

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HUNGARY CELEBRATING FREEDOM EVENTS AND THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I am congratulating Hungary on the series of events which pay tribute to the lasting idea of freedom and the principles of liberty. Hungry will erect a statue in commemoration of the centennial anniversary of President Ronald Reagan's birth. Hungary will honor President Reagan for his contribution toward ending the Cold War and promoting democracy and liberty in Central Europe. In addition, Hungary is hosting the Hungarian Freedom Dinner and establishing the Hungarian Freedom Award.

I also note that Hungary formally and symbolically overcame the legacy of Communism by having recently passed a new Constitution, replacing its previous, temporary Constitution rooted in the Soviet era, to solidify the rule of law.

In addition, I recognize Hungary as an important strategic partner of the U.S. in Europe, and commend the country for reaffirming its commitment to transatlantic values, the principles of constitutionalism, and republican government; and contributing to the stability of the region.

Hungary is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and is an ally of the U.S. Hungary has been an important ally of the U.S. in Iraq and Afghanistan, and recently gave invaluable assistance in freeing the two American journalists captured in Libya.

Historically, Hungarians have fought for the ideals of freedom, popular sovereignty, the rule of law, and the cause of liberty at home and abroad, most notably in 1848, 1956 and 1989. Michael Kovats de Fabriczy fought for, and died defending America's independence during the American Revolution in Charleston, South Carolina. In the Revolution and Freedom fight of 1956, Hungarians rose up against communist rule first within the eastern bloc countries. In 1989, Hungary was the first country to open its border and allowed refugees from East Germany to cross. Hungary became the first among the former Soviet bloc countries to transition to a Western-style parliamentary democracy.

In transatlantic relations, between 1995 and 2004, Hungary played a critical role in implementing the Dayton Peace Accords in the Balkans by allowing its airbase at Tazsár to be used by coalition forces transiting the region. Between April 2003 and December 2004, Hungary helped stabilize Iraq by deploying a 300-strong battalion to Iraq as part of the Multi-National Force, and in 2003 allowed the Tazsár airbase to be used for training the Free Iraqi Forces.

Since 2006, Hungary has led a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan and has

also deployed an Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team, which operates in partnership with the Ohio National Guard and other United States military personnel in Afghanistan.

More recently, Hungary's military has taken over command of a joint battalion on the Balkans in support of NATO missions, and Hungary's Pápa Airbase is the home base of the Strategic Airlift Consortium's C-17 operations for NATO missions.

The United States and Hungary share common values of democracy, rule of law, separation of powers, cultural diversity, religious tolerance, and social mobility; and the United States is home to approximately 1.5 million Hungarian-Americans.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Hungary on the commemorative events to honor the legacy of Ronald Reagan in the region; recognizing Hungary as an important strategic partner of the United States in Europe; and commending Hungary for reaffirming its commitment to transatlantic values, the principles of constitutionalism, and democracy; and contributing to the stability of the region. We wish Hungary a prosperous future.

HONORING THE BOROUGH OF ELVERSON, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Borough of Elverson, Chester County, Pennsylvania on its 100th anniversary.

Elverson celebrates March 14, 1911 as the day it was incorporated as a borough. It was on that day that the arguments for and against incorporation were presented to Judge Hemphill at the Chester County Courthouse. The arguments in favor of incorporation were principally: (1) the need by the residents to govern themselves and to use their own taxes for improvements such as a public water supply and street lighting; (2) the need for their own polling place; and (3) the need for an independent school system. The main arguments against incorporation were: (1) the town had not grown sufficiently, and (2) the new responsibilities would create an undue tax burden.

In weighing these issues, Judge Hemphill felt that the democratic process would help ensure that the new responsibilities would not necessarily result in taxes that were either "burdensome" or "ruinous" and stated:

"... if men of good judgment, careful, economical, and cautious, were placed in charge of the Borough's business and development such would not necessarily be the result. The outcome, must of necessity, be dependent upon the action of the electors themselves, as in the case in every elective municipality."

Over the years, the citizens of Elverson have seen the wisdom of Judge Hemphill's

words borne out, as their Borough has grown from meeting the needs of pre-World War I America to the present day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Borough of Elverson and its storied history on the occasion of its 100th anniversary and to extend best wishes to all its citizens—past, present and future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for a vote on Thursday, June 23, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 491.

HONORING PASTOR WILLIE JACKSON ON HIS TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF MINISTRY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the steadfast and sacrificial service of Pastor Willie James Jackson, Sr., of Union Missionary Baptist Church in Muncie, Indiana. Pastor Jackson has been a leader not only in his church, but in his community, for twenty five years now, and I applaud his work and dedication.

Pastor Jackson became the shepherd of Union Missionary Baptist Church in 1986. His heart for service and missions has taken him across the country and the continent of Africa, but he has never forgotten his community at home. He has served on many civic, community, and religious organizations in Muncie and the surrounding area, and he is currently a member of the Collective Coalition of Concerned Clergy, third vice-president of the Northeastern district Sunday School and BTU Congress, board member on the Whitely Neighborhood Association, and is a board member for the Muncie Black Expo.

Those who know Pastor Jackson know him as a kind and generous man. He strives to unify and bring together people from all walks of life, and he is greatly respected throughout the community. A loving husband, father to three children, and grandfather to two grandchildren, Pastor Jackson has also mentored and cared for countless others in the community and in his church over his many years of ministry.

I congratulate Pastor Jackson for his twenty five influential years of service, and thank him for his many contributions to the community

• 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.

and to the sixth district of Indiana. His impact will be felt for years to come, and I wish him the best in his continued service and ministry.

TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF KHEN NGO

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to celebrate the 100th birthday of Khen Ngo, a prominent member of the Vietnamese Catholic community in San Bernardino. I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone with the Ngo family and the San Bernardino community.

Born on July 4, 1911 in the Hue Province in Central Vietnam, Khen Ngo completed elementary school by age thirteen. Tragically, he fell ill to an infectious disease and did not recover until age seventeen. Shortly thereafter his family enrolled him in tailoring school. Khen completed his secondary education within one year.

The skills he learned in school allowed him to become part of the family business. In Vietnam he opened and operated his own tailoring shop. Soon he was able to manage and maintain his parent's shop as well. Outside of work he served in the Parish council of Kim-Long Church as a finance officer for fifteen years. Life was about to drastically change for the Ngo family.

In 1975, the Vietnamese Communist Regime invaded Vietnam. The Ngo family was a prominent family; the last name was well-known across the country. Their heritage can be traced back to the first President of Vietnam, Ngo Dinh Diem. Sadly, the communist regime also knew the Ngos well. They sought out and imprisoned many of the family members, leaving Khen no choice but to escape. Khen came to the United States as a Vietnamese refugee.

He settled in Redlands, California and joined the Sacred Heart Church. The Ngos are a deeply religious and pious family. Together with his brother, Father Joseph Trong Ngo, the Ngos helped build and foster a Vietnamese Catholic community in San Bernardino. Khen lived a simple life and held steadfast to his values. He lives by two guiding principles: the Catholic teaching to honor your parents, and to live his life as a deeply religious and spiritual person.

His life continues to be filled with spirit and love. He surrounds himself with the people he loves and leads a simple life. He fathered seven children and bestowed upon them the virtues he embodies. Khen now spends his days fishing and watching soccer games with any of his twenty nieces and nephews or nine grandchildren. I want to extend my best wishes to Khen Ngo on his 100th birthday along with the wishes of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Baca Junior, Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in sharing this special day with Khen Ngo.

ALGER COUNTY ROAD H-58

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize several long time residents of Alger County Michigan, who were instrumental in resolving a long standing controversy about road access within Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

When Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore was authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1966 as America's first national lakeshore, the enabling legislation called for the construction of a "scenic shoreline drive" as part of the park's development. However, the legislation did not specify exactly where that road should be located. Due to other national priorities, including the Vietnam War effort, funds were never appropriated to actually design and build the road.

This delay led to tremendous frustration on the part of local individuals and units of government, many of whom felt misled into supporting the establishment of the park. However, as local pressure increased to fund the project, opposition to building a road through undeveloped portions of the park also increased, leading to many years of controversy.

Over the years, several alternative locations were considered for the road. But, in 1998, to protect the most pristine portions of the park, Congress amended the park's enabling legislation to actually prohibit the National Park Service from constructing a road through the main portion of the park, forcing a compromise solution.

That compromise, ultimately endorsed by the National Park Service and the Alger County Road Commission, called for the reconstruction and paving of an existing sand and gravel road; Alger County H-58. Using a combination of federal and state funds between 1990 and 2010, H-58 was re-designed and paved to provide improved access to and through Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and connect the two gateway communities of Munising and Grand Marais.

In the end, the Alger County Road Commission and the National Park Service worked very closely to design and build a roadway that would provide an outstanding scenic experience worthy of a national park. It is also noteworthy that in 2009, as the road project was coming to an end, Congress also provided permanent legal protection to the central portion of the park by establishing the Beaver Basin Wilderness. It took over 40 years, but with these two actions, the controversy about how best to balance road access and protection of nationally significant resources at Pictured Rocks had finally come to an end.

Over the years, many Alger County residents continued to strongly advocate for a road that would provide better access to the National Lakeshore. These included Connie Berube Binsfeld, who later served as Lt. Governor of Michigan and a member of the National Park Advisory Board; Doug Miron and Paul Heyrman, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Alger County Road Commission; the late Dennis "Fuzzy" Boyak, President and CEO of Peoples State Bank of Munising; Rochelle Cotey, Director of ALTRAN, the local transpor-

tation authority, and Richard and Chuck Nebel, a Munising banker and attorney-at-law. Munising native Mike Pond, a professional civil engineer, was involved in the design of virtually every detail of the road. Now that the road is complete, these local residents, along with others, have left a lasting legacy for Alger County and the visitors to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

HONORING ASSISTANT CHIEF
BRIAN LENA AND CAPTAIN WIL-
LIAM BAHR

HON. NAN A.S. HAYWORTH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Assistant Chief Brian Lena and Captain William Bahr of the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department; for their heroic actions and longstanding commitment to their fire department and community.

In October of 2010 these two men, along with their fellow firefighters, responded to an evolved structure fire which blocked the only exit the occupants had. At the scene, Assistant Chief Lena and Captain Bahr bravely rescued the occupants through a second story bedroom window. During this time, the hose crew also attacked an advancing fire in the kitchen and hallway.

In response to these heroic actions, Assistant Chief Lena and Captain Bahr have both been awarded the distinct honor of Firefighter of the Year. They have received this award with several agencies, including the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department, Putnam County Volunteer Firemen's Association, Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association, and the Firemen's Association of the State of New York.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Assistant Chief Lena, Captain Bahr, and all of the other first responders who came out that day. We are fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers protecting us in the Hudson Valley.

IN HONOR OF WORLD REFUGEE
DAY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor World Refugee Day and the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. While we are commemorating World Refugee Day all week, the plight of refugees continues day in and day out. As I speak, there are some 15.4 million refugees around the world. But, there's another dimension to this humanitarian crisis that I want to highlight. Worldwide, there are an estimated 27.5 million internally displaced people who have fled their homes, but remain within their country's borders. So, as we mark World Refugee Day, we cannot forget internally displaced people who are refugees within their own countries.

In total, there are 43 million refugees and displaced people globally which is roughly the

entire population of Colombia. In fact, in Colombia, our hemispheric neighbor, there are an estimated 4 million internally displaced people, equivalent to the entire population of Los Angeles. Pakistan has nearly 2 million refugees, and Somalia, Sudan, and Iraq all have over a million displaced people each.

Displaced persons are a national security issue as much as a humanitarian crisis that violates basic human rights. This spring, I hosted Congressional briefings with Antonio Guterres, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and Alexander Aleinikoff, the Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees. I commend the work of the U.N. High Commissioner and the many organizations—large and small—that are on the frontlines providing basic relief and security to displaced communities. And I will do everything I can to inform my colleagues about this important work.

But, while immediate relief is essential, we also must tackle the root causes of conflict and poverty that continue to drive up the number of displaced people. We cannot be a just and peaceful world with so many living without basic human rights and protections. So, this week, and every week, I will continue to use my voice and vote to end this humanitarian crisis and bring justice, security, and enduring peace to the millions of displaced people around the world.

FREE GILAD SHALIT

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the fifth anniversary of the abduction of Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, to demand that Hamas release him immediately and unconditionally.

On June 25, 2006, Hamas brutally attacked an Israeli military post, killing two soldiers and wounding four others. Shalit was taken captive and seemingly wounded in the process. Since that time, there has been no information about his whereabouts or the conditions of his captivity. He has not been granted visitation rights by any humanitarian organization, including the International Red Cross, as is required by international law. Additionally, he has been denied contact with his family and access to medical treatment. These conditions are inhumane and deplorable.

I urge Hamas to release Gilad Shalit immediately, and to cease all violence and hostilities against the Jewish State.

HONORING WORTH COUNTY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Worth County of Missouri's Sixth District. Worth County is celebrating its Sesquicentennial.

Worth County has the distinction of being Missouri's youngest and smallest county in both population and physical size. That distinction, however, is not reflected in the char-

acter, substance and heart of the people who live there. Its name comes from General William J. Worth who served with Zachary Taylor in the Mexican-American War and was the first American to make an amphibious military landing. On display at the county courthouse are the names of all in Worth County that have gone to defend this nation since the Civil War and who continue to defend America today. One of the first riders of the Pony Express, Robert Stricklen came from and is buried in Worth County. It is the place that Glenn Miller first picked up the trombone and was taught to play his timeless music.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Worth County, Missouri. It is an amazing place with even more amazing people who make a daily impact on Northern Missouri and the whole of the Sixth District. I am honored to represent Worth County, Missouri in the United States Congress.

PUBLIC TRUST AND THE SUPREME COURT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern over ethically questionable conduct of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas that threatens to undermine public trust in our judicial system.

Justice Thomas has repeatedly engaged in questionable actions and hidden them from public view. Just this weekend, the New York Times revealed troubling details about favors Justice Thomas has received from a millionaire real estate magnate named Harlan Crow.

Despite the revelations, Justice Thomas refuses to provide details about his relationship with Mr. Crow. The report from the New York Times is the latest in a long line of troubling actions taken by Justice Thomas, yet he refuses to share the necessary information to ensure that his service on the bench is fair and free from conflict of interest.

No one should be above the law, especially those chosen to uphold it.

[From the New York Times, June 18, 2011]
FRIENDSHIP OF JUSTICE AND MAGNATE PUTS
FOCUS ON ETHICS

PIN POINT, GA.—Clarence Thomas was here promoting his memoir a few years ago when he bumped into Algernon Varn, whose grandfather once ran a seafood cannery that employed Justice Thomas's mother as a crab picker.

Mr. Varn lived at the old cannery site, a collection of crumbling buildings on a salt marsh just down the road from a sign heralding this remote coastal community outside Savannah as Justice Thomas's birthplace. The justice asked about plans for the property, and Mr. Varn said he hoped it could be preserved.

"And Clarence said, 'Well, I've got a friend I'm going to put you in touch with,'" Mr. Varn recalled, adding that he was later told by others not to identify the friend.

The publicity-shy friend turned out to be Harlan Crow, a Dallas real estate magnate and a major contributor to conservative causes. Mr. Crow stepped in to finance the multimillion-dollar purchase and restoration of the cannery, featuring a museum about the culture and history of Pin Point that has become a pet project of Justice Thomas's.

The project throws a spotlight on an unusual, and ethically sensitive, friendship that appears to be markedly different from those of other justices on the nation's highest court.

The two men met in the mid-1990s, a few years after Justice Thomas joined the court. Since then, Mr. Crow has done many favors for the justice and his wife, Virginia, helping finance a Savannah library project dedicated to Justice Thomas, presenting him with a Bible that belonged to Frederick Douglass and reportedly providing \$500,000 for Ms. Thomas to start a Tea Party-related group. They have also spent time together at gatherings of prominent Republicans and businesspeople at Mr. Crow's Adirondacks estate and his camp in East Texas.

In several instances, news reports of Mr. Crow's largess provoked controversy and questions, adding fuel to a rising debate about Supreme Court ethics. But Mr. Crow's financing of the museum, his largest such act of generosity, previously unreported, raises the sharpest questions yet—both about Justice Thomas's extrajudicial activities and about the extent to which the justices should remain exempt from the code of conduct for federal judges.

Although the Supreme Court is not bound by the code, justices have said they adhere to it. Legal ethicists differed on whether Justice Thomas's dealings with Mr. Crow pose a problem under the code. But they agreed that one facet of the relationship was both unusual and important in weighing any ethical implications: Justice Thomas's role in Mr. Crow's donation for the museum.

The code says judges "should not personally participate" in raising money for charitable endeavors, out of concern that donors might feel pressured to give or entitled to favorable treatment from the judge. In addition, judges are not even supposed to know who donates to projects honoring them.

While the nonprofit Pin Point museum is not intended to honor Justice Thomas, people involved in the project said his role in the community's history would inevitably be part of it, and he participated in a documentary film that is to accompany the exhibits.

Deborah L. Rhode, a Stanford University law professor who has called for stricter ethics rules for Supreme Court justices, said Justice Thomas "should not be directly involved in fund-raising activities, no matter how worthy they are or whether he's being centrally honored by the museum."

On the other hand, the restriction on fund-raising is primarily meant to deter judges from using their position to pressure donors, as opposed to relying on "a rich friend" like Mr. Crow, said Ronald D. Rotunda, who teaches legal ethics at Chapman University in California.

"I don't think I could say it's unethical," he said. "It's just a very peculiar situation."

Justice Thomas, through a Supreme Court spokeswoman, declined to respond to a detailed set of questions submitted by The New York Times. Mr. Crow also would not comment.

Supreme Court ethics have been under increasing scrutiny, largely because of the activities of Justice Thomas and Ms. Thomas, whose group, Liberty Central, opposed President Obama's health care overhaul—an issue likely to wind up before the court. Mr. Crow's donation to Liberty Central was reported by Politico.

In January, the liberal advocacy organization Common Cause asked the Justice Department to investigate whether Justices Thomas and Antonin Scalia should have recused themselves from last year's Citizens United campaign finance case because they had attended a political retreat organized by the billionaire Koch brothers, who support

groups that stood to benefit from the court's decision.

A month later, more than 100 law professors asked Congress to extend to Supreme Court justices the ethics code that applies to other federal judges, and a bill addressing the issue was introduced.

It is not unusual for justices to accept gifts or take part in outside activities, some with political overtones.

Justice Stephen G. Breyer has attended Renaissance Weekend, a retreat for politicians, artists and media personalities that is a favorite of Democrats, including former President Bill Clinton. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg participated in a symposium sponsored by the National Organization for Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund, and a philanthropic foundation once tried to give her a \$100,000 achievement award. She instructed that the money be given to charity.

But in the case of Justice Thomas and his dealings with Mr. Crow, the ethical complications appear more complex.

CONSERVATIVE TIES

Mr. Crow, 61, manages the real estate and investment businesses founded by his late father, Trammell Crow, once the largest landlord in the United States. The Crow family portfolio is worth hundreds of millions of dollars and includes investments in hotels, medical facilities, public equities and hedge funds.

A friend of the Bush family, Mr. Crow is a trustee of the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation and has donated close to \$5 million to Republican campaigns and conservative groups. Among his contributions were \$100,000 to Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, the group formed to attack the Vietnam War record of Senator John Kerry, the 2004 Democratic presidential candidate, and \$500,000 to an organization that ran advertisements urging the confirmation of President George W. Bush's nominees to the Supreme Court.

Mr. Crow has not personally been a party to Supreme Court litigation, but his companies have been involved in federal court cases, including four that went to the appellate level. And he has served on the boards of two conservative organizations involved in filing supporting briefs in cases before the Supreme Court. One of them, the American Enterprise Institute, with Mr. Crow as a trustee, gave Justice Thomas a bust of Lincoln valued at \$15,000 and praised his jurisprudence at an awards gala in 2001.

The institute's Project on Fair Representation later filed briefs in several cases, and in 2006 the project brought a lawsuit challenging federal voting rights laws, a case in which Justice Thomas filed a lone dissent, embracing the project's arguments. The project director, an institute fellow named Edward Blum, said the institute supported his research but did not finance the brief filings or the Texas suit, which was litigated pro bono by a former clerk of Justice Thomas's.

"When it came time to file a lawsuit," he said, "A.E.I. had no role in doing that."

COMING UP WITH A PLAN

In addition to his interest in politics and policy, Mr. Crow is well known for his keen devotion to history.

A backyard garden at his \$24 million Dallas residence is dominated by old statues of dictators he has collected from fallen regimes, including Lenin and Stalin. His private library is packed with 8,000 rare books and artifacts, including a Senate roll call sheet from Justice Thomas's confirmation and a "thank you" letter from the justice, according to local news reports.

There are a number of reasons Justice Thomas might be thankful to Mr. Crow. In

addition to giving him the Douglass Bible, valued 10 years ago at \$19,000, Mr. Crow has hosted the justice aboard his private jet and his 161-foot yacht, at the exclusive Bohemian Grove retreat in California and at his grand Adirondacks summer estate called Topridge, a 105-acre spread that once belonged to Marjorie Merriweather Post, the cereal heiress.

Christopher Shaw, a folk singer who said he had been invited several times to perform at Topridge, recalled seeing Justice Thomas and his family "on one or two occasions." They were among about two dozen guests who included other prominent Republicans—last summer, the younger Mr. Bush stopped by.

"There would be guys puffing on cigars," Mr. Shaw said. "Clarence just kind of melted in with everyone else. We got introduced at dinner. He sat at Harlan's table."

Mr. Crow's \$175,000 donation to the library in Savannah in 2001 started out anonymous, but it was eventually made public amid opposition to the project by some local black leaders who did not like Justice Thomas's politics. Similarly, Mr. Crow sought to keep his role in the museum quiet.

At first glance the Pin Point Heritage Museum, scheduled to open this fall, would seem an unlikely catalyst for an ethical quandary. That Pin Point's history is worthy of preservation is not in dispute.

Part of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor designated by Congress, it is representative of tight-knit Southern coastal settlements that trace their roots to freed slaves and were often based around fishing. In Pin Point, the Varn crab and oyster cannery, founded in the 1920s, was a primary source of jobs until it closed in 1985.

Mr. Varn and his wife, Sharon, said they had long hoped the property could be saved from commercial development but had little success coming up with a plan. That changed after their chance encounter with Justice Thomas, who was visiting his childhood home with a television news crew.

Justice Thomas, 62, was born and raised near the cannery overlooking the Moon River, where it was not uncommon for babies to rock in bassinets made of crab baskets while their mothers shucked oysters. He sympathized with the Varns' wishes and said he had a friend who could help, Mr. Varn said.

The Varns eventually sold their property in April 2008. During a recent interview at their home near the cannery, they made it clear that they were "not supposed to say" who the buyer was, and a news release issued last November by a Savannah public relations firm said the museum was being "privately funded by an anonymous donor."

But the paper trail leads back to Mr. Crow, and in interviews at the project site, people working on it acknowledged that he was financing it. Property records show a company called HKJRS/Pinpoint bought the land for \$1.5 million, and incorporation records say the company is controlled by a Dallas-based partnership run by Mr. Crow.

Project documents reviewed by The Times show a preliminary construction budget of \$1.3 million, but it is unclear if that includes expenses related to the content and design of the museum.

Justice Thomas remains closely involved with the project. Emily Owens, a museum spokeswoman who works for Mr. Crow's company, said the justice "played a big part" in creating a video documentary that will be part of the museum experience. He hosted a design team from Dallas for a four-hour meeting at his Supreme Court offices in February.

And he has had a role in picking people to help with the museum. Barbara Fertig, a history professor at Armstrong Atlantic State

University in Savannah, said that she was asked to meet with Justice Thomas last spring and that "by the end of the meeting, he said he would like me to work on this project."

She said she had "never been particularly curious" about why Mr. Crow is financing it, adding that costly preservation projects are often possible only because of philanthropy motivated by friendships. Justice Thomas and Mr. Crow would seem to fall into that category, Ms. Fertig said.

"I've been in the company of the two of them together," she said, "and they certainly really are friends."

THE CODE OF CONDUCT

That friendship is important to determining whether Justice Thomas's interactions with Mr. Crow conflict with the code, said Raymond J. McKoski, a retired state judge in Illinois who wrote a law review article on charitable fund-raising by judges. If Justice Thomas did not "misuse the prestige of office" in getting Mr. Crow to take on the project, it should not be a concern, he said.

"Some of it depends on the conversations that took place," Mr. McKoski said. "Who brought up the idea? How willing was Mr. Crow to do it? What exact questions were asked by Justice Thomas?"

Beyond the admonition against fund-raising, the code generally discourages judges from partaking in any off-the-bench behavior that could create even the perception of partiality. It acknowledges the value in judges' being engaged with their communities, lecturing on the law and doing charitable work, but draws a line where those activities might cause a reasonable person to worry that a judge is indebted to or influenced by someone.

"The code of conduct is quite clear that judges are not supposed to be soliciting money for their pet projects or charities, period," said Arn Pearson, a lawyer with Common Cause. "If any other federal judge was doing it, he could face disciplinary action."

The justices are not bound by the federal judiciary's conduct code, because it is enforced by a committee of judges who rank below the justices. Even so, Justices Breyer and Anthony M. Kennedy said in testimony before Congress in April that the justices followed the code.

Beyond the code, the justices must comply with laws applying to all federal officials that prohibit conflicts of interest and require disclosure of gifts. Justice Thomas's gift acceptances drew attention in 2004, when The Los Angeles Times reported that he had accumulated gifts totaling \$42,200 in the previous six years—far more than any of the other justices.

Since 2004, Justice Thomas has never reported another gift. He has continued to disclose travel costs paid by schools and organizations he has visited for speeches and teaching, but he has not reported that any travel was provided by Mr. Crow.

Travel records for Mr. Crow's planes and yacht, however, suggest that Justice Thomas may have used them in recent years.

In April 2008, not long after Mr. Crow bought the Pin Point property, one of his private planes flew from Washington to Savannah, where his yacht, the Michaela Rose, was docked.

That same week, an item appeared in a South Carolina lawyers' publication noting that Justice Thomas was arriving aboard the Michaela Rose in Charleston, a couple of hours north of Savannah, where the Crow family owns luxury vacation properties. The author was a prominent lawyer who said she knew of the visit because of a family connection to Mr. Crow.

Justice Thomas reported no gifts of travel that month in his 2008 disclosure. And there

are other instances in which Justice Thomas's travels correspond to flights taken by Mr. Crow's planes.

On Jan. 4, 2010, when Justice Thomas was in Savannah for the dedication of a building in his honor, Mr. Crow's plane flew from Washington to Savannah and returned to Washington the next day. Justice Thomas reported in his financial disclosure that his travel had been paid for by the Savannah College of Art and Design, which owned the building.

In his 2009 financial disclosure, Justice Thomas reported that Southern Methodist University in Dallas—Trammell Crow's alma mater—had provided his travel for a speech there on Sept. 30. Flight records show that Mr. Crow's plane flew from Washington to Dallas that day.

Among the questions The Times submitted to Justice Thomas was whether he was on any of those flights, and if so, whether the colleges reimbursed him or Mr. Crow. The colleges declined to comment.

One item not required to be reported in Justice Thomas's financial disclosures is the millions of dollars Mr. Crow is spending on the museum. That is because the money is not being given to the justice as a gift.

For Algernon and Sharon Varn, who said they were thrilled to see a cherished piece of local history being restored, the museum is a gift to the community. While it is about more than Justice Thomas, they said, he deserves credit for putting them together with someone who had the money and the interest to make the project a reality.

"He was instrumental in getting the process started, because he wanted it preserved to show that no matter where you came from, you can go where you want," Mr. Varn said. "He had a meager existence, and yet look where he is today. It's a great American story."

HONORING RALPH LOMMA

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of my constituents, Mr. Ralph Lomma, in recognition of his successful vision for a prospering community in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania.

This year represents the 50th anniversary of the establishment of The Village of the Four Seasons. Mr. Lomma, who founded the Village near the base of Elk Mountain has worked tirelessly over the past five decades to create a place where an entire community could enjoy the beauty of every season, in an environment that is both beautiful and secure. What began as a loosely connected area of vacation rentals, has transformed into a cohesive community, committed to the same principles on which Mr. Lomma founded the Village.

Since its inception, the community has been an active and thriving addition to the surrounding area. Every season, the Village offers something wonderful to both its residents and its neighbors; from tennis tournaments in the summer, to New Year's Eve parties each winter. Ralph's vision of a "playground for families" has truly been realized.

In the coming days, the Village will gather yet again to honor its architect, Mr. Lomma. I am honored to represent such a determined and passionate individual, who works every

day to better our 10th District of Pennsylvania. Over the past fifty years, the Village has seen many Presidents as well as members of their Board of Directors, but through the guiding presence of Mr. Lomma, the Village has grown into a wonderful place for families and visitors.

It is an honor today to recognize Mr. Ralph Lomma. Please join me in acknowledging his determination, selflessness, and commitment to the ideals of community and camaraderie that have led him and The Village of the Four Seasons to such success.

REMEMBERING ALABAMA'S BELOVED STORYTELLER, KATHRYN TUCKER WINDHAM

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to inform the House that Alabama has lost one of its great writers and favorite citizens. Just a few days ago, our beloved Southern storyteller and gifted author, Kathryn Tucker Windham, passed away after a year-long illness at the age of 93.

Life is a patchwork of trials, triumphs, joys, and sorrows, sown together through generations of experience. When it comes to colorfully interpreting the past, no one could artfully stitch the stories of our state and the Deep South like Kathryn Tucker Windham.

Born in Selma in 1918 and raised in Thomasville, Kathryn Tucker Windham began her writing career early in life, penning movie reviews at the age of 12 for the Thomasville Times. A graduate of Huntington College, she took her first full-time reporting job in 1940, covering the police beat for the Alabama Journal in Montgomery—the first female reporter to earn that assignment for the paper. She soon gained a reputation in the Capital City as a solid reporter. By 1944, she was hired at the state's largest newspaper—The Birmingham News—where she met her husband to be, Amasa Benjamin Windham.

After the death of her husband in 1956, Kathryn Tucker Windham began writing columns for the Selma Times Journal where she also gained attention as a skilled photographer. It wasn't until 1969, when she wrote 13 Alabama Ghosts and Jeffrey, that she began her more famous career as a prolific author and storyteller.

From 1967 to 2009, she authored over 30 books on subjects ranging from southern cooking to legends of the supernatural. Her well-known "Jeffrey" series of true ghost stories went on to include tales from Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee and other Southern states. My personal favorite is her charming 1975 book, Alabama: One Big Front Porch.

While her writing helped establish her bonafides as a storyteller, she did not stop with print. She established the Alabama Tale Tellin' Festival in Selma and was a sought-after speaker at storytelling festivals and gatherings across the country.

Her Southern charm also captured the attention of National Public Radio's All Things Considered, which featured her as a regular Southern storyteller. She also took to the stage as the star of a one-woman play she

authored, They Call Me Julia, based on the life of another famous Alabamian, Julia S. Tutwiler.

In 2003, Kathryn Tucker Windham was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor at the recommendation of her friend, fellow Alabama author, Nelle Harper Lee. Today, Alabama Southern Community College in Thomasville houses the Kathryn Tucker Windham Museum.

Mr. Speaker, we mourn the loss of Kathryn Tucker Windham, and we will always be grateful for her devotion to telling the most beautiful and entertaining stories about Alabama and the South. There was only one Kathryn Tucker Windham and we will surely miss her greatly. The thoughts and prayers of our entire state are with her family at this difficult time.

ELECTION SUPPORT CONSOLIDATION AND EFFICIENCY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition of H.R. 672, the Election Support Consolidation and Efficiency Act, which eliminates the Election Assistance Commission, EAC. I oppose this legislation because terminating the EAC risks reducing the voting and civil rights of our citizens—rights for which many have given their lives.

The EAC is charged with developing standards for voting systems, and this precedent-setting work has been recognized by nations around the world. The EAC's certification program uses its oversight role to coordinate with manufacturers and local election officials to ensure that existing voting equipment meets durability and longevity standards. This relieves states and local governments of burdensome costs of acquiring new but unnecessary voting equipment.

Several countries are so impressed with our system that they have signed agreements with the EAC for technical assistance as they develop their own voting system standards and certification procedures.

The EAC has also played a central role in improving the accessibility of voting for the country's more than 37 million voters with disabilities. We still have a long way to go to achieve the Help America Vote Act's mandate to make voting accessible and the EAC's leadership is essential to continuing the effort to offer all Americans the right to vote "privately and independently."

Mr. Speaker, it is worth recalling that the EAC, an independent bipartisan commission charged with improving the conduct of elections in America to ensure that every vote counts, was born out of the 2000 presidential election fiasco with its unforgettable contributions to the political lexicon: "hanging" chads, "pregnant" chads, "dimpled" chads; "butterfly ballots"; and "voter intent."

In response to the 2000 debacle, the EAC has performed valuable work to ensure the reliability and trustworthiness of our nation's election systems. It has played a central role in collecting accurate and comparable election data. With our nation's complex and diversified election administration system, central data

collection is essential if we are going to improve our citizens' trust and confidence in election results. EAC develops and fosters the training and organization of our nation's more than 8,000 election administrators.

Terminating EAC is not only an invitation to repeat the embarrassment of the 2000 presidential election, but it breaks faith with those who labored long and risked much to secure the right to vote for all Americans, particularly African Americans and other minority groups.

Mr. Speaker, if you believe every vote counts—and every vote should be counted—then we must preserve the EAC and oppose this legislation.

It is also important to note that abolishing the EAC would simply shift costs to the Federal Election Commission and local governments, not save taxpayer money. The FEC is not an agency that can make decisions in a timely and responsive fashion due to its partisan divisions. Consequently, transferring the functions performed by the EAC to the FEC is inconsistent with the national interest in ensuring election integrity, improving voter access to the polls, and enhancing the quality of election systems.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose H.R. 672 and I would urge my colleagues to join me in defeating this misguided and reckless legislation that puts the integrity of our election systems—public confidence in election outcomes—at risk.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 478. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HIGHWAYS BETTERING THE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT ACT OF 2011

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Highways Bettering the Economy and Environment Act with my Co-Chairman of the Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus, Representative TIM JOHNSON. This bi-partisan bill provides much-needed aid for the birds, bats, bees and butterflies that pollinate our food.

The Highways BEE Act seeks no new monies and involves a limited federal role. It has received widespread endorsement from a diverse group of scientists, researchers and members of the business and environmental communities including the National Audubon Society, Lafarge Construction, National Farmers Union, the Isaac Walton League, American Farmland Trust, Waste Management, and Defenders of Wildlife.

This bill provides for existing authorities and funding sources to incorporate integrated vegetation management practices along America's highways, which includes things like re-

duced mowing and replacing invasive plant species with native forbs and grasses. This kind of roadside vegetation management provides much-needed habitat for pollinators and other small nesting animals.

The Association of American State Highway and Transportation Officials Vegetation Management Guidelines released in March advances integrated vegetation management principles and recommendations consistent with the objectives of this legislation. A number of states, including Minnesota, are already doing this and reporting maintenance cost savings of 20 to 25 percent from reduced mowing alone.

Mr. Speaker, there are around 17 million acres of land where significant reductions in mowing and maintenance can reduce costs for cash-strapped states. The millions of acres of agriculture and wildlife ecosystems adjacent to these roadways will benefit from the increased pollinator habitat resulting from integrated vegetation management practices.

To understand how worried we should be about declining pollinator populations, consider that rising global food prices are the primary topic of discussion at the G-20 meetings in Paris right now. This is the first time that agriculture has had the top spot at a meeting and is indicative of how serious the issue is. Food prices have already led to global riots overseas and a declining pollinator population will only make the situation worse. Seventy-five percent of all flowering plant species rely on creatures like birds, bats, bees and butterflies for fertilization. One out of every three bites of food that we eat, as well as \$20 billion of products in the United States alone, derive from pollinators.

If we don't solve these problems soon, we won't have any bees. Without bees, we won't have any food. The benefit to cost balance in the case of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is an easy choice.

HONORING DANIEL RODRIGUEZ

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Daniel Rodriguez on the occasion of his retirement after 26 years of service as executive director for the University of Oregon Alumni Association.

The University of Oregon is a world class institution renowned for its groundbreaking research, and is an important keystone that unites Oregonians both at home and throughout the world.

Since coming to the University of Oregon in 1988, Dan Rodriguez has played a pivotal role in the rebirth of the alumni association. He created the alumni membership program that has topped 20,000 members worldwide and worked diligently to put the association on sound financial footing. He also led the effort to increase the number of active alumni chapters to 22 across the country.

But perhaps Dan's greatest accomplishment is the construction of the new Ford Alumni Center. While Dan will be the first to say this Center came about due to the tireless effort of many committed individuals, there is no question he has been a driving force for the project since its inception.

Dan grew up in Sunnyvale, CA, and is a graduate of Arizona State University. While he is a Sun Devil by pedigree, it is difficult to think of a more devoted and true Oregon Duck than Dan. He has spent untold hours promoting the University and the alumni association. He has also dedicated himself to the University's hometown community of Eugene, Oregon, where he has served on the Eugene Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Rotary Club, and in several capacities with the American Lung Association of Oregon.

Dan has served four University presidents, seven athletic directors, and acted as a mentor to hundreds of UO students teaching the importance of leadership and volunteerism as part of campus life. He leaves a team of 12 employees and a board of directors who will miss his devotion and dedication to the association and the university it serves.

On the occasion of his last day at the University of Oregon, I wish to personally thank Mr. Rodriguez for his service. He will certainly be missed. Go Ducks!

AMERICA INVENTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1249) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 1249, which will help America maintain its distinction as the most innovative country in the world. For too long, independent inventors, small businesses, and America's leading universities and technology companies have been mired in a convoluted patent process that has stifled innovation and job creation. H.R. 1249 streamlines and clarifies the patent process, giving inventors and investors the certainty they need to expand their businesses and grow the economy.

This legislation also gives the United States Patent and Trademark Office the tools it needs to process the hundreds of thousands of applications it receives every year, increasing their ability to adjust its fees to reflect the actual costs of the services it provides, to fast-track patent applications, and to expand opportunities for post-grant review of patents. I remain deeply concerned that, under the manager's amendment, the Patent and Trademark Office will have fewer resources to pursue these objectives, a change which risks squandering the very opportunities created by the remainder of the legislation.

Innovative stakeholders in my district have voiced concerns that the legislation's expansion of the defense of "prior user rights" will weaken their ability to protect their patentable innovations and give rise to widespread trade secret litigation, particularly for those areas of research the blend federal investment and private investment. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure these concerns are addressed, so that America's finest universities and research centers can continue their role as global leaders of innovation.

H.R. 1249 is a strong step toward protecting the administration of our system of intellectual

property rights. This is a worthy bipartisan accomplishment. I am concerned that some of my colleagues have championed this bill as the ultimate job-creator and that once it passes, they will forget about the millions of Americans that are still struggling to find work. Patent reform is important, but what out-of-work Americans need most are jobs. I urge my colleagues to build on this bipartisan momentum and work together to rebuild and renew America's infrastructure, the most efficient way to create jobs and strengthen our economy.

INTRODUCTION: "FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INCLUSION ACT"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, in our tough economic environment, individuals should not have to choose between caring for a loved one and their job. The high work participation rates among mothers and the caregiving needs of an aging population put further demands on American families. The landmark Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) has allowed millions of employees to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave from work to care for a new baby or to care for a spouse, child under age 18, or parent who has a serious health condition. However, the law does not allow leave to care for a same-sex partner or spouse, a grandparent or an adult child. Anecdotal evidence suggests that same-sex partners have endured negative reactions and denials to requests for leave when partners gave birth or had a serious medical condition. When a loved one is in need of care, employees should not be subjected to discrimination but should be allowed to take advantage of the benefits FMLA provides.

Already, hundreds of companies, several states, and the District of Columbia have extended such protections to individuals not originally included in the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993. In order to do this at the federal level, today I am reintroducing the Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act. This legislation will allow an employee to take unpaid leave from work to care for his or her same-sex spouse or domestic partner, parent-in-law, adult child, sibling, grandchild or grandparent if that person has a serious health condition. Additionally, in light of the recent repeal of the Military's Don't Ask Don't Tell policy, the legislation permits leave for domestic partners of service members.

I thank Senator DURBIN for reintroducing the Senate companion legislation and thank original House cosponsors Reps. POLIS, TOWNS, GEORGE MILLER, STARK, FRANK, HOLMES NORTON, SUSAN DAVIS, CONNOLLY, ISRAEL, FREDERICA WILSON, OLVER, SHERMAN, CAPPAS, SERRANO, NADLER, ENGEL, MOORE, BARBARA LEE, CHU, and JACKSON Jr.

Almost two decades after enactment, it is time FMLA caught up to the growing demands on and changing makeup of American families.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLEVELAND ARTS PRIZE WINNER MARSHA DOBRZYNSKI

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents who, because of her service to the students of Northeast Ohio, has been bestowed a great honor by her community. On June 28, 2011, Marsha Dobrzynski will receive the 51st annual Cleveland Arts Prize.

The goal of the Cleveland Arts Prize is to support and encourage artists, and to promote public awareness of artistic creativity in Northeast Ohio through the work of Arts Prize recipients.

The oldest award of its kind in the United States, the Arts Prize is a testament to the standard of excellence and quality of artists in Northeast Ohio. In addition to artists, the Arts Prize honors individuals who have expanded the community's participation in the arts and helped make the region more hospitable to creative artistic expression.

Marsha Dobrzynski, the Executive Director of Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio, an integrated program with more than 30 arts, cultural, philanthropic and educational institutions will receive the Martha Joseph Prize for Distinguished Service to the Arts. Since 1994, Marsha has continually demonstrated her unsurpassed dedication to ensure that children throughout Northeast Ohio have equal access to the arts and the consequent benefits experience in the arts can bring to their personal growth and education.

Her bold leadership and tireless efforts throughout her tenure at Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio have made it possible to incorporate arts education into the lives of more than 242,000 children a year, providing the much needed framework for a strong education in the arts and a path for arts-based careers through her introduction of the ArtWorks program. The extraordinary value that she has brought to this important discipline strongly reflects the principles of this award and her championship of arts in education is rightfully recognized.

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE GREENHAW

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to acknowledge the loss of Wayne Greenhaw, a dedicated Alabama journalist and one of the finest writers to hail from our state. He passed away May 31, 2011, at the age of 71.

A native of Sheffield and a graduate of the University of Alabama, Wayne Greenhaw was the author of 22 books, many of which were influenced by his southern upbringing and the historical events that shaped his early career as a reporter.

His foray into journalism began in 1958 as a part-time sports reporter for the Tuscaloosa News, followed by a full time job with the Ala-

bama Journal in Montgomery. During his reporting days, he chronicled the segregationist movement of the 1960's and frequently profiled state and national politics, which later led to stints as a stringer for the New York Times and Time magazine, among others.

In 1976, Wayne Greenhaw briefly left journalism for politics, serving as Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign press secretary for Alabama. Nearly two decades later, he entered public service as the Director of the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel from 1993 to 1994. In 1995, President Bill Clinton appointed him as a representative to the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism. He was also awarded Travel Writer of the Year in 1995 by the Southeast Tourism Society.

Above all things, Wayne was a truly decent man who had a moral compass and not only knew the difference between right and wrong, but was willing to express it in a powerful way. As one of our best writers—and we've produced some mighty talented men and women from Alabama in this field—Wayne was not limited to any one medium. From fiction to nonfiction, books to poetry, beat reporting to plays, Wayne Greenhaw put his stamp on Alabama literature like few others.

His many books include *King of Country*, *Ghosts On the Road: Poems of Alabama*, *Mexico and Beyond*, *The Thunder of Angels*, *The Spider's Web*, *Montgomery*, *The Long Journey*, *Beyond the Night*, *Alabama: A State of Mind*, *Tombigbee*, *Elephants in the Cottonfields*, *The Golfer and Watch out for George Wallace*. He also authored two plays, *Rose: A Southern lady*, and *The Spirit Tree*.

Given his prolific talents, it is, therefore, not surprising that he was the recipient of the 2005 Clarence Carson Award for nonfiction and the 2006 Harper Lee Award for Distinguished Writing.

His most recent book, *Fighting the Devil in Dixie*, about civil rights activists confronting the Ku Klux Klan from the late 1950's to the mid 1980's, is considered "the culmination of his career."

Mr. Speaker, Wayne Greenhaw has been described by his peers as "a storyteller" and "a part of our State's history." Wayne's works always reflected his affection and passion for the history of our state. It is hard to imagine where our state would be without the historical and cultural contributions of this great writer.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I would like to extend my condolences to Wayne's wonderful wife, Sally, and their family and many friends during this time of personal loss. Wayne's love for Alabama and our people will never be forgotten. May he rest in peace.

JOBS AND ENERGY PERMITTING ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2021) to amend the Clean Air Act regarding air pollution from Outer Continental Shelf activity:

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chair, I voted against H.R. 2021, the so-called Jobs and Energy

Permitting Act. H.R. 2021 is the latest piece of legislation from the Majority that puts Big Oil before public welfare.

H.R. 2021 is yet another attack on the Clean Air Act. This harmful legislation would revoke Clean Air Act protections mandating that oil companies use pollution control technology for vessels used in offshore drilling. H.R. 2021 would allow oil companies to measure pollutants and toxics generated from offshore drilling rigs at onshore locations, effectively allowing for offshore sources to generate larger and larger amounts of toxic air pollution.

While these permitting loopholes present clear dangers to public health and welfare, perhaps the most egregious affront to the Clean Air Act is the provision in H.R. 2021 that eliminates the Environmental Appeals Board at EPA. This board provides those citizens directly affected by coastal air pollution access to an impartial review of permitting decisions. To be clear, this misguided legislation puts oil companies before the health of the American public.

For 40 years, the Clean Air Act has been successful in reducing emissions into the atmosphere of pollutants and chemicals that kill people and endanger public health. Its success is due, in large part, to being enacted and strengthened based on the best science to find the most effective ways to remove the worst pollutants from our air. The Clean Air Act should not be undercut to benefit large oil companies.

If enacted into law, this bill would have far reaching consequences and damage public health in the Arctic, Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf Coasts. The world's most profitable oil companies should be held to the highest public health and environmental safety standards, not given a free pass to generate toxic air pollution. I urge my colleagues to vote against this harmful and reckless legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I wish to correct a vote that I made on the amendment to H.R. 2112. During the rollcall votes, I voted no on the Campbell amendment to prohibit funding for the Animal, Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) from being used for lethal methods of wildlife control to protect livestock. It was my intent to support the amendment, as I stand in strong support of the federal government's use of humane and non-lethal animal control whenever possible. My record on this issue clearly shows my longstanding support of this position and I hereby state my disapproval of the use of lethal methods of trapping, aerial hunting and poisoning wildlife in order to protect livestock by the APHIS.

I wish to clearly state for the RECORD that I supported the Campbell-DeFazio-Peters amendment and did not intend to vote against it.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HARRY VAN ARSDALE, JR. CENTER FOR LABOR STUDIES AT SUNY EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Harry Van Arsdale, Jr. Center for Labor Studies at SUNY Empire State College on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

The New York State legislature created SUNY Empire State College in 1971 in order to provide educational opportunities to adults not adequately served by traditional residential colleges. At the same time, it also established the Center for Labor Studies, which was renamed in 1986 to honor the distinguished labor leader, the long-time business manager of IBEW Local 3 and president of the New York City Central Labor Council, who did so much to support its creation.

The Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies at SUNY Empire State College continues to fulfill its namesake's dream of providing wage-earning adults with an opportunity to develop their labor leadership skills and to earn a college degree in a learning environment that celebrates their achievements and recognizes their particular needs. To do so, the Van Arsdale Center provides flexible, worker-friendly educational programs delivered by highly qualified faculty to ensure that its trade union students and other working adults may acquire the analytical and communicative skills that are the hallmark of a college degree.

The center currently serves several important constituencies in the New York City area, including IBEW Local 3 and United Association Local 1 apprentices, as well as paraeducators affiliated with the United Federation of Teachers. The longest-standing of these partnerships is with the Joint Industry Board of the Electrical Industry in New York City (JIB), and it is one of the center's most successful partnerships. Since 1978 every registered electrical apprentice in IBEW Local 3 has been required to complete, in addition to their related classroom instruction in electrical theory, an academic course of study in which they learn to read and write at the college level and for which they are awarded a college degree; or, if they already have a degree, a 20-credit certificate in "Labor and the Construction Industry." Other programs were added later: the paraeducator program of the UFT in 2006, the college degree program of UA Local 1 in 2008; and others are in development.

The Harry Van Arsdale, Jr. Center for Labor Studies has graduated more than 5,000 men and women, many of whom have gone on to hold positions of honor in the New York City labor movement and beyond. Please join me in congratulating this exemplary educational organization on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

H.R. 2320

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, recently, I introduced H.R. 2320, which would make permanent the provisions of Section 646 of the Internal Revenue Code. Currently, these provisions are slated to expire on December 31, 2012.

In 1971, Congress passed, and President Nixon approved, landmark legislation known as the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). This legislation settled the aboriginal land claims of Native Alaskans in exchange for land selection rights and cash. The law was, and is, a bold and organic national experiment in Native land claims settlement. However, it has needed revision and refinement many times since. 1971. I am proud to have worked with my colleagues over the past several years to accomplish these improvements.

In 1988, Congress enacted legislation to authorize Alaska Native corporations to establish "settlement trusts." Their purpose was to provide benefits to Alaska Natives and permit a legal structure that would protect and preserve, for current and future Alaska Native generations, much of the value of the land claims settlement. The original ANCSA required Native groups to form Alaska state law corporations to receive, administer, and distribute the ANCSA settlement, and the 1988 legislation was recognition that the corporate form had not always been well-suited to this task. In part, this was due to the federal tax problems that attend the corporate form, although ironically in the years after 1988, it became apparent that the federal tax rules relative to trusts present their own complexities and problems that discouraged the use of settlement trusts.

Congress enacted Section 646 of the tax code to address these problems. Section 646 provides for an elective regime for Alaska Native settlement trusts that (i) provides for a trust level tax at various rates ranging up to 10% in lieu of beneficiary level taxes; (ii) allows contributions to be made to these trusts on a tax favored basis; and (iii) streamlines administrative reporting for these trusts. When adopted, this elective treatment initially provided significant incentives to the use of settlement trusts to further the ANCSA settlement, and Alaska Native corporations utilized this provision to provide benefits through Alaska Native settlement trusts.

As I mentioned earlier, Section 646 is scheduled to sunset on December 31, 2012, despite the positive effects it has had for the Alaska Native community. The principal aim of settlement trusts is to provide funds to the Alaska Native beneficiaries. These beneficiaries are among the most economically disadvantaged persons in our country. Section 646 has worked well to provide an incentive for the use of settlement trusts, and must be continued.

However, the looming expiration of Section 646 has had a chilling effect in recent years upon the establishment of new Alaska Native settlement trusts. Alaska Native corporations have no desire to exchange the corporate tax

problems they already face for the tax problems accompanying the trust form that they will face if Section 646 is allowed to sunset.

I introduced H.R. 2320 because a permanent extension of Section 646 will immediately remove the disincentive presented by the sunset of Section 646 for Alaska Native corporations to use settlement trusts to provide benefits to their Alaska Native shareholders.

I would like to note to my colleagues that the fact that Section 646 is not already a permanent part of the tax code is a result of its unique procedural history, rather than a result of any substantive determination as to its merits or revenue concerns about its cost. Section 646 was originally enacted, along with several other provisions, as an unrelated, miscellaneous provision as part of the 2001 tax legislation which, because of the need to use the budget reconciliation process, was subject to a December 31, 2010 sunset provision. Rather than subsequently being made permanent similar to other unrelated, miscellaneous provisions in the 2001 tax legislation, Section 646 was extended for two years along with the 2001 individual tax rate reductions as part of the 2010 year-end tax legislation such that it is now scheduled to expire on December 31, 2012. Once again, the decision to enact a two-year extension (rather than a permanent extension) was not attributable to substantive or revenue considerations relating to Section 646 itself. Rather, it followed from a decision to enact a simple two-year extension of all of the expiring 2001 provisions without assessing the merits of alternative extension periods for each expiring provision being extended. Thus, it is fair to say that the current non-permanent status of Section 646 is an accident of the legislative process and that no Member has ever suggested that the provision should not be made permanent. Further, there was wide support for the permanency provision in the last Congress. H.R. 2320 would simply remedy this accident of the legislative process and make permanent a provision that should have originally been enacted as such.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT RUTLEDGE,
THE HEART OF ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to acknowledge the recent passing of one of Mobile's most beloved and respected educators, Robert Rutledge.

"Coach Bob," as he was known to many, was head football coach, athletic director, assistant headmaster and headmaster over his 33-year career at St. Paul's Episcopal School. He has been described as the heart of St. Paul's and an influential role model for his students.

Under his guidance, St. Paul's athletic program gained statewide respect, including a trip to the 1993 State Championship game.

For three decades, Coach Bob inspired, led and prepared generations of students for the rigors of life, instilling in many the confidence to set their goals high and then work hard toward attaining them.

Bob's enthusiasm for coaching and teaching—and his devotion to improving the lives of each of his students—is what set him apart as a truly outstanding educator.

A former student and now local Mobile attorney, Charlie Potts, recently told the Mobile Press-Register that Coach Bob always followed the Golden Rule. Simply put, Bob Rutledge treated his students and players the way he would want to be treated.

Bob was also instrumental in shaping St. Paul's community service programs, including a fine arts program that today rivals the offerings of many colleges and universities.

For St. Paul's students and alumni, Coach Bob was more than a great educator and leader, he was like a parent and cherished friend. He had a talent for summoning the best in his students and building a faculty and staff that were second to none. Although he retired in 2006, his passing is a profound loss for St. Paul's and our entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I join with so many others from southwest Alabama in mourning the loss of a truly exceptional man who touched thousands upon thousands of lives with his generosity, leadership and strength.

My condolences go out to his wonderful wife of 45 years, Martha, and their children, Kellie, Brett and Dorie. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN RESORT (JHMR)—NATIONAL SKI AREA ASSOCIATION'S (NSAA) GOLDEN EAGLE AWARD

HON. CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor Jackson Hole Mountain Resort (JHMR) from the state of Wyoming for their receipt of the National Ski Area Association's (NSAA) Golden Eagle Award. Having been a previous recipient of this award in 1995, JHMR yet again receives the highest honor in environmental achievement. This prestigious award is judged by industry peers and a select group of judges.

As an example to all industries, both within and without the business of skiing, JHMR has managed to produce an environmentally-friendly ski resort. They are a great example to us all of environmental achievements. The award coincides with the resort's five year anniversary of ISO 14001 certification. JHMR is one of only two resorts in the United States to have met these standards. This specific award, the Golden Eagle Award, honors their environmental excellence for "Medium Size Ski Areas" (200,000—500,000 visits). Businesses, such as this resort, are our hope for a more beautiful world in the future, showing us that spectacular sites do not have to come at the cost of our environmental degradation.

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort is justly proud to receive this award. Their selection shows their positive impact and contribution to a better environment. A few of their contributions, to note, are: modifications to their heating systems, reducing propane use by 20% and recycling all motor oil, along with anti-freeze, batteries, and snowmelt (from grooming equipment). They have demonstrated a

level of responsibility, commitment and care that deserves our recognition, support and utmost respect. Their developments and strategies are exemplary. They are a great example to us all. I commend them for their great deeds, and agree they are most deserving of this Golden Eagle Award.

AMERICA INVENTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1249) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform:

Mr. HOYER. Madam Chair, I rise in support of this legislation. I am a strong supporter, as many of you know, of what we call our Make It In America agenda. Make It In America simply means we are going to provide jobs, we are going to provide opportunities, and we are going to build the manufacturing sector of our economy. In order to do that we also need to enhance the inventive, innovative, and development phases of our economy. This bill, I think, will facilitate this.

I congratulate the gentelady from California for this amendment as well, which I think improves this bill. I rise in strong support and urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation. I congratulate all of those who have worked on this legislation. It is obviously not perfect, but then again, no piece of legislation that we adopt is perfect. It is, however, a significant step forward to make sure that America remains the inventive, innovative development capital of the world. In order to do that we need to manufacture goods here in America—manufacture the goods that we invent, innovate, and develop here, because if we continue to take them to scale overseas, then the inventors, innovators, and developers will themselves move overseas.

So I thank Mr. SMITH, Mr. WATT, Ms. LOFGREN, and the others who have worked so hard on this legislation, who have dedicated themselves to trying to make sure that we have a context and environment in America which will facilitate the innovative sector of our economy.

IN MEMORY OF JIM WHAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a man of great character, patriotism, and community pride: Mr. Jim Wham of Centralia, Illinois, who passed away May 20, 2011, at the age of 92.

I first met Jim when, as a child, I visited my late grandfather, John Shimkus, who owned a clothing store in Centralia. Jim Wham, already a well known attorney, knew my grandfather and I remember meeting this well educated, well informed, larger than life man. Many years later, when I began running for Congress, I again met Jim—who was very active

in politics—and became much more acquainted with him. Jim became a friend and trusted advisor. His viewpoints on crucial issues were always well thought out and came from a deep love of his country. I could always count on Jim to tell me exactly what he thought.

Jim was a 1936 graduate of Centralia Township High School, was center on the Centralia Orphans basketball team that competed in the State Tournament at Champaign, and later attended the University of Illinois where he lettered in track. He was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1947 and practiced at the law firm started by his grandfather William Bundy and remained the active senior partner of Wham and Wham until his death.

Jim also served in the Army Air Corps in World War II advancing to the rank of major and was awarded the bronze star.

Jim was large in stature and large in his love of politics, the law, and life. He shared his passion for this country and the Republican Party any chance he could.

Jim even ran for Congress once on the Jim Wham Party banner, after missing the deadline to file as a Republican. The reason for his Congressional run was because of the incumbent's vote against the amendment prohibiting the burning of the flag. Jim had seen firsthand in WWII the price paid for that flag and wanted others to know it as well. He was first and foremost a true patriot.

Jim also served as a judge of the Illinois Court of Claims and was a candidate for Illinois Appellate Court Judge. Jim was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Centralia and was a Sunday School teacher there.

Most recently, well into his 90's, Jim hosted a weekly radio show on WILY in Centralia. I had the privilege of being his guest on this show in studio. He was still well informed, still very articulate, and I could still not win an argument with him. His voice in Centralia will be missed.

Survivors include his wife Phyllis; daughters Sarah Cary and Jennifer Price; his brother William; grandchildren: Andrew Wham Cary, Stephen Wham Cary, Rebecca Ann Cary, Susannah Jane Price, James Daniel Price, Katharine Elizabeth Price and Mary Karen Price; and great grandchildren: Zachary Cary and Samantha Cary.

Jim was laid rest in Centralia. And while I was unable to attend in person, I can certainly take this opportunity to let his name ring throughout this hallowed hall. He deserves no less and would certainly love hearing it.

REMARKS IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN
TRACY D. SMYERS, UNITED
STATES NAVY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Captain Tracy D. (T.D.) Smyers for his 27 years of dedicated and distinguished service to our nation on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Navy.

It is an honor to join the people of Texas' 12th Congressional District in honoring one of our own, Captain Smyers, upon his retirement

as Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base for the past three years.

Locally appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy by Representative Charles Stenholm of Texas' old 17th district, he graduated from the academy in 1984 and attended flight school. He was designated a Naval Flight Officer (NFO) in September of 1985.

Spending the majority of his career in a P-3 Orion aircraft, Captain Smyers succeeded in all leadership roles in multiple squadrons during his career. The most notable position was as the Commanding Officer of the VP-62 Broad Arrows. Captain Smyers led this squadron during Operation Enduring Freedom in three different operational theaters. Additionally, Captain Smyers attended the National Defense University's Industrial College of the Armed Forces earning a Master of Science Degree in Strategic Resourcing.

On April 11, 2008, Captain Smyers reported as the eighth Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, which provides support for units from every service and over 11,000 active duty, guard, reserve, and civilian employees. It has truly been an honor to work with Captain Smyers. He is respected by all for his true professionalism. While Captain Smyers has remained focused on the mission, his dedication to the sailors under his command has been exceptional. He epitomizes the phrase "Mission First, People Always" and I know the thousands of officers, sailors, and civilians he has led hold him in the highest regard.

Captain Smyers has upheld the highest traditions of the United States Navy. We will miss his leadership as Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, but we look forward to the contributions he will make to our community as he and his family transition to civilian life in our area.

HONORING MR. ARUN SHIMPI

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding commitment to public service made by Mr. Arun Shimpi, who retired in June after 43 years of tireless service toward enhancing the social and economic independence of Americans who are blind. When Mr. Shimpi began work at National Industries for the Blind in 1968, he was a new immigrant from India in search of greater opportunity. Fifteen years later, fueled by a desire to participate fully in our democracy, he transitioned from legal resident to U.S. citizen. Not only is his story one that captures the spirit of the American Dream, but he has also worked tirelessly for over 40 years, opening the doors of opportunity to thousands of Americans who are blind or severely disabled, making their own dreams become a reality.

National Industries for the Blind, along with its 90 associated nonprofit agencies operating under the AbilityOne Program, remains the largest single source of employment for Americans who are blind. Under Mr. Shimpi's leadership, the AbilityOne Program has made great progress in breaking down barriers for all persons with disabilities.

Schooled as an industrial engineer, Mr. Shimpi has approached these barriers faced by Americans with disabilities as problems that can be overcome through concrete solutions. He has provided valuable research and analysis, creating better efficiency within the AbilityOne Program, and his depth of knowledge acquired through four decades of service at National Industries for the Blind has been a valuable resource for those looking to close the 70 percent unemployment gap among Americans who are blind.

Please join me in honoring a lifetime commitment to service by Mr. Arun Shimpi.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
MICHAEL R. REDMOND

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great respect and honor that I rise today to recognize the life of Northwest Florida's beloved Dr. Michael R. Redmond.

Born in Milton, Florida on March 19, 1943, Michael Redmond lived a life deeply rooted in love for his family and community. Dr. Redmond was a devoted public servant, and the contributions he made to Northwest Florida are innumerable.

Upon graduation from Campion Jesuit High School, Dr. Redmond attended St. Louis University, and after only three years of study, he was admitted to St. Louis University Medical School. A true patriot, Dr. Redmond served in the United States Army from 1969 to 1971 as a General Medical Officer at Leonard Wood Army Hospital. During the Vietnam War, Dr. Redmond served in the 25th Infantry Division as an Emergency Room/Casualty Physician and earned two Bronze Stars. For 35 years, Dr. Redmond practiced at the West Florida Medical Center in the Department of Ophthalmology and served as the Chief Executive Officer from 2000 until his passing. His expertise while serving on the American Academy of Ophthalmology Board of Trustees and later as President of the AAO in 2003 was invaluable. Dr. Redmond served as a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Children's EyeCare Foundation, the Escambia County Medical Society, the Escambia County United Way Campaign and numerous other committees and organizations.

Respect emanates from his colleagues who say Dr. Redmond will forever be remembered as a caring physician who always put his patients first. In the eyes of the many people whose sight was restored due to his life-long dedication to "helping kids see," he was a true hero. Serving as a testament to the gratitude his colleagues, the medical profession, and the public have for him, Dr. Redmond was awarded the Florida Medical Association's highest award, the Certificate of Merit, for his outstanding service to the FMA. He also earned the American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award from 1975 to 2000.

To some, Michael Redmond will be remembered as a community leader, and to others, as a dedicated doctor and hero. To his family, he will forever be remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Michael is

survived by his wife Jane; his children, Anne, Sandra, and Terry; and granddaughter, Sarah.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of Dr. Michael Redmond for his service to Northwest Florida and to this great nation. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his entire family. He will be truly missed by all.

A TRIBUTE TO MAX METCALF-
PUTNAM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Max Metcalf-Putnam for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

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

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Max's project was to design and construct a series of wooden "trees" for the feline residents of the Fort Dodge Humane Society to facilitate more exercise and recreation while the cats await adoption. In his immediate future, Max will be attending Iowa State University this fall to major in physics and has already been accepted as a First-Year Honor Student.

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

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF DEVIL'S LAKE
STATE PARK

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Devil's Lake State Park and the people of Wisconsin's commitment to the maintenance of our most visited state park.

Since 1911, Devil's Lake State Park has provided diverse recreation for countless spirited adventurers. From the dancing waters of the 374-acre lake filled with brown trout and northern pike to historic and sacred Effigy Mounds that are over 1,000 years old to the famed Devil's Doorway and Balanced Rock formations, this picturesque park encompasses nearly 10,000 acres. Those who trek to its highest points are treated to a breathtaking view of the valleys and bluffs that flank the park. For over a century, campers, hikers, bikers, swimmers, anglers, boaters, and many

more have flocked to this pristine destination. It is no wonder why Devil's Lake State Park attracts so many visitors each year; to put it simply—to visit the park is to fall in love with it.

Although Devil's Lake State Park is celebrating its centennial this year, it has been a source of recreation and tourism for far longer. Beginning in the mid-1800s, the Devil's Lake area was surrounded by several hotels and resorts and even hosted Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln and General Ulysses S. Grant during their visit. These establishments were serviced by a railroad that transported visitors often numbering in the thousands. As times changed and the automobile was introduced, the hotels faded into history and the park became more accessible as a day-trip destination. Finally, in 1911, the state designated the park as the third official Wisconsin State Park.

Of course, Devil's Lake State Park would not be what it is today without the dedication of many over the years. In the days of the Great Depression, it was the hardworking individuals of the Civilian Conservation Corps who built trails, removed invasive species, built a reservoir, acted as fireguards, and built various structures. Today, it is the tireless efforts of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, The Friends of Devil's Lake State Park, and the myriad of other volunteers and supporters who ensure that the park is protected and preserved for centuries to come.

In 1919, official attendance records indicate that there were 100,000 visitors. Today, Devil's Lake State Park entertains approximately 1.8 million visitors per year and continues to serve as a recreational haven. As we look to the future, we see the possible addition of more campsites and land to the west and north and a unique opportunity to add some 4,000 acres from the decommissioned Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP) to the south. Today, I join visitors from South Central Wisconsin, across our great nation, and across the world in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Devil's Lake State Park.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BRIAN
LANKER

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Brian Lanker. Brian died on March 13th, ten days after being diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer.

Brian was a remarkable photographer. He was also a good friend. He began his career at the Topeka Capital-Journal in 1970—a paper nationally renowned for excellence in photojournalism. While at the paper, he shot a series on natural childbirth using the Lamaze method, which was not common at that time. The series culminated in a photo of Lynda (then Coburn) Lanker, Brian's future wife, giving birth to her son, Dustin. This ebullient photograph earned Brian the 1973 Pulitzer Prize.

Shortly after that achievement, Brian moved to Eugene, Oregon, to take a position as the director of graphics for the Register Guard. Under Brian's direction, photos became a significant part of the news story. He raised the

paper's standard for photojournalism to new heights, and he was awarded two Newspaper Photographer of the Year awards for his effort. In a remembrance, Carl Davaz, the paper's then deputy managing editor, told David Dunlap that Brian always thought first about the reader when taking pictures, and used his talents to bring words-and-pictures together.

Brian became a freelance photographer after he left the Register Guard in 1982. He took breathtaking photographs for distinguished publications including LIFE Magazine, Sports Illustrated, and National Geographic. He was sought out for his photographic instincts and ability to capture single moments that told entire stories.

His proudest works, however, came when he collaborated with poet Maya Angelou on two books: "I Dream a World," his portraits of black women of achievement; and "Shall We Dance," a photographic documentary of dance in America. The debut showing for "I Dream a World" set attendance records at Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. It is now in its 14th printing, which made Brian particularly proud because it meant the stories of these distinguished women were being shared.

At the end of Mr. Dunlap's remembrance, he wrote about Carl Davaz' final visit with Brian. Brian simply told Carl, "There's just so much left to do."

Just before Brian died, two of his children, who had separately planned weddings for later in the year, chose to get married at Brian's bedside so he could share in their celebration. He died soon thereafter. Brian is survived by Lynda Lanker, a recognized artist in her own right, and their children Julie Coburn, Jacki Coburn, and Dustin Lanker.

For my part, I agree with you, Brian—there was just so much left for you to do. You are deeply missed.

HONORING THE LEADERSHIP
TRAINING INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, for the past 15 years, the Leadership Training Institute of America, LTIA, has helped teach young people about free markets, limited government, and traditional values. LTIA has trained hundreds of young people through their national conference in leadership excellence, critical thinking skills, worldview apologetics, network development and community involvement in a unique format that integrates a Biblical perspective.

The Leadership Training Institute of America's National Conference, held each summer in Washington, is available to a select number of students who have demonstrated a passion for leadership. I am pleased that 10 students from my congressional district have been selected to participate in these conferences. LTIA alumni take active roles in local government and civic groups in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to commend the Leadership Training Institute of America for producing conservative leadership that is actively involved in local, state and federal arenas, and for casting this vision to future generations. It has been said that "Today's

youth are tomorrow's leaders." LTIA has embraced this philosophy and is investing its resources to secure a bright future for America through conservative leadership. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the Leadership Training Institute of America for their outstanding training of America's youth for the past 15 years.

PLANNED FLOTILLA TO GAZA

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, in May, Representative TOM COLE and I led 34 of our colleagues from the House of Representatives in sending a letter to the Prime Minister of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, urging his government to work to discourage the planned flotilla to Gaza. Earlier this month, the Turkish group IHH, one of the major organizers of the flotilla, announced that it was pulling out. This was a major victory, but other flotilla participants have opted to proceed with this provocative and unnecessary act.

The government of Israel has a right and a responsibility to protect the Israeli people. Recent events, such as the seizing of the *Victoria*, which was carrying more than 50 tons of weapons destined for Hamas militants, clearly demonstrate Israel's legitimate security concerns regarding cargo heading to Gaza.

The flotilla has nothing to do with providing aid to the people of Gaza. There are well-established avenues for getting humanitarian assistance to Gaza, but the flotilla participants' refusal to use those alternatives demonstrates that their true intention is to provoke Israel. I call on them to abandon their confrontational plans and work with Israel in allowing legitimate assistance, but not weapons, to enter Gaza.

JOBS AND ENERGY PERMITTING ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

The House on the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2021) to amend the Clean Air Act regarding air pollution from Outer Continental Shelf activity:

Ms. LEE. Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2021.

By overriding offshore air pollution rules H.R. 2021 dirties our coasts and oceans, endangers the health of our citizens and constituents, and keeps us trapped in the quagmire of the 20th century energy economy when we should be pressing towards the 21st.

I am distressed that many of my colleagues, while consistently touting an increased role for local and state government, want to completely overrun existing state health and environmental regulations. As the California Air Resources Board expressed in testimony, this bill will "quash local control, impose tremendous new costs on state and local government and taxpayers, and disenfranchise community groups and local stakeholders."

Let us not lose sight of the fact that the Clean Air Act is first and foremost about public

health and protecting our citizens from dangerous pollution that directly threatens their health. Turning again to testimony from the California Air Resources Board, which is supported by the Boards of other states, this bill will severely limit existing protections for public health in coastal states. I would particularly note that, as allowed for in section three, ships involved in drilling activities would not have to use emissions control technology, even though these ships already comprise the vast proportion of pollution from drilling operations.

Section two of this bill demands that the pollution being disgorged by offshore drilling projects be measured at the point of its impact with the shoreline. What some of my distinguished colleagues appear to have forgotten is that we in the coastal states actually engage in activities that extend past the shore.

Let's forget for a moment the enormous implications that this measure has for climate change and environmental degradation. What section two essentially states is that the health and safety of our fishermen, boaters, and the workers engaging in the very projects that are the topic of the present debate are inconsequential. I oppose this bill so strongly because these are the people who deserve and need to be protected.

For these reasons, I offer my complete support to my colleague from California, Representative SPEIER, one of the many Members here today whose constituents will suffer directly under this provision. Her amendment to cut section two from this bill represents at least a small step toward limiting the appalling health and environmental consequences of H.R. 2021, and I support that amendment unconditionally.

My district is home to the Port of Oakland, the fourth busiest container port in the United States. Large container ships like the ones we're talking about here produce enormous amounts of pollution, and when loading and unloading at ports and docks can contribute drastic health consequences for the surrounding communities. These communities, like West Oakland in my district, are often home to poor communities and people of color, groups that remain under-represented in this body. Sacrificing their health and the health of coastal communities all around this country to increase the profits of big polluters like Shell Oil Company is flat-out wrong. I do not and will not support it.

This bill would allow the world's largest oil companies to circumvent pollution standards that have protected our air and health for decades. Rolling back environmental protections hurts my constituents, and it hurts Americans all around the country.

H.R. 2021 is bad for our health, bad for our environment, and bad for our country. I stand firmly with my colleagues in opposing this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO JULIANA OSGOOD

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Juliana Osgood for being named a state winner of the Library of Congress's Letters about Literature program.

Letters about Literature is a national reading and writing program that is sponsored by the Library of Congress. The program asks students to write to the past or present author of

a book that affected their life. Nearly 70,000 young readers from across the country submitted letters last year to compete for the state-level awards for 2011.

A panel of judges that can include published authors, editors, publishers, librarians, teachers, and even state officials chose Juliana's letter as a state winner. Juliana wrote a letter to author Patricia MacLachlan to explain how MacLachlan's book, *Edward's Eyes*, affected her life. *Edward's Eyes* is a story of a family's love and loss that chronicles the difficulty of dealing with the painful moments in life. MacLachlan's acclaimed novel spoke to Juliana, and now Juliana's letter to MacLachlan has earned her recognition in her community as well as here in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young woman demonstrates the rewards of harnessing one's talents and sharing them with the world. Juliana's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her and her family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating her for her achievement and will wish her continued success in her future education and career.

RETIREMENT OF REV. CESSAR L. SCOTT, SR. AS EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF THE BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF VIRGINIA

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Cessar L. Scott, Sr., Executive Minister of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia. Rev. Scott is retiring this year after 33 years of service as Executive Minister, and I would like to take this moment to recognize some of his numerous accomplishments during that time.

A native of Portsmouth, Virginia, Rev. Scott received his undergraduate degree from Virginia Union University in 1966 and his divinity degree from VUU's Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology in 1970. He also earned a master's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Rev. Scott first became Executive Minister of the General Convention in 1978. Founded in 1899, The Baptist General Convention of Virginia is the mission organization network, representing over 1000 churches in the Commonwealth of Virginia. As the Executive Minister, Rev. Scott coordinates the day-to-day operation of the Convention, supervising its ministries and programs. These ministries offer conferences, workshops and retreats, and provide written resources on issues like Christian Education, Men's and Women's Health, and Youth Development.

Through his work at the Baptist General Convention, Rev. Scott has also supported many other state and national institutions including: the Children's Home of Virginia Baptists, Inc; Virginia One Church, One Child Adoption Program; the Chaplain's Prison Ministry; the United Negro College Fund; National

Baptist Convention USA; the Progressive National Convention; and the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention.

Rev. Scott serves on many statewide and national boards including the Virginia Union University Board of Trustees, the Council for America's First Freedom, the Corporate Board of the Sunday School Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., and the Executive Committee of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Under the faithful leadership of Rev. Scott, the Virginia Baptist General Convention has continued its legacy as a strong, leading voice in matters of faith in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I would like to congratulate Rev. Cessar L. Scott, Sr. on the event of his retirement, and I commend him for his 33 years of service to the people of Virginia.

IN TRIBUTE TO JOE HOWRY

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Joe Howry, who is retiring as Editor and Vice President of the Ventura County Star at month's end.

In my more than 30 years of public life, I have met a lot of journalists. It is fair to say that not all have gained my respect. But there is no journalist for whom I have more respect than Joe Howry.

Joe and I don't agree on everything. In fact, it's probably safe to say that we have many philosophical differences. But of all the journalists I have encountered over the decades, no one is more ethical, more objective or more professional than Joe Howry. He looks you straight in the eye, gives you a straight answer and tells you what he believes whether you like it or not. You know who he is and where he stands.

Joe's objectivity has led to a remarkable fact for an American newspaper. He has been with the Ventura County Star for more than 18 years and has been its Editor for the past seven years. During his tenure as Editor, to the best of my knowledge, at no time has he allowed an opinion to masquerade as news on the front page.

But Joe Howry's most important trait is that when Joe Howry gives you his word, Joe Howry gives you his bond. You walk away knowing it's stronger than the locks on Fort Knox.

Joe leaves The Star at a precarious time for the news media. It greatly concerns me that an important source of news and information is—if not disappearing—then greatly diminishing as Americans turn to Facebook, Twitter and blogs for their news.

I may be old-fashioned, but I like to pick up a newspaper and read it cover to cover, looking at where a story is placed to gauge the significance the editors place on an event. Except for a few stories that are highlighted on newspaper websites, such significance is mostly lost in the online world.

Joe Howry's voice will be greatly missed during this period of change.

My hope is that Joe, his wife, Andrea, and their children, Sarah, Joe Jr. and Lee, will continue to call Ventura County home—when Joe isn't fishing in Idaho, of course.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in thanking Joe Howry for his ethics, objectivity and professionalism and for being an example of what a journalist can and should be. I know they further join me in wishing him a long and healthy retirement surrounded by the love of his family and friends.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "OIL SPILL VICTIMS REDRESS ACT"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, more than one year after the Deepwater Horizon tragedy that ultimately led to more than 4 million barrels of oil spilling into the Gulf of Mexico, the Congress has yet to enact a single legislative reform to improve the safety of offshore drilling and protect the families of the Gulf region who had their livelihoods destroyed.

Today, I am reintroducing legislation with the gentlelady from Florida, Ms. CASTOR, and the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. CONNOLLY that would help protect those Gulf Coast residents who saw their livelihoods impacted by the BP oil spill.

This legislation, the Oil Spill Victims Redress Act, would simply clarify that those who have suffered economic harm as a result of the spill can seek to pursue claims in state court from all of the companies involved. Some of the companies involved in the spill, including Haliburton and Cameron, have argued in court that the Oil Pollution Act preempts state law and, as a result, that state law claims brought by victims of the spill should be dismissed or removed to federal court. These companies have even argued that they should be exempt from all suits because they are not responsible parties as defined under the OPA.

The Oil Pollution Act already clearly provides for claims to be brought in state court and was not intended to preempt state law. The Act clearly states that "nothing in this Act . . . shall affect, or be construed or interpreted to affect or modify in any way the obligations or liabilities of any person under . . . State law, including common law."

However, in light of the legal arguments being made by the companies involved in this disaster in an attempt to limit their liability, we are introducing this legislation today that would further reaffirm the ability of citizens to seek compensation for the economic impacts of the spill in state court. We must not forget about the people of the Gulf who had their livelihoods devastated by the spill. This legislation will help protect everyone in the Gulf who has suffered economic harm as a result of the Deepwater Horizon disaster.

PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1(b) of the Rules of the Joint Com-

mittee on Printing, I hereby submit the Rules of the Joint Committee on Printing for the 112th Congress, as adopted by the Joint Committee during its organizational meeting on June 22, 2011.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING, 112TH CONGRESS

RULE 1.—COMMITTEE RULES

(a) The rules of the Senate and House insofar as they are applicable, shall govern the Committee.

(b) The Committee's rules shall be published in the Congressional Record as soon as possible following the Committee's organizational meeting in each odd-numbered year.

(c) Where these rules require a vote of the members of the Committee, polling of members either in writing or by telephone shall not be permitted to substitute for a vote taken at a Committee meeting, unless the ranking minority member assents to waiver of this requirement.

(d) Proposals for amending Committee rules shall be sent to all members at least one week before final action is taken thereon, unless the amendment is made by unanimous consent.

RULE 2.—REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) The regular meeting date of the Committee shall be the second Wednesday of every month when the House and Senate are in session. A regularly scheduled meeting need not be held if there is no business to be considered and after appropriate notification is made to the ranking minority member. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairman, as he may deem necessary or at the request of the majority of the members of the Committee.

(b) If the Chairman of the Committee is not present at any meeting of the Committee, the vice-Chairman or ranking member of the majority party on the Committee who is present shall preside at the meeting.

RULE 3.—QUORUM

(a) Five members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, which is required for the purpose of closing meetings, promulgating Committee orders or changing the rules of the Committee.

(b) Three members shall constitute a quorum for purposes of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

RULE 4.—PROXIES

(a) Written or telegraphic proxies of Committee members will be received and recorded on any vote taken by the Committee, except for the purpose of creating a quorum.

(b) Proxies will be allowed on any such votes for the purpose of recording a member's position on a question only when the absentee Committee member has been informed of the question and has affirmatively requested that he be recorded.

RULE 5.—OPEN AND CLOSED MEETINGS

(a) Each meeting for the transaction of business of the Committee shall be open to the public except when the Committee, in open session and with a quorum present, determines by roll call vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public. No such vote shall be required to close a meeting that relates solely to internal budget or personnel matters.

(b) No person other than members of the Committee, and such congressional staff and other representatives as they may authorize, shall be present in any business session that has been closed to the public.

RULE 6.—ALTERNATING CHAIRMANSHIP AND VICE CHAIRMANSHIP BY CONGRESSES

(a) The Chairmanship and vice Chairmanship of the Committee shall alternate between the House and the Senate by Congresses: The senior member of the minority

party in the House of Congress opposite of that of the Chairman shall be the ranking minority member of the Committee.

(b) In the event the House and Senate are under different party control, the Chairman and vice Chairman shall represent the majority party in their respective Houses. When the Chairman and vice Chairman represent different parties, the vice Chairman shall also fulfill the responsibilities of the ranking minority member as prescribed by these rules.

RULE 7.—PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Questions as to the order of business and the procedures of Committee shall in the first instance be decided by the Chairman; subject always to an appeal to the Committee.

RULE 8.—HEARINGS: PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WITNESSES

(a) The Chairman, in the case of hearings to be conducted by the Committee, shall make public announcement of the date, place and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least one week before the commencement of that hearing unless the Committee determines that there is good cause to begin such hearing at an earlier date. In the latter event, the Chairman shall make such public announcement at the earliest possible date. The staff director of the Committee shall promptly notify the Daily Digest of the Congressional Record as soon as possible after such public announcement is made.

(b) So far as practicable, all witnesses appearing before the Committee shall file advance written statements of their proposed testimony at least 48 hours in advance of their appearance and their oral testimony shall be limited to brief summaries. Limited insertions or additional germane material will be received for the record, subject to the approval of the Chairman.

RULE 9.—OFFICIAL HEARING RECORD

(a) An accurate stenographic record shall be kept of all Committee proceedings and actions. Brief supplemental materials when required to clarify the transcript may be inserted in the record subject to the approval of the Chairman.

(b) Each member of the Committee shall be provided with a copy of the hearing transcript for the purpose of correcting errors of transcription and grammar, and clarifying questions or remarks. If any other person is authorized by a Committee Member to make his corrections, the staff director shall be so notified.

(c) Members who have received unanimous consent to submit written questions to witnesses shall be allowed two days within which to submit these to the staff director for transmission to the witnesses. The record may be held open for a period not to exceed two weeks awaiting the responses by witnesses.

(d) A witness may obtain a transcript copy of his testimony given at a public session or, if given at an executive session, when authorized by the Committee. Testimony received in closed hearings shall not be released or included in any report without the approval of the Committee.

RULE 10.—WITNESSES FOR COMMITTEE HEARINGS

(a) Selection of witnesses for Committee hearings shall be made by the Committee staff under the direction of the Chairman. A list of proposed witnesses shall be submitted to the members of the Committee for review sufficiently in advance of the hearings to permit suggestions by the Committee members to receive appropriate consideration.

(b) The Chairman shall provide adequate time for questioning of witnesses by all members, including minority Members and

the rule of germaneness shall be enforced in all hearings notified.

(c) Whenever a hearing is conducted by the Committee upon any measure or matter, the minority on the Committee shall be entitled, upon unanimous request to the Chairman before the completion of such hearings, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to the measure or matter during at least one day of hearing thereon.

RULE 11.—CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FURNISHED TO THE COMMITTEE

The information contained in any books, papers or documents furnished to the Committee by any individual, partnership, corporation or other legal entity shall, upon the request of the individual, partnership, corporation or entity furnishing the same, be maintained in strict confidence by the members and staff of the Committee, except that any such information may be released outside of executive session of the Committee if the release thereof is effected in a manner which will not reveal the identity of such individual, partnership, corporation or entity in connection with any pending hearing or as a part of a duly authorized report of the Committee if such release is deemed essential to the performance of the functions of the Committee and is in the public interest.

RULE 12.—BROADCASTING OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS

The rule for broadcasting of Committee hearings shall be the same as Rule XI, clause 4, of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 13.—COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) No Committee report shall be made public or transmitted to the Congress without the approval of a majority of the Committee except when Congress has adjourned: provided that any member of the Committee may make a report supplementary to or dissenting from the majority report. Such supplementary or dissenting reports should be as brief as possible.

(b) Factual reports by the Committee staff may be printed for distribution to Committee members and the public only upon authorization of the Chairman either with the approval of a majority of the Committee or with the consent of the ranking minority member.

RULE 14.—CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

No summary of a Committee report, prediction of the contents of a report, or statement of conclusions concerning any investigation shall be made by a member of the Committee or by any staff member of the Committee prior to the issuance of a report of the Committee.

RULE 15.—COMMITTEE STAFF

(a) The Committee shall have a staff director, selected by the Chairman. The staff director shall be an employee of the House of Representatives or of the Senate.

(b) The Ranking Minority Member may designate an employee of the House of Representatives or of the Senate as the minority staff director.

(c) The staff director, under the general supervision of the Chairman, is authorized to deal directly with agencies of the Government and with non-Government groups and individuals on behalf of the Committee.

(d) The Chairman or staff director shall timely notify the Ranking Minority Member or the minority staff director of decisions made on behalf of the Committee.

RULE 16.—COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman of the Committee may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing rules or to facilitate the effective

operation of the Committee. Specifically, the Chairman is authorized, during the interim periods between meetings of the Committee, to act on all requests submitted by any executive department, independent agency, temporary or permanent commissions and committees of the Federal Government, the Government Printing Office and any other Federal entity, pursuant to the requirements of applicable Federal law and regulations.

AMERICA INVENTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1249) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, America's patent system and the protection of intellectual property is an important source of innovation and national strength for our country. For that reason, any patent reform proposal must be judged based on its ability to improve patent quality, reduce the current backlog and provide patent holders greater certainty with respect to their patent rights. On that score, I believe the America Invents Act, on balance, achieves that objective.

In particular, our office received a number of calls regarding the proposed change to a first-inventor-to-file system. A variety of stakeholders—from the U.S. Patent Office to large multinational companies to biotech firms and angel investors in my district to the academic research community to independent inventors on both sides of this issue—weighed in with their respective points of view. In the final analysis, I concluded that the first-inventor-to-file standard in today's legislation will provide greater certainty for innovators, produce stronger patents and enhance our nation's economic competitiveness.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ELECTRONIC DEVICE RECYCLING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2011

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Electronic Device Recycling Research and Development Act of 2011. Electronic devices—computers, printers, cameras, mobile phones and other technology—comprise the fastest-growing share of our solid waste. These discarded electronic devices fill our landfills and leak toxic chemicals into our soil and groundwater. The most toxic components of these devices are exported in bulk to the developing world where they can be dumped without the safety measures imposed by U.S. environmental laws.

This so called E-waste also contains a high concentration of raw materials that can be reprocessed and reused by American manufacturers. The largest domestic supply of certain

rare materials critical to the manufacture of electronic devices is found in many municipal landfills. Yet our patchwork system of state laws and regulations, coupled with inaction by the federal government, has acted as a deterrent to manufacturers looking to reclaim these raw materials—the vast majority of which are currently imported from China. This dependence on foreign raw materials by American manufacturers also reveals a major vulnerability to our industrial supply chain—exposing our domestic economy to the volatility of foreign commodities markets and the whims of foreign governments.

Additional research and development is required in recycling technologies so we can more efficiently sort and process materials. To make recycling easier, products should avoid environmentally sensitive materials and enable re-use or extended use of electronic devices. For consumers, we need to make it easier to recycle and re-use electronics.

The Electronic Device Recycling Research and Development Act seeks to address these critical challenges by:

Authorizing the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, to award grants to reduce the environmental impact of discarded electronic devices and promote the recycling of these devices through research and development projects;

Requiring National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study on opportunities for and barriers to the recycling of discarded electronic devices; and

Authorizing EPA to award grants to colleges and universities for curriculum development in the areas of recycling electronic devices and enabling green design.

This legislation was introduced in the previous Congress by former Congressman Bart Gordon, the Chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, and passed the House of Representatives by voice vote. It is my hope that this common-sense legislation will continue to receive strong bipartisan support. It has the strong backing of environmental advocacy groups and industry, including Best Buy and the Electronics Takeback Coalition—a diverse coalition comprised of more than two dozen national and local environmental, public health and public interest organizations.

This is a green jobs bill. From auto parts to solar voltaic panels, the energy and resource-intensive manufacturing processes that drive our modern economy will benefit from expanded research and development focused on the lifecycle of electronic devices. By giving manufacturers the tools, training and resources to sustainably manufacture electronic devices, this legislation will create jobs, protect the environment and improve public health.

A TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DAVID
SCHROEDER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate native Iowan Colonel David Schroeder of the United States Air Force on his illustrious 34 year military career that will be coming to a close later this year.

Colonel Schroeder began his military career in October of 1977 when he enlisted as a Staff Support Administrative Specialist at the rank of E-1. After three years he enlisted as an air traffic controller before earning his commission as an Officer Air Traffic Controller in 1987.

Colonel Schroeder has most recently been serving in the Office of the Secretary of Defense on the staff of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for European and NATO Policy as the Country Director for the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The colonel was a driving force in garnering an agreement from these nations to increase their monetary support to the NATO Air Policing program to provide continued military defense of their national territorial skies.

Mr. Speaker, our country owes Colonel Schroeder a great debt of gratitude for his decades of service. Colonel Schroeder's unwavering commitment to serving his fellow Americans embodies the Iowa spirit and I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in wishing him a well deserved and fulfilling retirement. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors as he begins this new chapter in his life.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND
RETIREMENT OF COLONEL
KEITH LANDRY

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor COL Keith A. Landry, the Commander and District Engineer for the Louisville District Army Corps of Engineers. After nearly 2 years of serving in this post, Colonel Landry will be retiring on July 14, 2011.

Colonel Landry received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers in 1985 after graduating from our shared alma mater, the United States Military Academy at West Point. He has since completed five overseas tours, including deployments with the 3rd Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom and two tours of duty teaching at the United States Military Academy.

During his tenure as the Commander for the Louisville District Army Corps of Engineers, Colonel Landry oversaw all military construction in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. His work has had a tremendous impact on the mission readiness capabilities and quality of life of soldiers and airmen across the nation.

Today, as we celebrate a distinguished career spanning 26 years, I am pleased Colonel Landry has decided to remain in the great Commonwealth of Kentucky and I am certain he will approach his future endeavors with the same level of excellence in service we have come to expect from him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in commending COL Keith Landry and in offering him our sincerest thanks for his incredible service to our country and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

ELECTION ASSISTANCE
COMMISSION

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition of any effort to eliminate the Election Assistance Commission. Elimination of the EAC appears to be part of the GOP's nationwide assault on voters' rights, and will exacerbate the current issues we face in federal elections. With a number of states adopting new voter Registration and ID laws that will restrict and suppress votes, this is the wrong time to eliminate an agency that seeks to avoid the problems we faced during the 2000 election in the state of Florida. The EAC is necessary in order to ensure the fairness and integrity of federal elections.

Now, more than ever, we need an agency like the EAC, so that we can ensure that our democracy functions freely and fairly. The EAC is an independent, bipartisan agency that carries out grant programs, provides for testing and certification of voting systems, studies election issues, and assists local and state election officials by issuing guidelines and other important information to help them comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requirements.

The EAC is composed of experts who are former state and local election officials and familiar with the challenges of election administration. The federal government should not eliminate the information gathering, information sharing and advisory role of the Election Assistance Commission. These functions have been crucial at improving federal elections, and should be strengthened rather than eliminated.

Like many other states around the country, the Florida legislature has moved in a dangerous direction to curtail voter's rights, and we will need the EAC come 2012 when we see the sad consequences of restrictive voting laws. The new Florida law makes it difficult for those who recently moved between counties to cast their votes. The new law also limits voting accessibility by shortening the window for early voting from 14 days to 6 days. This will make it even more difficult for working Floridians and elderly voters, resulting in longer lines at the polls on Election Day. Lastly, the new law negatively impacts voter registration efforts in Florida by limiting the ability of third party groups to effectively register legitimate new voters. The EAC works with all of these issues, and if we eliminate it today, we will face serious challenges in the 2012 election as we seek to resolve the problems that may ultimately arise as a result of new election laws like we have in Florida.

This bill would transfer EAC duties to the FEC, which is already overburdened. The FEC says they need more resources to absorb the EAC's duties. Other costs would simply shift to already overburdened state governments. The FEC does not have the capability or the expertise to successfully administer the certification program that is currently implemented by the EAC.

The EAC creates national standards for improving accessibility for all Americans. Local and State officials still struggle to ensure accessible elections for all. For instance, a GAO

report on the 2008 election said that there were significant problems for persons with disabilities in gaining access to the polls. Physical barriers remain in far too many cases. In fact, 31 states reported that ensuring polling place accessibility was “challenging.” The EAC should be strengthened to ensure that we have in place strong standards that will improve the voting experience for all Americans. The EAC has already played a central role in improving the accessibility of voting for the country’s more than 37 million voters with disabilities.

Furthermore, the EAC’s certification program is helping state and local governments save money. The EAC uses its oversight role to coordinate with manufacturers and local election officials in order to ensure that the existing equipment meets its durability and longevity potential. This saves state and local governments from the unnecessary expense of new voting equipment.

Mr. Speaker, eliminating the EAC at this time would be a regrettable mistake. We need to take steps to safeguard our democratic process, and agencies like the EAC should be strengthened in order to protect Americans’ right to vote.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
MR. DANIEL EDWARD WEBB

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Mr. CARDOZA, to pay tribute and honor the life of Daniel Edward Webb, who passed away at the age of 49, on Sunday, June 19, 2011. Dan and I had known each other for several decades and I greatly cherished our friendship. We say good bye to Dan as a brother, uncle, friend, avid forester and dedicated public servant.

Born in Mariposa, California, July 3, 1961, Dan was the fifth of eight children. He spent several summers in the Sierra Nevada in the Youth Conservation Corps which sparked a lifelong admiration for the outdoors. His affinity for the mountains seemed to have been born with him, and his passion never wavered, no matter how removed his environment. Dan went on to graduate from Kingsburg High School, and attended Reedley College, where he was both active in the Forestry Program and served as student body president. He subsequently earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. During this time, he continued to spend his summers in the mountains and eventually went to work for the United States Forest Service as a Park Ranger. Dan had many stories to tell about his time in the Forest Service, and I was fortunate to hear a great deal of them, including the time when he helped Jane Fonda find her way while on a hike in Kings Canyon National Park.

Dan also had strong political interests that were harmonious with his dedication to public service and the environment. At one point, he worked for Congressman Richard Lehman, serving the San Joaquin Valley in the areas of agriculture, water, and public safety. Afterwards, he came to work for me as my District Director, and then joined me in the California

State Senate as a policy advisor to the Senate Agriculture and Water Committee. Following his time with me in the State Senate, Governor Gray Davis appointed Dan as his deputy secretary to the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Having successfully completed many years of public service, Dan used his knowledge and political skills to launch a successful consulting career, specializing in biotechnology and agricultural science.

Dan will best be remembered by those who knew him for his wit, humor, love of people, and his simple generosity. He gave of himself freely, whether it was in offering food to the homeless or helping a friend repair a water pipe, and for that selflessness, we honor him.

Dan was preceded in death by his mother Agnes, his father George Sr., and infant brother Andy. He is survived by siblings George Webb Jr. of Granite City, Illinois, Sheila Yokota of Kingsburg, Lisa Inouye of Kingsburg, Mark Webb of Leander, Texas, Colleen Webb of Ventura, and Byron Webb of Merced.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great humility, honor and respect that Mr. CARDOZA and I ask our colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Daniel Webb: a dedicated public servant, a forester, a brother, a friend—a great American.

AMERICA INVENTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1249) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform:

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Chair, it is with great frustration that I rise in opposition to H.R. 1249, the America Invents Act.

Our nation’s patent system is the backbone of our knowledge-based economy and the well-spring of our most competitive industries. Since the era of the Founding Fathers, the patent system has evolved on the principle that individuals are entitled and encouraged to claim ownership of their thoughts and discoveries. For this reason we continue to be a world leader in innovation, producing some of the greatest scientific advances of the modern era and serving as a robust market for all around in the world who want to invest in or introduce the next “big idea.”

The objective of patent reform is to improve patent quality, reduce uncertainty and modernize a Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) mired in inefficiencies and delays. Regrettably, this bill as amended fails to achieve these critical goals.

On the issue of patent quality, I am deeply disappointed that Section 12 of the bill introduces a new supplemental examination procedure permitting patent holders a second chance to correct or revise information that was inaccurate or omitted at the time the patent was filed. The provision also prohibits any information provided in a reexamination proceeding from being used as evidence that a patent holder committed inequitable conduct and deliberately filed a patent application that was misleading or deceptive.

Effectively, this amounts to a “get out of jail free card” for any company fearful of having their patent invalidated because they deceived the PTO. Furthermore, nothing in the bill would stop a patent holder from seeking a supplemental examination with information that wasn’t even available at the time the patent was originally filed. What is to stop a drug company from submitting new clinical studies conducted after the patent was filed to shore up questionable claims in an original application? And what is to stop a company from cutting corners on a patent application when they know they can just fix it later?

If this bill is enacted into law, I am hopeful that the PTO will, at a minimum, adopt reasonable limitations on this procedure such as prohibiting reexamination of information that didn’t exist at the time of the original filing. It is essential that the agency carefully police what stands to be an abusive practice.

On the issue of certainty, I am concerned that this bill fails to offer greater clarity of the protection available to inventors during the “grace period,” or the one year period an inventor has to file a patent application after disclosing or publishing information about the invention. This time is critical for small inventors to conduct market research, pitch their ideas to investors, and raise sufficient capital to file a quality patent application. As our system shifts from a first-inventor-to-file to a first-to-file paradigm, small inventors face an increased risk that someone will hear their idea and race ahead of them to file a patent or use their own pitch materials against them to claim there is prior art undermining the patent application.

Which brings me to the issue of modernization. This legislation is a leap of faith. It represents a dramatic transformation of the patent system and introduces a host of new mechanisms for pre-grant submissions, post-grant challenges, and revamped derivation proceedings at an agency already mired in backlogs. Rather than giving the PTO the resources it needs to implement these sweeping changes, the Republican leadership has refused to let the agency collect and allocate the fees paid by patent filers. Instead, the agency must remain at the mercy of the appropriations committee for annual allocations.

It’s one thing to ask inventors to take a leap of faith on the bold restructuring of our patent system. But now they are being asked to take another leap of faith that appropriators won’t fall back on their long history of poaching patent fee revenues for other uses.

Congress can do better and inventors deserve better. If this legislation passes the House, I am hopeful we will have an opportunity to fix these problems in negotiations with the Senate.

A TRIBUTE TO MIKE GARRISON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mike Garrison for his 35 years of service with the Lacona, Iowa Fire Department and subsequent retirement.

At a time when many small communities struggle to find the necessary volunteers, Mike has shown the leadership and commitment to

bettering his community through public service. Mike was presented a plaque recognizing his service from the Lacona Fire Chief, Robert Dittmer, and a potluck dinner and ceremony was held for Mike.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Mike Garrison for his many years of loyalty and service in protecting the community of Lacona. It is an immense honor to represent Mike in Congress, and I wish all the best to him as he embarks on this next chapter in life.

EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT
WITH THE DEEP CUTS TO CON-
SERVATION IN THE AGRICUL-
TURAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment in the deep cuts made to conservation programs in H.R. 2112, the Agricultural Appropriations Bill. I represent one of the most productive farming regions in the country, and these cuts will have lasting consequences in my district. As the father of two young children, I am extremely concerned about passing an undue financial burden on to future generations. It is clear to all that sacrifices must be made, but conservation programs that play a vital role in protecting our Nation's lands and waters must be protected, and should not be disproportionately undermined as they have been through the appropriations process.

Conservation programs have in recent years suffered a number of devastating financial blows, which will profoundly affect the ability of farmers to reach our stewardship goals. The 2008 Farm Bill as well as H.R. 1 in the 112th Congress included drastic cuts to flagship programs like CRP and WRP without proportionate cuts to Title I programs. This effectively puts the interests of large agribusiness in front of nutrition and conservation, rather than realizing the need for equal sacrifice by all stakeholders.

Increases in commodity prices have led to farmers feeling pressure to bring sensitive lands back into production, and that means it's going to affect wildlife habitat, highly erodible land with sediment and nutrient flows flowing off and contaminating our water and drinking supply. We are seeing already that CRP enrollment is dropping because farmers are choosing to take that land out of CRP and putting it back into production.

The real, measurable consequences of these actions will be felt in my district and across the country. Fishing, hunting and other types of outdoor recreation generate millions of jobs, primarily in rural counties. Managing farms, ranches and forest lands to create habitat for wildlife—and protecting farmland from sprawl—is critical to rural economic development based upon hunting and fishing. It is estimated that one-third of America's river miles, 45 percent of America's lakes, and 44 percent of America's bays still fail to meet water quality standards. Conservation programs play an important role in alleviating these problems by reducing soil erosion and bolstering natural water filtration, and are in

many ways the last defense against over-exploitation of land and water pollution.

In this bill, the Conservation Stewardship Program, which pays growers to farm more sustainably, is slated to be cut by 171 million dollars. This visionary program rewards past stewardship, but also incentivizes improvements that bring about additional environmental benefits. It is a shining example of the kind of programmatic innovation and forward thinking that should be rewarded by Congress, which makes this reduction in funding particularly disappointing.

Funds for The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) are also being cut. This program has played a critical role in conserving our Nation's wetlands, and the environmental and economic benefits associated with them. The United States has already lost over half its native wetlands, and continues to lose these crucial habitats at an alarming rate. WRP provides an avenue for farmers to take wetlands, which are normally considered underproductive for farming anyway, out of production so that they may continue to provide habitat and ecosystem services.

Finally, the cuts to conservation programs will be damaging to agriculture and food security. Cutting funds to conservation will put millions of acres of farmland at risk to unplanned development.

I have made conserving our natural heritage one of the hallmarks of my work in Congress, and I cannot stand by and watch these cuts without making my voice heard. While I am concerned about passing on a financial burden to my children, I am also concerned about passing on an environmental burden. Cutting these programs will only cause problems for future generations.

NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP
MONTH

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of June 2011 National Homeownership Month.

The most current data show that of 130.7 million homes in the United States, 74.9 million serve as principal residences. Another 37.0 million homes are renter-occupied, and the remaining 18.8 million are either for sale, for rent, or for seasonal use.

Despite the recent economic decline, the people of the United States remain one of the best-housed populations in the world. Owning a home remains a fundamental part of the American dream and the largest personal investment many families will ever make. High homeownership rates help communities through higher property values, lower crime, and higher civic participation. Homeownership promotes a more even distribution of income and wealth, and establishes greater individual financial security. It improves living conditions, which can lead to a healthier population.

Homeownership creates neighborhood stability since owners are more inclined to remain in the community for a longer period of time than renters. It has been proven to increase social and political involvement due to the concern about one's property value. Home-

ownership correlates with lower neighborhood crime. It fosters more responsible behavior among youths in the community, such as higher academic achievement and lower teen pregnancy rates, due to the monitoring mechanism put in place to maintain the attractiveness of a community. Economists have been able to establish that a correlation between homeownership and these positive neighborhood effects does exist.

Improving homeownership opportunities requires the commitment and cooperation of the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, including the Federal Government and State and local governments. It is of the utmost importance that we maintain the mortgage interest deduction and the 30-year fixed rate mortgage as their elimination would damage the availability and cost of mortgage capital for millions of Americans, especially while the housing market recovery remains fragile. The same can be said of the ill-conceived downpayment portion of the "Qualified Residential Mortgages" proposal.

As part of the financial reform legislation, we here in Congress designed a clear framework for improving the quality of mortgage lending and restoring private capital to the housing market. To discourage excessive risk taking, we required securitizers to retain five percent of the credit risk on loans packaged and sold as mortgage securities. However, because across-the-board risk retention would impose significant costs on responsible, creditworthy borrowers, we also created an exemption for "Qualified Residential Mortgages," defined to include mortgages with product features and sound underwriting standards that have been proven to reduce default. Rather than creating a system of penalties to discourage bad lending and incentives for appropriate lending, regulators have developed a rule that is too narrowly drawn. Of particular concern are the provisions of the proposal mandating high downpayments.

The principal barrier to homeownership is accumulating the money needed for downpayment and closing costs. It is estimated that it would take the average American family, living frugally and saving at the current national rate, nearly seven years to save for a 5 percent down payment on a \$200,000 home and more than 10 years to save for 10 percent down.

The regulators' proposal to require a 20 percent downpayment is tantamount to declaring war on homeownership. Only the elite in the United States would be able to afford such a downpayment. The supermajority of residents in Hidalgo County located in my district in Texas would not be able to meet the downpayment requirement, thereby depriving them of the American Dream. Hidalgo County is the second poorest county in the country. 89 percent of my constituents are Hispanic, the poorest of the poor, and tend to operate in a cash society. My constituents already have difficulty meeting current downpayment requirements, much less an even higher, ill-conceived 20 percent downpayment. It has been proven that once my poorest constituents actually own a home, they manage to make the monthly mortgage payments and turn a household into an actual "home."

The proposed qualified residential mortgage definition harms creditworthy borrowers while frustrating housing recovery. It violates congressional intent and makes homeownership more expensive for millions of responsible consumers.

At this time in history, given our economic and political climate, changes should not be made to the mortgage interest deduction, the 30 year fixed interest mortgage, or downpayment requirements that are pragmatic and beneficial to our constituents and our economy, especially while the housing market recovery remains fragile. They would reduce the availability and increase the cost of mortgage capital for millions of Americans.

President Obama has declared June 2011 as National Homeownership Month. It is my sincere hope that this Administration will do the right thing and leave time tested deductions, requirements, and downpayments alone.

I strongly support June 2011 as declare my steadfast opposition to the proposed qualified residential mortgages proposal, modifications to the mortgage interest deduction, and changes to the 30-year fixed interest mortgage.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE UNVEILING OF THE 2011 "BID ON CULTURE" WINNING BANNERS RECOGNIZING BLACK MUSIC MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Artists whose designs were selected through the BID on Culture banner design competition. On Tuesday, June 21, the 125th Street Business Improvement District along with the Harlem Arts Alliance, Inc. and the Harlem Community Development Corporation, unveiled the 2011 "BID on Culture" winning banners in recognition of June Black Music Month.

BID on Culture is a new initiative developed through the partnership between the 125th Street Business Improvement District (125th BID), the Harlem Arts Alliance (HAA) and the Harlem Community Development Corporation (HCDC) to showcase and promote our rich unique heritage while bringing recognition to the many talented entertainers and venues throughout, as Harlem celebrates Black Music Month.

The "BID on Culture" Banners have added to the branding of 125th Street as the center of culture in Harlem, highlighting our community's diversity, history, and contributions to and throughout our Nation and the world. Currently, there are 36 new banners that are now flying on streetlight poles along the world-renowned famed 125th Street corridor. Let me now recognize the six winning designs that were selected from 41 submissions in the 3rd Annual "Bid on Culture" banner design competition. Corine Campbell for Billie Holiday; Misha McGlown for Jimi Hendrix and Josephine Baker; Tomo Mori for Somos la Musica; Soyca Mphahlele for New Colors; and Hubert Williams for True Colours.

Harlem resident Artist, Corine Campbell says her creativity usually starts from a simple place like spotting a color combination that she wants to incorporate into a painting, expressing feelings with lines indescribable to words or finding attractive shapes to produce a portrait. She usually depicts women, while experimenting with different media, such as, paint, ink, pencils, yarn, fabric, and computer

software. "It has been that way ever since I was a child drawing in my sketchbook in Harlem. Art allows me to escape somewhere fun while discovering numerous possibilities," Campbell said. Her design in the 2011 banner competition features legendary jazz vocalist Billie Holiday.

Detroit, Michigan Artist, Misha McGlown attended Wayne State University and Center for Creative Studies. Although she began painting professionally in 2006 and has since exhibited throughout the New York area, she is best known for her jewelry collection, under the Omo Misha brand. She was awarded her first solo exhibit by Columbia University in 2008 and on behalf of arHARLEM, she curated EVOLUTION: The Changing Face of Harlem—an exhibit, hosted by Columbia University, featuring the works of 25 Harlem artists. She is currently Curator-in-Residence for Harlem's Café One and has worked in programming and development for The Children's Art Carnival, and led residencies and youth workshops for numerous organizations in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. A multifaceted artist and visionary, Misha is a published author and creator of The Omo Misha Times—a webzine covering art, fashion, politics, fun and social awareness. She has been the recipient of artistic awards by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, the Puffin Foundation, and Harlem Arts Alliance. Her designs in the 2011 banner competition feature Josephine Baker and Jimi Hendrix.

Artist Tomo Mori was born in Shijonawate in the countryside of Osaka, Japan and later moved to Tokyo. There, she discovered a severe affliction with allergies that kept her house-bound, but allowed her to find a new freedom: art. At 15, she enrolled in the Tokyo Metropolitan High School for Music and Fine Arts and a year later traveled to California to study English. She returned to Japan, where her first large scale painting, "Scream," was exhibited at the prestigious Metropolitan Museum in Ueno. In 1991, she moved to Atlanta, and studied at the Atlanta College of Art. Tomo worked as a graphic designer for 16 years but last year, she decided to focus on her art. She has found her artistic home at Harlem where she says she thrives from the creative energy. Inspiration struck while she was taking a dance class in Mali. She realized that her life experience among different cultures combined with her boundless curiosity fuels the engine that makes her art original. Her focus on music/dance, process, and color are the catalysts for her 2011 banner competition design submission of the vibrant dancers, Somos la Musica, which will find a stage along 125th Street.

Originally born in Zambia, Africa, Harlem resident Artist Soyca Mphahlele grew up in the Parkside Projects in the Bronx and went on to attend the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts and later graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Communication from the Maryland Institute College of Art. He has lived, worked, and worshipped in Harlem since he was a child. Soyca says his work "represents the tone of the real New York and his enduring respect for the art of the streets." His 2011 banner competition design, New Colors, does just that.

Artist Hubert Williams was born in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, but moved to New York in 1964. A versatile photographer, filmmaker,

and visual artist as well as a musician (organist) had his first encounter with a camera in 1976. He has since gone on to photograph his viewpoint of people, places, and structures as well as weddings, fashion events, opera, and jazz concerts. "I live to shoot," Williams says of his passion for photography through his vivid 2011 banner competition design submission True Colours.

In addition to the banner competition, BID ON CULTURE presents Black Music Month in Harlem featuring nearly 100 events at nine venues throughout the area. The month-long celebration features Jazz, Blues, Gospel, R&B, Classical, Caribbean, Salsa, Afro-Cuban, Funk, and Soul music performances as well as spoken word, art, and other entertainments. Known worldwide as the epicenter of Black culture, Harlem's contribution to American music and all the arts is legendary. Concerts include the Michael C. Lewis Jazz Experience at the Aloft; Nate Lucas Organ Trio, and Paul Mooney "Live In Harlem," at the Lenox Lounge; the Danny Mixon Trio at Showman's Jazz Café; the Oral Tradition of Gospel Music in Harlem at the Dwyer Cultural Center; the Ben Williams & Sound Effect at the Harlem Stage Gatehouse; and Karaoke & Martini Thursday at Sylvia's Also.

Bid on Culture is also a participant in Make Music New York, a live, free musical celebration across the city that takes place each June 21, the longest day of the year, where hundreds of public spaces throughout the five boroughs become impromptu stages for more than 1,000 free concerts.

The 125th Street BID is a non-profit organization funded primarily from an additional tax assessment collected from the property owners within the defined boundaries. Organized in compliance with State and city laws, the property and business and business owners determine the services and programs needed for the district. The BID will utilize the competition to bring visibility to its streetscape improvement efforts and to enliven the community's central business district. www.125thstreetbid.com.

The Harlem Arts Alliance (HAA) is a not-for-profit arts service organization committed to its mission of nurturing the artistic growth of artists and the organizational development of arts organizations based in Harlem and surrounding communities. Comprised of over 750 individual artists and arts organizations, HAA plays an essential role by helping to build the resources, network, and capacity of its richly diverse membership. Counted among its members are young emerging artists as well as established and internationally recognized artists. Also represented are small grassroots organizations and major cultural institutions in Harlem and beyond. In addition, HAA maintains strong partnerships with numerous arts organization and institutions throughout New York State, the region, and the nation to maintain vital collaborative efforts to promote the arts in communities (www.harlemaa.org).

Harlem Community Development Corporation ("Harlem CDC"), a New York State public benefit corporation, was created in 1995 to serve the greater Harlem community, including East Harlem, Central Harlem, West Harlem and Washington Heights, through planning and facilitating the development of a range of community development projects and revitalization initiatives and restore Upper Manhattan

as an economically stable and culturally vibrant community. Harlem CDC targets the redevelopment of vacant or underutilized commercial and residential property and publicly-owned spaces (www.harlemcdc.org).

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognition of the 2011 "BID on Culture" Winning Banners and in celebration of Black Music Month.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Fiscal Year 2012 Defense Appropriations bill. Ensuring that our military receives funding for the coming fiscal year is an essential duty of this Congress and key to maintaining the capabilities of our Armed Forces. I applaud the work of the subcommittee and full committee for considering this legislation in regular order. I also give credit to my colleagues on the Rules Committee for ensuring that the House has once again returned to the days of open rules on appropriations bills, so every Member's voice can be heard.

Furthermore, it is with the utmost appreciation that I commend the Appropriations Committee for working in partnership with the Armed Services Committee on matters relating to our military. As Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, I remain fully committed to providing our troops with the resources needed to fulfill their missions. To that end, I am pleased to see that this bill provides the full amount of funding requested by the President for fiscal year 2012 to fund Overseas Contingency Operations, which is essential to achieving victory in ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

However, I do have reservations about the cut to the defense base budget during a time when we are engaged in several overseas conflicts and facing an abundance of emerging threats to our security. Despite the fact that our nation's heroes got Osama bin Laden, we are still a nation at war—a war that we did not start. Al Qaeda has named bin Laden's successor and there is no doubt in anyone's mind that their primary goal is to kill Americans.

I recognize that on a percentage basis, an \$8.9 billion cut may not seem significant—less than two percent. But two percent is the same amount Secretary Gates has been trying desperately to find through efficiencies to reinvest in our force structure and modernization accounts. We have applauded his efforts and supported his goal. Now, unfortunately, this bill would take those dollars away.

Nevertheless, it is clear that we are experiencing a fiscal crisis due to excessive government spending. I fully support ongoing efforts to responsibly cut excess spending to put our nation on the path to economic recovery and lasting prosperity. There are larger battles

looming in the days ahead, in which we must tackle monumental issues such as the nation's debt ceiling. This is where our focus must be. I urge my colleagues to stand united as we move forward to ensure that we do not lower military spending to a level which threatens the safety of American citizens. To do so would be an investment in the decline of our national security.

Once again, I thank my colleagues for bringing this bill to the floor. I believe this bill strikes a reasonable balance of fiscal responsibility and providing for our armed services, and will therefore oppose amendments that would further reduce the resources available for our men and women in uniform and their families. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO BENJAMIN J.
BUFFINGTON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Benjamin James Buffington for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

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

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Benjamin's project was to work with other troop members to construct a three tier fence that will help develop an outdoor horse arena for Harmony Ranch in Clear Lake, Iowa. Harmony Ranch is a faith-based organization that provides therapeutic horseback riding ministry for individuals with disabilities. When the project was finished Benjamin's fence enclosed a 100 foot by 200 foot area to provide the much needed riding area.

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

CELEBRATION OF CARIBBEAN
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, as the month of June draws to a close, I rise to recognize the celebration of Caribbean American Heritage Month. The past, present and future of the Caribbean is closely associated with that of this country, as our islands exist be-

tween two great continents and are affected by the social, economic and political decisions that are made by our neighbors to the north and to the south. The Caribbean, and Caribbean Americans were there at the founding of this great country and continue to be a part of its evolution into the 21st century.

As it relates to the territory that I represent, the U.S. Virgin Islands, from the rum trade that helped to fund the American Revolution, to the first salute of the colors of the newly declared nation to being the place where the young Alexander Hamilton spent his formative years, our contributions to the American story are well documented. Less known, is that our territory was purchased from Denmark almost 100 years ago in conjunction with the building of the Panama Canal as a means to defend that and other American interests in the region. Also less known are the contributions of our citizens who left the islands to live in this great nation and to contribute as average citizens who are teachers, doctors, and businessmen, and as standouts in the Harlem Renaissance and the civil rights movement in this country. The Virgin Islands and the wider Caribbean have contributed and continue to contribute soldiers, historians, activists, legislators and yes, Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, this year, the Institute of Caribbean Studies led by the indomitable Dr. Claire Nelson has recognized Members of Congress of Caribbean American Heritage who served in the past and who serve now. In addition to myself, the Honorable BARBARA LEE, the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON LEE, the Honorable YVETTE CLARKE and the Honorable FREDERICA WILSON who proudly serve now, they also recognized former Members, the Honorable Mervyn Dymally and the late, great Shirley Chisholm. Caribbean American members continue to serve this country in every walk of life in entertainment, in law, in finance, in economic development. The countries in the Caribbean Basin continue to be friends and allies of our great nation. It is only fitting that Caribbean American Heritage be a relationship that is honored and recognized on an annual basis.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. CLAIR
HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM
ON WINNING THE MICHIGAN
DIVISION II STATE TITLE

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to recognize a special achievement recently accomplished by the St. Clair High School Saints Baseball Team. St. Clair capped off a remarkable and extremely memorable 2011 season by taking home the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Division II Team State Title! Forty-Eight years have passed since St. Clair won their last state high school championship which was in boys' gymnastics, so this was truly a time for celebration and jubilee. The St. Clair High School Baseball Team exhibited true-grit, determination and solidarity to reach the pinnacle of this historic season.

With "Skipper" Bill McElreath leading the charge, the Saints played strong fundamental

baseball focusing on the basics: error-free defense, smart base-running and simply putting the ball in play. The Saints were able to keep the pressure on their opponents and force them to commit untimely mistakes which they were able to capitalize upon.

This was true in the state finals when the team scored two runs on wild pitches en route to a 4–1 victory over Grand Rapids Christian. The Saints consistently exhibited the intangibles like heart, discipline and a positive attitude. They were never afraid to get their gloves and jerseys dirty to make a play.

In addition, the Saints also compiled an impressive final record of 33 wins and only one 1 loss, with 31 wins coming straight in a row. I applaud the entire coaching staff for their efforts to prepare this team both mentally and physically for competition.

Here I think it is worth mentioning our hometown Detroit Tigers who are post-humously honoring former Manager Sparky Anderson by retiring his Number 11 jersey this season. I think Sparky put it best when he said, “Baseball is a simple game. If you have good players and if you keep them in the right frame of mind then the manager is a success.” I am sure Coach McElreath would echo that same sentiment.

In commend the Saints for staying energized and hungry each time they crossed the white chalk to face-off against their opponents. This is an extremely difficult task, considering the various pressures and distractions high school student-athletes face on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the hard work and sacrifices displayed by all the members of the 2011 St. Clair High School Baseball Program. I congratulate the coaches, staff, teachers, parents, students and fans for their assistance in making this a season no one will ever forget.

Despite the hardships, set-backs and obstacles, the Saints showed they had the skills, will power and fortitude to rise to any challenge and accomplish their ultimate goal—a State Championship! Teamwork, perseverance and friendship all contributed to this title as well. I know the City of St. Clair, St. Clair County and the East China School District take great pride in what these young men were able to accomplish.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I share that same pride and express my personal congratulations and best wishes. All the accolades, awards and trophies won by this team are rightfully deserved. This baseball squad exceeded expectations and established a tradition of winning for future teams to follow. Way to go Saints!

RECOGNIZING HILLARY BERKOWITZ

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a student of the Month from the Sixth Congressional District of New York.

Hillary Berkowitz is the valedictorian of the 2011 class of Benjamin Cardozo High School. She will be attending Barnard College in the

fall. She challenged herself with the most rigorous of college preparatory courses that Benjamin Cardozo High School have to offer, and has attained a grade point average of 103.13.

In May 2010, Hillary was the proud recipient of the Queens College Presidential Excellence Award granted to the “best junior” in each Queens high school, and she is currently a 2011 National Merit Semifinalist. She is a dedicated member of the school and actively participates in school events. She is the treasurer for her leaders club, volunteers in tutoring other students, and always helps her teachers in whatever way she can.

Her college counselor has deemed her “Benjamin Cardozo High School’s finest” and is an exceptional young woman. She has a great love for academia and the arts, and hopes that she can attend law school in the future. Her hard work and dedication to success have earned her the respect of her peers, her teachers, and the community. I know that she has a bright future ahead of her.

THE FASTER ACT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Facilitating American Security Through Energy Resources Act—The FASTER Act. This legislation will require the Department of the Interior to increase and accelerate the approval of high-potential onshore oil and gas permits located on Federal lands.

The current Administration has delayed, canceled, and reduced domestic energy production. The proof is in the numbers: in 2008 there were over 2,400 new oil and natural gas leases issued on Bureau of Land Management land and 2.6 million acres leased for production, but in 2010 the number of new leases issued dropped to 1,308 and acres leased dropped to 1.3 million. In exchange for this massive reduction, Administrative officials only offer distant hope for renewable resources. This is extremely troubling.

My bill would require Department of the Interior officials to identify, in consultation with industry, leases that have the highest energy potential and expeditiously move them through the permitting process.

The Bureau of Land Management claims that it takes, on average, 206 days to process a drilling permit application, but in reality the actual waiting time for many businesses is closer to two years. With the price of gas hovering around \$4 per gallon in this fragile economic recovery, the economic damage caused by that wait time is completely unacceptable.

Just this week the President acknowledged the energy crisis we are facing, and moved to open up the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. But this is the shortest of short term solutions, and will do nothing to address the structural problems facing our need to secure our national energy supply.

The combined recoverable oil, natural gas, and coal resources of the United States are

the largest in the world, and much of it is on Federal land. Our country’s abundant natural resources represent not just tens of trillions of dollars, but also millions of high-paying jobs.

I served two combat tours of duty in the Middle East with the Marine Corps and saw firsthand how volatile this region was then. It’s even less stable now. We cannot afford to be dependent on these increasingly unstable nations for so much of our energy, particularly when we have such vast resources here at home. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JESSE OTIS BEALL

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Jesse Otis Beall of DeBary, Florida who passed away on Thursday, June 16, 2011.

It was my honor and privilege to have known Jesse who, as the “unofficial” historian for the City of DeBary, has been involved in city events and organizations since moving there following his service in the Navy during World War II.

More than his service to our nation, we can never repay or adequately recognize the sacrifice Jesse, his wife, Arbutus, and his family made with the loss of their son and loved one, Charles Richard Beall.

Their son was killed while serving in Vietnam in 1968. It was my honor to help grant Jesse Beall’s request to have our main transportation artery through DeBary, Florida named in his son Charles Richard Beall’s name. I will never forget the day I stood with Jesse as work crews placed that sign honoring his son on that DeBary thoroughfare. Jesse was a patriot and an American Father who we will always remember and hold dearly in our hearts.

Jesse loved the outdoors and could often be found hunting, fishing or even wrangling alligators. But most of all, Jessie loved his adopted home of DeBary. As the town’s historian, Mr. Beall often found himself the collector of all things DeBary. Members of the community would often transfer to him possessions or other items they found knowing that Mr. Beall would keep them for posterity sake. His collection continues a reminder of our area’s past and proud history on which Jesse left an indelible mark.

Jesse is survived by his wife of 54 years, Arbutus; his son Roger; his daughter Rebecca Genest; his brother Gene; five granddaughters; and one great-granddaughter. To them, we offer our deepest sympathy and condolences. Jesse also had a daughter, Rochelle, who passed away in 2003 and his son, Charles, who was killed while serving in the Vietnam War and for whom U.S. 17–92 in DeBary is named.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Jesse Beall’s contributions to our nation and the great State of Florida. I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives of the 112th Congress to join me in remembering this great American.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ARCADIA HIGH SCHOOL BAND

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Arcadia High School Band from Valley County, Nebraska. On May 26, 2011 the band visited Washington, D.C. for a special concert at the National World War II Memorial. Performing 12 patriotic anthems at the memorial, the talented group of students captured an audience from around the world who were visiting our nation's capital.

The Arcadia High School Band traces its roots back to 1930 when 17 students joined. Today, 77% of the student body plays in the band. Throughout the years, the band has regularly performed outside of the Arcadia community from Mount Rushmore, South Dakota to Grand Island, Nebraska. For 8 of the last 10 years the band received the highest rating at District Music Contests, including a standing ovation and superior ratings from all three judges.

Led by Mr. Randall Warner, the Arcadia High School Band exemplifies a long standing commitment to excellence in musical performance and high academic standards. The band makes their community and the State of Nebraska extremely proud.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the exceptional talent and dedication of the Arcadia High School Band.

TRIBUTE TO PIKEVILLE MEDICAL CENTER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a world class hospital and the American Alliance of Healthcare Providers' 2010-2011 "Hospital of the Year," Pikeville Medical Center.

Each year, the American Alliance of Healthcare Providers selects a recipient of its hospital of the year award. This year, Pikeville Medical Center became the Nation's only repeat winner over hundreds of applicants from across the country. I am proud to report that this top notch institution in the heart of Eastern Kentucky was judged to be the nation's most patient friendly hospital.

This distinguished honor truly reflects an unwavering commitment to world class treatment by every one of Pikeville Medical Center's over 2,000 employees and 250 physicians. The honor of being named "Hospital of the Year" for the second consecutive year is simply the latest example of the Pikeville Medical Center's stellar reputation among its peers and fellow medical professionals; in fact, the hospital has been named the #1 hospital to work for in Kentucky in Best Places To Work for three straight years, and has been nationally recognized for best practices and out-

standing doctors by numerous organizations. Needless to say, the Pikeville Medical Center is clearly committed to their noble mission of being a "quality, regional health care in a Christian environment."

For 86 years, Pikeville Medical Center has served as a beacon of healing for the people of Pike County, Kentucky and the surrounding regions. Since its humble beginnings in 1924, the hospital has expanded numerous times to meet regional needs. Today, the Medical Center complex boasts many specialties and services such as its award winning cancer center, state-of-the-art Diagnostic Equipment, 4-D Echocardiograms, a cardiac rehabilitation center, a sleep studies laboratory, and a neonatal intensive care unit. The Pikeville Medical Center has also fashioned a teaching program that is second to none and will ensure that our talented young medical professionals will not have to leave Eastern Kentucky to learn and develop their skills.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a fine example of patient care and community wellness, the Pikeville Medical Center. I congratulate the Center on this latest achievement and wish the employees and hospital leadership many more years of success.

H.J. RES. 68 AND H.R. 2278

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today the House considered two bills that focused on United States involvement in Libya. Both failed to adequately address our role in that country.

H.J. Res. 68 is the less objectionable of the two. I reluctantly supported this Resolution because it reaffirmed the United States limited participation in an international coalition to deal with the humanitarian crisis in Libya and bars all funds from being used to deploy, establish, or maintain a presence of Members of the Armed Services or private security contractors on the ground. It also sets a clear deadline for U.S. involvement there.

What I would have liked to see offered was the Resolution sponsored by Senators KERRY and MCCAIN. The Kerry/McCain Resolution goes further and clearly defines our interests and objectives in the region.

It makes clear that it is the sense of this Congress that we will support the Libyan people and political reform in the country; it clearly defines our goal in Libya as the removal of Mummur Qaddafi and his family from power through the NATO mission outlined by U.N. Security Council Resolution 1973, which includes diplomatic and economic pressures; and that we must support the Libyan people transition to a representational democracy.

H.R. 2278 would prevent the Department of Defense from using any funds to support NATO in its mission to stop the slaughter of civilians by a dictator who has time and again made clear his disregard for the lives of innocents.

Of equal concern is the fact that H.R. 2278 sets an unfortunate precedent and undermines

key global institutions by turning our backs to a unified call for intervention.

Preventing U.S. action would endanger the recent display of democratic aspirations by so many in the region and only emboldens the other despots of the world such as Syria, Iran, and Yemen, suggesting there are no consequences for murdering peaceful protesters.

As I have said from the start, I would support thoughtful legislation that acknowledges the U.S. has chosen to answer the cries of the innocent Libyan people, but makes clear that our commitment to their aspirations of self governance is not open-ended, and which clearly defines our goals and—more importantly—limits. That is why I voted for H.J. Res. 68 and look towards the Kerry/McCain Resolution to carry the day because it sets the right tone.

STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT OBAMA'S MAY 19 SPEECH ON U.S. POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address a very important issue which has generated much debate and misinformation in recent weeks. When President Obama articulated his vision for U.S. policy in the Middle East on May 19th at the State Department, he laid out an historic call to support the democratic aspirations of people living under decades of autocracy and tyranny.

President Obama also reaffirmed our commitment to finding a peaceful solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. He restated the need for a negotiated settlement, and he opposed the Palestinian attempt to unilaterally seek UN recognition of their statehood. He also called for a resolution of the disputed lands based on the "1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps."

President Obama's call to use the borders that existed before the Six Day War as a basis for future borders was also made by President George W. Bush and President Bill Clinton. This is an almost two-decade old U.S. position. This policy position is well understood as the mainstream position by every diplomat, pundit, and scholar familiar with this issue.

The position is shared by Israel's own Defense Minister, and by Israel's former Prime Minister. It is shared by Israel's Opposition Leader, and it is shared by a majority of the Israeli public.

The issue of a negotiated peace settlement between Israelis and Palestinians is far too important to cede to those who criticize the President for their own political aims. We must emphasize the facts. Support for Israel as a secure Jewish democratic state is a bipartisan priority, and this Administration has done at least as much as any other to expand and improve our security cooperation and diplomatic ties with her.

I call on each of my colleagues to refrain from distorting or misrepresenting this issue, and to join together in support of a negotiated settlement that will bring peace and prosperity to a region riddled with conflict for far too long.

H.J. RES. 68 AND H.R. 2278

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I support limited U.S. involvement in NATO military operations in Libya because I believe it is the right thing to do. The Qaddafi Regime was threatening to show "no mercy" against the rebels and swore to go "door to door to hunt them down like rats." In contrast with our NATO allies and the Arab League, the President decided to act to prevent a massacre. Failure to act will have also sent the wrong signal to other dictators trying to snuff out the Arab Awakening.

The president assured us that, in time, leadership of military operations would be handed over to NATO and that the U.S. would then assume a supportive role. True to that pledge, the U.S. now plays a non-combat, support role comprised primarily of intelligence gathering, logistics, surveillance and search and rescue. Three-quarters of sorties, including the majority of the strike sorties flown in Libya are being conducted by our coalition partners; all 20 of the ships enforcing the arms embargo of Libya are European and Canadian; and no American troops are on the ground.

It is for these reasons that I am supporting H.J. Res. 68, a resolution authorizing limited use of U.S. Armed Forces in support of the NATO mission in Libya and opposing H.R. 2278, a bill to defund all but a specified list of U.S. actions in support of the NATO effort.

H.J. Res. 68 authorizes for one year the continued supportive role the U.S. is already playing in Libya while expressing Congress' concurrence with the language in the UN Resolution forbidding the use of ground forces in the military action.

Conversely, I cannot support H.R. 2278, a bill to defund all operations other than search and rescue; intelligence gathering; aerial refueling; and operational planning. This bill threatens the mission and the safety of coalition forces.

Under the specific set of circumstances the president faced in Libya, I believe he made the right decision. To undermine the effort at this moment would be a serious mistake.

IN RECOGNITION OF MITCH
AVALON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, Representatives GEORGE MILLER, JERRY MCNERNEY and I rise today in honor of Mitch Avalon, who has served the Contra Costa County Public Works Department for the last 32 years. As his colleagues, friends, and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, we ask all of our colleagues to join us in saluting this outstanding public servant.

Mitch Avalon began his journey with the Contra Costa County Public Works Department in 1979 as a civil engineer, where his diligent hard work was recognized and he quickly assumed the title and duties of Deputy

Public Works Director, a position which he has held to this day. In addition to his position with the Contra Costa County Public Works Department, Mr. Avalon has also served as the Deputy Chief Engineer for the Contra Costa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, further demonstrating his commitment to public service.

While working for Contra Costa County, Mr. Avalon contributed to the creation of numerous county public works projects and programs, including the Capital Road Improvement Program, Clean Water Program, and the Contra Costa Watershed Forum. His work was instrumental in creating the annual Contra Costa County Watershed Symposium, which has become an incredible asset to the community. If not for his efforts, many of Contra Costa County's public works projects and programs would not have come to fruition.

Mitch Avalon's contributions have not only been an incredible asset to Contra Costa County but to the entire Bay Area. Mr. Avalon sits on the boards of directors for Friends of the San Francisco Estuary, California Central Valley Flood Control Association, and San Francisco Estuary Institute. In addition, he was the founding chair for the Bay Area Flood Protection Agencies Association.

In recognition of the integral role he has played in establishing sound public investment throughout the region, Mr. Avalon has been the recipient of many outstanding community awards over the years. In 2005 he was presented with the California State Association of Counties "Circle of Service Award" and in 2007 he was honored by the Contra Costa County Watershed Forum with the "Watershed Champion of the Year Award." His legacy will live on through the series of public works projects, programs and associations he helped create and the communities they serve.

The long-lasting benefits of Mitch Avalon's career accomplishments not only benefit our generation but will improve our communities for generations to come; they stand as a testament to what diligent work and true commitment to community can produce.

Mr. Speaker, we are truly honored to pay tribute to our friend and dedicated public servant Mitch Avalon. We ask our colleagues to join with us in thanking Mr. Avalon for his long and dedicated service to the citizens of Contra Costa County and wishing him continued success in all his future endeavors along with a happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING BRITNI, A SENIOR
AT EXCELSIOR PREPARATORY
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a student of the Month from the Sixth Congressional District of New York.

Every month I seek to recognize students for their outstanding achievements and exceptional stride.

I am here to recognize a student who warmed my heart. Britni is a senior at Excelsior Preparatory High School and is set to graduate this month. She is a very determined young lady who has served as the manager of

the soccer team, was involved in the school's talent show, and participated in other school events despite her unique needs.

Britni participated in the Upward Bound Program at Queens College, which focuses on improving academic achievement.

Britni has excelled academically, passed Regents Examinations in various subjects, received commendations for passing all her classes, and has gone above and beyond to overcome social and academic challenges.

Her family and friends have encouraged and motivated her to focus on her strengths and abilities. I am confident that she will be accepted into a college that will continue to support her academically and socially to ensure her success. Britni's Principal was extremely proud to recognize her hard work in school and the positive accomplishments that she continues to achieve. She is a great inspiration and a true example that if you work hard to achieve your goals, you can succeed.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DR. EDWARD R. CULVERT'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to join the First Central Baptist Church of Harlem and the International Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons to pay tribute and celebrate the birthday of my dear friend and ally, the Honorable Dr. Edward R. Culvert, Publisher of the Culvert Chronicles Community Newspaper.

Rev. Dr. Edward R. Culvert is a man who possesses great qualities. He is a writer, educator, and philosopher. He attended Texas Baptist University in Austin, Texas from 1950 to 1959 graduated cum Laude. Dr. Culvert obtained his Bachelor in Arts, Master in Arts, Masters of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity degrees.

Dr. Culvert has been a professor at the City University of New York for forty-four years. He has served in many capacities including Special Assistant to the President of City College in regards my Empowerment Zone legislation and initiative, and was on the committee that helped form the Urban Legal Studies Program. He has held many positions throughout his career and lifetime, such as the Commissioner of Labor Relations from 1977 to 1983. During that time, He handled most of the labor problems, actions and strikes that occur throughout the State of New York, and was the first and only African American to hold that position.

In addition to working at City College, he also teaches Religion, Sociology, Criminal Justice, History and Philosophy at Herbert Lehman College; and is currently teaching African American Studies. He has dedicated his entire life advocating for African American Studies, particularly stressing the importance progressive education, which is not limited to the classrooms.

The Culvert Chronicles is the brainchild of Dr. Edward R. Culvert, who observed that the African American community needed a vehicle of free expression. The paper is bi-partisan and prints positive and informative news to all of the residents of the greater New York Metropolitan area. He is quick to point out that the paper does not deal with tabloid news.

“We report news that emphasizes education, social issues and relative information. There are no hidden agendas. People who are doing positive things need be heard. The Culvert Chronicles gives a voice to the ‘common folk’ that make up this city.”

The Reverend Dr. Culvert is a man of God who has devoted his time to teaching, not preaching, the word of God, directly from the Bible, to family, friends, members of the community and in the prison populations throughout New York State. His open door policy has prevented many youth from getting in trouble, and others to go back to school. Dr. Culvert always finds time to listen, give advice, or providing comfort to anyone in need. His compassion for people, especially the children and our youth has made him a renowned father figure and mentor for all. Reverend Dr. Culvert is the founder of the First Central Baptist Church of Harlem, where he currently serves as Pastor.

He is listed among Who’s Who in American Education and was chosen as one of the top 5% of Educators in America. Dr. Culvert is

also considered a “Jack of All Trades.” Some of his greatest achievements throughout his life-time were playing basketball, football, soccer and running track. In addition to his many talents, you will find Reverend Culvert on any given Sunday playing various musical instruments in the church, and singing Solos when the spirit hits.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and a very grateful nation in wishing my friend and ally, Reverend Dr. Edward R. Culvert, a great American hero a hearty Congressional happy birthday.

HONORING THE PREUSS SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, the Preuss School—a high school in my district in

San Diego—just earned top billing in Newsweek as a “Miracle School.”

I couldn’t agree more.

Nestled on the campus of UC San Diego, this model urban high school is where students from families who never went to college become ready to do exactly that.

Preuss’s teachers rightly assume that if students have the tools and motivation, they will succeed.

And they do!

Every single senior in the Preuss class of 2011 will attend either college or community college. That’s an amazing accomplishment!

I’d like to congratulate the students, teachers, tutors, and administrators at the Preuss School.

It’s my hope that Preuss’s achievements will inspire more miracle schools across our nation so its success will become the norm.