.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION THAT THE PRESIDENT IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN IN ADVANCE SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION FOR THE USE OF U.S. ARMED FORCES IN RESPONSE TO CIVIL UNREST IN LIBYA

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the President is required to obtain in advance specific statutory authorization for the use of United States Armed Forces in response to civil unrest in Libya. As many in the administration, Congress, and elsewhere clamor for the President to initiate military action to support those seeking to overthrow the Libyan regime, Congress sits by, as usual, pretending that Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution does not exist. According to this long-ignored section, "The Congress shall have Power To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water."

This is black letter law, not some aspirational statement by our Founders. Their intent was indisputably clear: Congress alone, not the Executive Branch, has the authority and the obligation to declare war if hostilities are to be initiated against a foreign state that has not attacked the United States.

Let us be clear about one thing: for the U.S. to take action to establish a "no fly" zone over all or part of Libya would constitute an act of war against Libya. For the U.S. to establish any kind of military presence on the sovereign territory, waters, or over the airspace of Libya is to engage in a hostile action that requires Congressional authorization.

Whatever we may think about the Gaddafi regime, we must recognize that this is a coup d'etat in a foreign country. What moral right do we have to initiate military action against Libya? Libya has not attacked the United States. Neither the coup leaders nor the regime pose an imminent threat to the United States and therefore, as much as we abhor violence and loss of life, this is simply none of our business.

I would remind my colleagues that we have been here before. In the 1990s we established "no fly" zones and all manner of sanctions against Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq in an attempt to force him from power. When that did not work—at a high cost in Iraqi lives—the U.S. ultimately went to war to achieve these ends. The costs of this war, I do not need to remind my colleague; was much higher even, in U.S. military lives, in Iraqi civilian lives, in our diminished moral standing in the world, in our economy. Yet none of us seem able to learn from an enormous mistake made only a few years ago. Once again a bad man is doing bad things thousands of miles away and once again irresponsible voices are demanding that the U.S. "do something" about it. Will we ever learn? We continue to act as the policemen of the world at our own peril, and as we continue we only accelerate our economic collapse.

Let the supporters of yet another war in the Middle East come forth to make their case for a U.S. attack against Libya. I will strongly op-

pose such a move, but it should be very clear that if a war against Libya is to be initiated it must be declared by the proper Constitutional authority: the U.S. Congress.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. CHINWE OKONKWO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Chinwe Okonkwo.

Dr. Chinwe Okonkwo is board certified (and re-certified until 2018) in Internal Medicine. She is the Medical Director of Tina Medical PC, at 8925 Flatlands Ave., and Rutland Medical Plaza, in Brooklyn. She remains affiliated with and actively treats patients at New York Methodist Hospital, Brookdale University Hospital, Brooklyn's Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, and two Long Island hospitals: Good Samaritan Hospital and Southside Hospital.

Dr. Chinwe Okonkwo is experienced in both Medical and Epidemiological Research. She was one of the research investigators that participated in Blood Pressure Research on longitudinal observational study of blood pressure success. She also participated in a research program focusing on migraine headaches, helping to bring powerful migraine headache medication from Europe to the United States as part of the research investigation in 2003.

Dr. Okonkwo received numerous awards: a Certificate of Medical Achievement Awards by the Medical Society of the County of Kings Inc.; the Academy of Medicine of Brooklyn; State of New York Executive Chamber, Certificate of Recognition by Governor David Paterson; the New York State Senate 22nd District Certificate of Medical Achievement Award; the New York State Assembly Certificate of Medical Merit Award; the Kingsbrook Jewish Hospital's President's Award; the prestigious Family Service Network of New York Award; and the Strathmore's Lifetime Professional Membership Award, from 2004 to the present. She was also awarded one of America's Registry's Top 10 Members in HealthCare Profession by America's Registry of Outstanding Professionals 2009 to present. In light of this award, she participated in skilled training programs with the World Health Organization ("WHO") in the areas of Family Planning, Counseling and Management in Nigeria; in 1998, she was awarded a Certificate of Achievement by the Medical Director of WHO from the United States. She also played an essential role in establishing several rural medical centers for the poor in the Enugu State of Nigeria from 1986 to 1990, when she relocated to the United States for further education.

Dr. Okonkwo has more than 24 years of medical experience. She has lived, worked and been involved with the families of Brooklyn for the past 20 years. In spite of her hectic schedule, Dr. Chinwe Okonkwo remains a dedicated and family-centered mother and wife. She is also the CEO/Founder of Hope Outreach Inc, a not for profit 501(c)(3).

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Dr. Chinwe Okonkwo.

IN HONOR OF THE 163RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1848-1849 HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 163rd Anniversary of the 1848-1849 Hungarian Revolution and the valiant contribution of the Hungarian people to those efforts. The European revolutions of 1848-1849, known as the "Spring of Nations," will always remind us that independence, self-rule, and democracy can never be permanently extinguished in any society.

The year 1848 marked a momentous occasion for the nations of Europe. All across the continent, oppressed people rose up to attempt to secure their liberty and freedom. The people of Hungary followed suit and attempted to overthrow the oppressors in the Habsburg monarchy.

March 15th marked the day that the Hungarians made their stand. They marched, collectively as Hungarians, to demand their rights. In solidarity, they marched and demonstrated until their ruling governors had no choice, but to relinquish to them their freedom and liberty.

Today, we see Hungary as a regional success story for democracy and civil society. This eventual, if delayed, victory shows us that though the road to democracy is not always an easy one, the spirit of people will ultimately prevail in the determined march toward democracy.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring the values of freedom, independence, and democracy that the Hungarians demanded in 1848. The Hungarian Revolution of 1848 stands as a reminder and inspiration of the undying desire of any society to be free and independent.

CONGRATULATING THE NEOSHO, MISSOURI, HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Neosho High School Wrestling Team for winning the Missouri Class 3 State Championship.

One might not think of a team when you think of wrestling, but wrestling is a team sport. These young champions, River Buttram, Tanner Schaack, Nate Rodriguez, Trevor Hughes, Paxon Fowler, Rimo Elwize, Carter Boatright, Ethan Pogue, Payne Hatter, Chase Espinosa, Blake Stauffer, Dallas Smith, Matt Millard, and Riley Plew are a team. They trained as one, they competed as one, and together though their hard work and dedication they won the Missouri Class 3 State Championship.

Of course, the wrestlers aren't the only champions; they had an outstanding team of talented coaches supporting them and guiding them along the way. I commend Head Coach Jeremy Phillips and assistant coaches Cody

Crocker, Josh Sonis, Dane Espinosa, and Trey Jackson on an amazing accomplishment and a job well done.

The Neosho wrestling team had an unfair advantage against their opponents: their friends, family, and fans attended the tournaments, cheered them on throughout the wrestling season, and followed them to Columbia for the state championships. The Neosho community is justifiably proud of their team, and the team is fortunate to have such strong support from their community.

As if winning a state championship isn't enough of an accomplishment, the Neosho High School Wrestling Team has the distinct honor of winning it two years in a row. This shows that our athletes and coaches in Neosho are among the best in America and can stand proud in their accomplishments.

But even more important than that, the Neosho wrestling team will have memories to last a lifetime. They've had that extraordinarily opportunity to live the dream of anyone who has ever dreamed of competing with the best and achieving victory.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Neosho High School Wrestling Team, the Missouri Class 3 State Champions.

HONORING CORPORAL JONATHAN W. TAYLOR, HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Jonathan W. Taylor, of Homosassa, Florida who died on February 22, 2011 while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan.

Growing up, Corporal Taylor always knew that he wanted to one day become a Marine. As a student at Lecanto High School, he was an active member of the JROTC Program and participated in the Yankeetown U.S. Navy Sea Cadet corps.

In October 2007, Corporal Taylor was deployed on his first combat tour of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Following that tour, he was also deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom three separate times. While his unit was not deployed during his second to last tour, Corporal Taylor bravely volunteered to go back to Afghanistan to continue the fight with his fellow Marines.

Corporal Taylor was laid to rest today with full military honors at Arlington Cemetery. Now beside his fellow brothers in uniform, his parents say they are proud to see him off on what they like to call his fifth and final tour of duty on behalf of this great country.

As a nation, we owe our fallen heroes and their families a debt that can never truly be repaid. Corporal Taylor courageously made the ultimate sacrifice for his fellow Marines and for our country. I am humbled to have the opportunity to honor a true American hero today.

AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK ANNEX IN TINIAN

HON. GREGORIO KILLI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the American Memorial Park Annex in Tinian Act at the request of Senators Jude U. Hofschneider and Francisco Cruz, and many of the people of Tinian, one of the Northern Mariana Islands I represent.

The bill, which I also introduced late in the last Congress, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service, to establish an annex of the American Memorial Park, located on the island of Saipan, on the adjacent island of Tinian.

Tinian is only 39 square miles in area. But the island played an outside role in ending World War II.

While a military lease of two-thirds of Tinian precludes any set-aside of the historical land on Tinian, creating an annex of the American Memorial Park, a repository for artifacts to be displayed, and a locus for the interest of visitors to Tinian and locals alike, would be appropriate.

I am submitting for the record the letter of request from Senators Hofschneider and Cruz. I am also submitting NMI Senate Resolution No. 17-37 that supports the establishment of annex. The Resolution refers to H.R. 6380, the bill number from the 111th Congress. But the language of today's bill is essentially the same as H.R. 6380.

I ask that my colleagues support the American Memorial Park Annex in Tinian Act.

NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE,
Saipan, MP, March 14, 2011.

HON. GREGORIO KILLI CAMACHO SABLAN,
Delegate, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: I am writing to request your reintroduction of legislation authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to establish an annex of the American Memorial Park in Saipan, on the Island of Tinian.

The North Field on Tinian has been designated as one of the most important World War II (WWII) sites in the Pacific. The North Field was used as the launching point for the dropping of two atomic bombs on Japan during WWII, in addition to the strategic bombing of Japan. Many historians believe use of the Atomic bomb ended America's war with the Japanese expeditiously, saving the lives hundreds of thousands, if not millions of lives had the U.S. naval and ground forces invaded Japan.

On June 18, 2009, I wrote you regarding adding Tinian's North Field to the national park system. However, as I stated in that letter, the U.S. military leases approximately two thirds of Tinian, and their training needs preclude inclusion. On December 23, 2009, the National Park Service suggested several options to recognize the North Field such as brochures, an interpretive film and providing interpretive tours on Saipan. While these suggestions are a good start, the people of Tinian feel a permanent memorial, the Tinian Annex of the American Memorial Park, will appropriately recognize the historic role of Tinian in WWII.

The Tinian Delegation of the Commonwealth Legislature, Senator Cruz and me,

and the Mayor and Municipal Council of Tinian and Aguiguan humbly encourage you to assist us with this legislation to obtain the Tinian Annex to the American Memorial Park. Such a memorial appropriately recognizes the historic role of Tinian in WWII.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sincerely,

JUDE U. HOFSCHEIDER,
Senator, CNMI Legislature.

FRANCISCO Q. CRUZ,
Senator, CNMI Legislature.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 17-37

Whereas, the people of Tinian agreed to sacrifice two-thirds of their island to the United States Department of Defense in support of the creation of "The Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America"; and

Whereas, this unique relationship is codified at 48 U.S.C. § 1801; and

Whereas, Federal Public Law 94-241 (H.J. Res. 549) was adopted on March 24, 1976 to approve "The Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America," and for other purposes; and

Whereas, Federal Public Law 95-348, passed on 18 August 1978 by the United States Congress, authorized and directed the National Park Service "to develop, maintain and administer the American Memorial Park . . . for the primary purpose of honoring the dead in the World War II Mariana Islands campaign"; and

Whereas, Federal Public Law 95-348 further stated that "[o]ther points in the Northern Mariana Islands relevant to the park may be identified, established, and marked by the Secretary in agreement with the Governor of Northern Mariana Islands"; and

Whereas, the Marianas Islands Range Complex Record of Decision was signed on August 20, 2010; and

Whereas, the Record of Decision noted that the North Field National Historic Landmark will be closed to the public during certain exercises; and

Whereas, the North Field National Historic Landmark is essential to the historic preservation and promotion of Tinian as a tourist destination; and

Whereas, on September 29, 2010, CNMI Delegate Gregorio "Killili" Sablan introduced into the United States Congress H.R. 6380, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service, to establish an annex in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as an extension of the American Memorial Park located in Saipan; and

Whereas, H.R. 6380, the "American Memorial Park Annex in Tinian Act," directs that the annex be used to interpret historical events related to the World War II Marianas Campaign and for curatorial storage of World War II artifacts; and

Whereas, H.R. 6380 has been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, for which Congressman Sablan has requested a legislative hearing as soon as possible; and

Whereas, the Tinian Leadership is working diligently with CNMI Delegate Gregorio "Killili" Sablan to increase National Park Service activity on Tinian, through the establishment of a center that would interpret historical events and impart our cultural heritage: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Senate of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature supports the passage of H.R. 6380 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish an annex in Tinian as an extension

of the American Memorial Park located in Saipan; and be it further

Resolved, that the President of the Senate shall certify and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this resolution, and thereafter the Senate Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the Honorable Nick J. Rahall II, Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, United States House of Representatives; the Honorable Doc Hastings, Ranking Republican Member, Committee on Natural Resources, United States House of Representatives; the Honorable Raul M. Grijalva, Chairman, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, United States House of Representatives; the Honorable Rob Bishop, Ranking Republican Member, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, United States House of Representatives; the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, United States House of Representatives; and the Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 10 and Friday, March 11, 2011, I was unable to be present for recorded votes.

Had I been present on Thursday, March 10, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote No. 168 (on agreeing to the amendment offered by Mr. LYNCH), “yes” on rollcall vote No. 169 (on agreeing to the amendment as modified, offered by Ms. WATERS), “yes” on rollcall vote No. 170 (on the motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 830), and “no” on rollcall vote No. 171 (on passage of H.R. 830).

On Friday, March 11, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote No. 172 (on agreeing to the amendment offered by Ms. WATERS), “yes” on rollcall vote No. 173 (on the motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 836), and “no” on rollcall vote No. 174 (on passage of H.R. 836).

THE TWIC PROGRAM ACT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation today with the following Democratic Members of the Committee on Homeland Security: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Mr. HENRY CUELLAR, and Mr. CEDRIC RICHMOND.

The SAFE Port Act of 2006 authorizes the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) Program to be administered jointly by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Coast Guard within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The TWIC program is focused on protecting the Nation’s maritime transportation facilities and vessels by requiring maritime workers and other workers who need unescorted access to secure port facilities to obtain a biometric identification card.

After initial delays, all maritime workers were required to obtain biometric TWICs by April 2009. The initial cost to workers for these cards is \$132.50 per credential, and in the event that a card is lost, stolen, or damaged, a replacement TWIC costs \$60.00. To date, over 1.8 million longshoremen, truckers, merchant mariners, and rail and vessel crew members have undergone extensive homeland security and criminal background checks to obtain TWICs.

However, the full promise of a biometric access security system has not been realized, as DHS has made little progress in deploying TWIC card readers to ports and vessels. TSA was two years late in starting a pilot program for the readers, even as workers raced to obtain TWICs to continue working in our Nation’s ports. Finally, in April 2009, TSA commenced a limited pilot program to test the business processes, technology, and operational impacts necessary for full deployment of the TWIC readers.

The law requires DHS to issue final regulations for the deployment of TWIC readers based on the results of these pilots by April 2011. TSA has said that it expects to complete the pilots by August 2011 and that Coast Guard would then issue final regulations in late 2012. Under current law, starting in October 2012, workers would be required to renew their TWICs, even though DHS has yet to issue regulations requiring TWIC readers.

In the interest of security and in order not to place an undue burden on workers, I am introducing legislation to ensure that the full promise of the TWIC program is realized. The “TWIC Program Act” ensures that Transportation Worker Identification Credentials held by workers for unescorted access to port facilities are valid until the earlier of (1) the deadline for full implementation of a final rule by the Department of Homeland Security for readers to be installed as a security measure to verify the identity of TWIC card holders against the credential presented to gain access to our Nation’s maritime ports; or (2) December 31, 2014.

This legislation will help ensure that the full promise of the TWIC program is realized. I look forward to working with the Senate and the rest of our colleagues on a bipartisan, bicameral basis to see that this bill is enacted.