

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

H. RES. 268, REAFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT THROUGH DIRECT ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATIONS

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Palestinian plan to unilaterally declare statehood targets the core underpinning of the peace process—the principle of mutual recognition.

In their tactics and their tone, Palestinian leaders have proclaimed that seeking to delegitimize Israel is more important to them than a prosperous future for their own people. It is a travesty and a tragedy.

To reiterate what President Obama made clear in his May 19 speech: “Palestinians will never realize their independence by denying the right of Israel to exist.”

For all the terrorist attacks that have claimed thousands of Israeli lives, for all the domestic trauma and security risks Israel undertook in its withdrawals from Gaza and Lebanon, for all the settlement freezes and stalled talks, Israel has always returned to the negotiating table in faith that a peace agreement is possible. But unilateral Palestinian declaration of statehood is the one thing from which the peace process cannot recover.

What will be left to negotiate? And at this point who will be there to negotiate with? The PLO? Hamas? A “technocratic” unity government that has no political standing?

If the Palestinian leadership is serious about statehood and about entering the United Nations as a responsible, sovereign nation, it should drop its preconditions, reenter direct talks and recognize Israel as a Jewish State.

I strongly support H. Res. 268, which reaffirms Administration policy and previous congressional resolutions on this issue. With this vote, we must redouble efforts to work with our allies and the international community to pressure the Palestinian leadership to change course towards a just and lasting peace.

HONORING GAL SITTY FOR HIS OUTSTANDING HUMANITARIAN ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF KIDNAPPED ISRAELI SOLDIER GILAD SHALIT

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of an outstanding resident of the district I proudly represent, Gal Sitty. Mr. Sitty has worked hard to raise awareness of kidnapped Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit's plight and the ongoing effort to secure his release.

Mr. Sitty launched a successful effort to raise \$10,000 for the placement of a billboard near the United Nations headquarters in New York City. The billboard featuring a picture of Gilad Shalit will ensure that the captured soldier is not forgotten. It also encourages UN leaders to assist in facilitating his release.

Mr. Sitty was motivated to undertake this effort because he understands that during the five years since Shalit's capture, Gilad and his family have been suffering and living a nightmare. Mr. Sitty's efforts have undoubtedly provided Gilad Shalit's family comfort because they know that the American people stand behind them ready to help.

I commend Mr. Sitty for his advocacy on Gilad Shalit's behalf and thank him for his outstanding efforts to keep the world focused on this tragedy. Mr. Sitty's hard work plays an important role in the effort to return Gilad home to his family.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the following article published in the May 8th edition of the Jerusalem Post—“Angeleno Launches Drive for Shalit Billboard Near UN”, and I ask that it be published in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Jerusalem Post, May 8, 2011]

ANGELENO LAUNCHES DRIVE FOR SHALIT BILLBOARD NEAR UN

(By Debra Kamin)

June 25 of this year will mark five years in captivity for Gilad Shalit, and one American is determined to make sure that this anniversary does not go unnoticed.

Gal Sitty, a 28-year-old Los Angeles native, has started a campaign on epicstep.com to fund and erect a billboard near the Manhattan headquarters of the United Nations imploring leaders to take steps to free the captive soldier.

“In [the past] five years I've gone to grad school, had numerous jobs, spent many holidays with my family, had good times with friends and so forth,” Sitty said to The Jerusalem Post when asked about his motivations. “Meanwhile, Gilad Shalit and his family have had none of that. They have been suffering, living a nightmare.”

Epicstep was founded earlier this year by Lev Reys and brothers Gene and Eugene Vekslar. The site works as a fundraising platform for creating billboards—users choose the issue they feel compelled to promote and supporters log on and donate until the final cost, which varies per billboard but for Sitty's campaign is \$10,000, is reached. Supporters' credit cards are not charged until the fundraising goal is reached, so if the campaign to create a billboard fails, no pledges are lost.

Sitty was born in Israel and raised in a Hebrew-speaking home. He is quick to admit that this is an issue that is close to his heart. “The recent Fatah-Hamas reconciliation agreement makes no mention of Gilad Shalit. This means that Fatah and the Palestinian Authority are now complicit in this crime,” he said. “I think getting this billboard up keeps the pressure on . . . leaders of the world to not overlook this human tragedy.”

Sitty, who holds a master's degree in public policy, still lives in Los Angeles, where he

works as a researcher for the Broad Foundation. He selected New York City as the site for his billboard, however, because he believes that no one needs to hear his message more than the delegates at the United Nations.

“Soon the world's diplomats will be assembling at the UN to discuss recognition of a Palestinian state and it is very important that we remind them of Shalit so that the whole world does not become complicit in such crimes,” he said. “If the UN endorses a Palestinian state with Hamas in the government, then the UN indirectly endorses crimes against humanity and puts many more at risk of being kidnapped by terrorist organizations. We cannot allow this to happen.”

What the actual impact of a placard bearing Shalit's face will be remains to be seen. But Sitty is pragmatic when he describes his motivations. “I know that I don't have the power to actually free him,” he said of Shalit, “but by getting this billboard up I think it keeps the pressure on the policy makers.” And while Gilad will not know about the campaign, Sitty is also eager to help two other important figures—Noam and Aviva Shalit.

“I hope that many people, Israelis and non-Israelis, Jews and non-Jews, from all over the world contribute to this campaign and show the Shalit family that we haven't forgotten them, haven't forgotten their son, and will never forget about their suffering,” Sitty said. “We will continue to stand beside them and do whatever we can to help them.”

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MRS. ANNA ALICE OMILANOWSKI

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mrs. Anna Alice Omilanowski who passed away on July 9, 2011.

Mrs. Omilanowski was the daughter of Joseph and Bernice Lewanski, who emigrated from Poland and passed through Ellis Island. She was the oldest of nine children, and grew up on East 40th Street and Superior Avenue.

Anna was a hard worker and took great pride in her work, especially when she worked in a factory that assembled torpedoes during World War II. Later, she applied her strong work ethic to a variety of other positions, including washing dishes at Pete's Wayside Inn, cleaning Parma Schools and working for Broadview Savings and Loan.

She married, Chester, a concentration camp survivor, on June 14, 1958 at St. Casimir Church in Cleveland. Together they raised five children. Mrs. Omilanowski always felt that her most important achievement was having her children by her side.

Anna was involved in her children's activities and was an avid bowler and card player. I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Omilanowski during the 1970s on more than one occasion at card parties and was always moved by her kindness.

• 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.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mrs. Anna Alice Omilanowski, a woman whose fun-loving personality, fighting spirit, incredible work ethic, and undying compassion for those around her will be sorely missed.

HONORING THOMAS KLENDER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas Klender. Thomas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the dark anniversary of July 20, 1974, when Turkish military troops illegally invaded the sovereign nation of Cyprus.

In the gray pre-dawn hours, heavily armed Turkish troops began the military operation named "Operation Atilla", implementing their strategy of "clearing" the territory in northern Cyprus, a community whose population was previously 80 percent Greek Cypriot.

As a result of these attacks, violent conflict erupted and over five thousand Greek Cypriots were estimated to have been killed; an additional sixteen hundred Greek Cypriots were reported missing; and over two hundred thousand Greek Cypriots were forcefully expelled from their homes.

Unfortunately, this tragedy which began that morning of July 20 continues today, as over 43,000 Turkish military troops occupy almost 40 percent of Cyprus' territory.

That amounts to one Turkish soldier for every two Turkish-Cypriots.

During the thirty-seven years the Turkish military has occupied northern Cyprus, illegal immigrants from Turkey flood into northern Cyprus, with some reports indicating at least 800 illegal migrants each year.

In total since 1974, this influx has resulted in more than 160,000 Turkish mainland illegal immigrants settling in the occupied territory, to the extent that these settlers now outnumber indigenous Turkish-Cypriots two to one.

Many claim that these immigrants are "encouraged" to settle in Cyprus by the Turkish government as part of a cynical strategy to alter the demographic statistics on the island and gain more property in any eventual settlement.

In addition, under the Turkish occupation, hundreds of religious and cultural sites have been desecrated.

Icons, manuscripts, frescoes and mosaics have been looted from Greek Orthodox, Catholic, Armenian Orthodox, Maronite and Jewish religious sites in northern Cyprus.

Over five hundred Orthodox churches or chapels have been demolished or vandalized.

Seventy-seven churches have even been converted into mosques, twenty-eight churches are being used by the Turkish military as hospitals or camps, and thirteen churches have been turned into barns.

For thirty seven years, the Cypriot people have endured conflict, division and foreign occupation.

It is long past time for their liberation.

The United Nations Security Council has passed seventy-five separate resolutions calling for Turkey to allow Greek Cypriots to return to their homes and to withdraw its troops from Cyprus.

In 1976, 1983 and again in 2009, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Turkey was illegally occupying Cyprus and must return all seized properties to their Greek Cypriot owners.

Yet, to date Turkey continues to ignore such condemnations of its actions.

Meanwhile, two generations of Cypriot youth have now grown up knowing no other reality than the division of their homeland, the segregation of their people, the militarization of part of their country by foreign troops, and the ever present threat of another outbreak of violence.

Many have, or are beginning to, abandon hope of a peaceful settlement.

Unfortunately, the limited progress achieved in the reunification talks since 2008 heightens this general sense of despair.

In fact, a few weeks ago U.N. Special Advisor for Cyprus Alexander Downer even stated, "It could not go any slower without stopping altogether. The last three months have been the worst three months we've ever had since these negotiations began."

This lack of constructive movement can be directly attributed to the behind-the-scenes interference from Ankara and the new hard-line representative from the Turkish community, Dr. Dervish Eroglu.

It is apparent that there are some both in Turkey and in the leadership of the Turkish-Cypriot community who believe that continued obstruction of the talks serves their best interests by garnering domestic political support.

I would argue that such a mercenary approach to these talks in fact prevents the Turkish-Cypriot people from attaining that which is in their long-term best interests.

Until there is the reunification of the country, the Turkish-Cypriot community cannot fully benefit from the economic and social benefits derived from Cyprus' membership in the European Union.

As a result, Turkish-Cypriots endure a far lower standard of living, reduced foreign direct investment, and other limitations on their overall development.

Therefore, I urge the representatives of the Turkish-Cypriot community to promote their

own community's interests rather than their own by working for reunification of the island.

In that regard, I was encouraged by the recent pledge by both parties, President Dimitris Christofias and Dr. Dervish Eroglu, to commit once more to the talks with the aim of making substantial progress this year.

In order for these talks to succeed however, Turkey must grant the Turkish-Cypriot community full autonomy in the reunification negotiations and to publicly commit to abiding by any terms agreed upon in a Cypriot developed reunification agreement.

That includes the full, permanent withdrawal of its troops of occupation from Cyprus.

I will continue to do what I can in my role in Congress to support such reunification efforts, until that long-awaited day when the next generation of Cypriot youth realize the hopes of their predecessors for a sovereign Cyprus— independent, unified, and at peace.

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM ACT  
OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 12, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1309) to extend the authorization of the national flood insurance program, to achieve reforms to improve the financial integrity and stability of the program, and to increase the role of private markets in the management of flood insurance risk, and for other purposes:

Mr. REED. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my frustration regarding the FEMA flood remapping process, an issue that will impact my district and many others.

We have recently debated and accepted multiple amendments and voted on H.R. 1309, the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2011. While I supported this bill and am grateful for all it does to help our constituents navigate through this very complex issue, I think we need to continue to examine the root of the problem, which is the flood mapping process that determines these areas require constituents to purchase flood insurance in the first place.

I understand the importance of the FEMA flood maps. It is vital that we are able to identify flood risk areas and make sure people living in those areas are protected from catastrophic flooding. However, with these new maps, due to be completed in the near future, FEMA has changed the standards which affect more than 100,000 miles of levees across the United States.

As a result, many of my constituents who have never had any issues with major flooding could be forced to purchase mandatory flood insurance costing thousands of dollars a year. This is despite the fact that these constituents enjoy the protection, in the case of a major flood, of a sound levee system.

It may not be the exact protection that FEMA has begun demanding, but it is adequate as constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers following the flooding caused by Hurricane Agnes.

Yet the new regulation requires these hard-working family homeowners to find a way to

pay for completely unnecessary flood insurance for a flood they will never see. It's a classic example of a concept which looks good on a white board in some Washington office but that has unintended negative consequences in the real world.

While H.R. 1309 helps to alleviate some of these issues, we must get to the heart of the matter. I believe Mr. WALBERG's amendment to H.R. 1390 was an excellent step towards doing so and I was very pleased to lend my support to it.

The Walberg amendment placed a moratorium on new updated maps until a Technical Mapping Advisory Council submits new mapping standards to FEMA and Congress, which allows for map revision and updates with local input. I also supported Mr. MCGOVERN's amendment to gain reimbursement for communities when they rightfully challenge FEMA on its mapping errors.

I am determined and will continue working for a long-term solution to the root of the problem, which is that these maps simply don't accurately reflect actual flood risks. The proposed maps certainly don't accurately reflect the flood risks, or lack thereof, in my district.

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#### HONORING LOGAN CHEVALIER

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Logan Chevalier. Logan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

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#### HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP FIRST AID AND RESCUE SQUAD INC.

### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Pequannock Township First Aid and Rescue Squad located in Morris County, New Jersey as they celebrate the organization's 60th anniversary.

Founded in 1951, the original members of the squad were concerned with providing ambulance services to the people of Pequannock. The squad was established as a

not-for-profit corporation and was built upon the commitment of selfless volunteers who have dedicated countless hours to training and protecting their community. Their membership has grown over the years, and with an ever expanding community, the time came for the squad's headquarters to grow as well.

With only a basic four walled building to house their two ambulances, members had to remove the vehicles in order to hold meetings. In 1968, they expanded the building to include a meeting room, kitchen and bathrooms. A second expansion came in 2002, with the addition of a new garage and second story. With a final renovation of the original structure in 2008, the squad was now equipped to better train their members and prepare them for aiding the community.

In addition to handling the many emergency calls, the squad also provides standby coverage at various sporting events and fundraisers, and works with other township organizations in educating the public through CPR/First Aid training and an anti-drunk driving program.

It is important to honor the select few in our communities who give of their time to help others. The past and present members of the Pequannock Township First Aid and Rescue Squad have provided an irreplaceable service to their community; one that I am sure will continue to grow for many more years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Pequannock Township First Aid and Rescue Squad on the celebration of their 60th anniversary.

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#### HONORING MATTHEW APPLEBURY

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Applebury. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

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#### HONORING THE MOORE FAMILY

### HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an exemplary Colorado family: Nelson

and Cruz Moore and their children, Rachel and Jacob. I would like to express my gratitude to the Moore family for their service to the State of Colorado. They have taken upon themselves to care for and preserve a culturally and historically significant Jewish gravesite in Cotopaxi, Colorado.

Cotopaxi, Colorado is the site of the unsuccessful Jewish agricultural resettlement effort of 1882-1884. It was the first Jewish American agricultural colony sponsored as part of the American Jewish aid movement through the Hebrew Emigrant Aide Society. The Jewish settlers endured difficult circumstances as they sought to establish themselves as farmers in Cotopaxi. Despite assistance from the local Christian community, the Jewish agricultural community still failed due to the harsh Colorado winters, unsuitable terrain, and the lack of promised housing and provisions by their local sponsor. Today, all that is left of the colony is the small graveyard of three Jewish children that lost their lives during the first winter of the attempted settlement. A historic marker has been erected by the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation telling the story of the colony, helping preserve its memory, and highlighting the friendship of the two groups, united as Americans.

At the Cotopaxi grave site, Moore cleared the overgrown grasses and stabilized the area. He placed decorative stones around the three Jewish graves taken from a local silver mine that some of the Jewish men worked in. He also created and arranged the stones in the shape of the Star of David in the middle of the three graves. The Moore family is continuing their Christian friendship for the Jewish people, even though it has been 130 years since the Jewish settlers first arrived in Cotopaxi. The memory of these immigrants is honored and carried on through the Moore family's efforts to preserve the history of Colorado and America.

I am honored to acknowledge and to thank them publicly for their exemplary dedication and Christian friendship with the Jewish people.

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#### HONORING MATTHEW DREILING

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Dreiling. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently cast a "yea" vote on rollcall No. 537, as part of the consideration of the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. I would like to change my vote on the amendment to "nay."

When I cast my vote, I was under the impression that this amendment was a measure solely designed to reduce the federal deficit. However, after casting my vote I learned that this deceptive policy amendment specifically zeroes out money for climate change projects within the Corps' Operations and Maintenance Program. I oppose this amendment as I believe that the Corps and the entire federal government need to work quickly to reduce carbon emissions and to adapt infrastructure so it is capable of withstanding the impacts of climate change. I also oppose the amendment because I believe that sneaking deceptive policy riders into appropriations legislation is not the proper way to create policy and govern this great nation.

I have the privilege of representing Memphis, Tennessee, which was inundated this year with historic floods. There is no doubt in my mind that these floods were exacerbated by climate change which caused record snowfalls and rainfalls across the Midwest that resulted in the record flooding. As bad as these floods were, the impacts would have been magnitudes worse had it not been for the Army Corps of Engineers' tremendous work to control the flood. I strongly support the Army Corps and appreciate their efforts to safeguard the American people and economy.

## HONORING SETH BARTON

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Seth Barton. Seth is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

IN TRIBUTE OF MS. KATHLEEN LEDWIDGE AND MR. WALTER JOHNSEN

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations to Ms. Kathleen Ledwidge and Mr. Walter Johnsen, who brought home the silver medals last Thursday from the Special Olympics World Games in Greece. Connecticut's Second District is honored to recognize the extraordinary sailors, Kathleen and Walter, who hail from Mystic and Stonington, respectively.

The very first time Walter and Kathleen sailed together was at the Special Olympic Games in Athens this year. Walter, who is only 15 years old, was partnered with Kathleen and they placed second, only points behind a team from Austria. While this may have been their first opportunity to sail together, these two have become lifelong friends who will sail the waters of the world for years to come.

Spike Lobdell, President of the Stonington Harbor Yacht Club Sailing Club, said that every Tuesday afternoon, Walter, Kathy, and many other athletes attend training where their lessons not only improve their sailing skills but also their lives. He said that their goal is to teach life skills and that beyond their silver medals in the top bracket, "Kathy and Walter are even more impressive off the water."

As we know, the Special Olympics began its remarkable tradition more than forty years ago when founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver recited the oath that is still said today: "Let me win, but if I cannot win let me be brave in the attempt." Since those sacred words were first spoken, 3.1 million athletes from 185 countries have participated in the Games, including the 12,000 who participated in Greece this year.

It is inspiring to witness such talent from individuals in Connecticut. It takes significant courage to represent your State and your country and I would like to commend them and their fellow athletes for their bravery. The Special Olympics will always serve as a reminder of the importance of giving everyone a chance to be themselves in a world where it is sometimes difficult to do so.

As President Barack Obama recently said, the "Special Olympics, as a champion for people with intellectual disabilities, teaches our nation—and our world—that no physical or mental barrier can restrain the power of the human spirit." We have seen that spirit in the accomplishments of these two sailors. I ask that my colleagues join me in offering our sincerest congratulations to our brave and talented athletes, Ms. Kathleen Ledwidge and Mr. Walter Johnsen.

## HONORING SPENCER HARTLEY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Hartley. Spencer is a very special young man who has

exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

## CONDEMNING RECENT VOTER SUPPRESSION LEGISLATION

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on May 19, Florida Governor Rick Scott signed into law an egregious Republican bill attacking from all angles one of the most fundamental rights of our democracy: the right to vote.

The transgressions contained in this bill are not minor inconveniences but elements of a systematic attack against the voting rights of minorities both in Florida and across the country.

In fact, since the adoption of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, the Department of Justice has overturned a total of 428 separate laws across the country for unconstitutionally infringing on the voting rights of minorities. Governor Scott's law needs to be number 429.

The bill that Governor Scott and Florida Republicans have forced into law is nothing more than a backdoor poll tax. It limits access to the polls for minorities, seniors, and college students. It reduces the number of early voting days and imposes new restrictive regulations on voter registration groups.

With this bill, Governor Scott and the Republicans have sold out the most basic rights of Florida's voters in a brazen act of political gamesmanship reminiscent of Reconstruction.

Fortunately, DOJ is finally now reviewing the law after Republicans refused to submit their bill for preclearance. A number of groups, including the League of Women Voters and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), sent a letter to Secretary of State Kurt Browning opposing the law.

The ACLU and Project Vote Smart have also filed a lawsuit under the Voting Rights Act to prevent implementation of these new rules. It is my hope that soon we can end the affront that is this discriminatory law.

We cannot sit idly by and let Governor Scott and his cronies in the Republican-led legislature turn back the clock on 40 years of progress just to create an advantage for themselves on Election Day.

It is the voters of Florida who stand to lose the most from this law, Mr. Speaker.

We have not come this far only to have Republicans maliciously undermine our fundamental rights as Americans. When the rights of Americans are trampled and discarded with nothing more than a shrug, it must not go overlooked.

We have noticed, we are furious, and we will not let this go!

HONORING DR. TERRY W. HEIMAN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dr. Terry W. Heiman. Terry retired June 30 after 33 years serving the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Terry has served as the Director of Agricultural Education since 1984, providing the leadership and vision that has provided Missouri with a strong and expanding agricultural education program. Individual enrollment in agricultural education has doubled during Terry's leadership, with programs currently in 326 high schools and 12 community colleges. Terry also served as the state advisor to the Missouri Future Farmers of America program, watching that program grow to include more than 25,000 members. National organizations have also benefitted from Terry's leadership, including his time as National President of the National Supervisors of Agricultural Education and as a board member of the National FFA. Terry's commitment to agriculture has been recognized by the University of Missouri-Columbia as the College of Agriculture Alumnus of the Year and by the Missouri Farm Bureau for Outstanding Service to Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dr. Terry W. Heiman for his accomplishments with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and in wishing him the best of luck in the years to come.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS  
HAROLD KENNER

**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a hero of World War II, Private First Class Harold Kenner, United States Army. After 67 years, PFC Kenner is finally home and will be buried July 29 at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. It has been a long journey for this West Scranton, PA, native, but his story illustrates the military's commitment to bring its troops home—no matter how long it takes.

You see, PFC Kenner, a member of the Army's 401st Glider Infantry Regiment, G Company, was listed as missing in action on September 30, 1944, during Operation Market Garden in the Netherlands. The Allies used 933 gliders to bring its troops and supplies to the battlefield. The fight would last 72 days as the Allies tried to keep the corridor open in the Zon-Veghel area of Holland. The fighting was extremely heavy and so were the casualties. PFC Kenner died on that battlefield, but his body was not recovered.

PFC Kenner was buried in the Kiekberg Woods near Groesbeek, Netherlands, unbeknownst to the Army. His family was notified

of his death, but they did not know what happened to him or his body. In 1987, remains were found at that gravesite, and recently, thanks to DNA samples those remains were positively identified as PFC Harold Kenner. Now, this brave American soldier will return to his homeland and rest among other heroes at Arlington.

Harold Kenner was only 20 years old when he died, but he was a member of the Greatest Generation. Posthumously, he was awarded the Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with two Bronze Service Stars and Bronze Arrowhead Device, World War II Victory Medal, Glider Badge, Honorable Service Lapel Button for World War II, French Croix de Guerre, Belgium Gourragere and Netherlands Orange Lanyard.

PFC Kenner died in the largest airborne operation in the war up to that point as the Allies attempted to seize a succession of bridges over the main rivers of the Nazi-occupied Netherlands, allowing them to outflank the Siegfried Line and advance into Northern Germany. The movie, *A Bridge Too Far*, told the story of this failed mission.

According to military records, members of Kenner's 401st and the 325th Glider Infantry regiments were dropped into an area around Grave and the Waal River in Nijmegen on September 23, 1944. They were dropped behind enemy lines and over the next week, PFC Kenner and his fellow soldiers were repeatedly attacked by the Germans. The wet, dense woods made it difficult for the men to navigate, and the weather resulted in rusted, jammed guns.

On the morning of September 30, the woods were lit up with a relentless barrage of artillery fire on both sides. Company commanders were ordered to move onward and continue the attack, despite the fact that their wounded were left in German positions. Heavily armed, the enemy held positions on both flanks. As the day wore on, G Company's communication lines broke down amid the chaos, leaving soldiers separated from their platoons and scattered throughout the dense woods. When the day finally ended, G Company had sustained heavy casualties, and five men were missing in action (MIA), including PFC Kenner.

A year later, on October 1, 1945, the War Department, despite never recovering a body, issued a finding of death for PFC Kenner. In the years that followed, the Kenners accepted that Harold was gone, but he was never out of their hearts.

The Army never gave up looking for the missing members of G Company in the Kiekberg Wood. Finally, in 1987, a second burial site was uncovered in the wooded area, two miles south of Groesbeek and seven miles southeast of Nijmegen. A Dutch search-and-recovery team turned the American soldier's remains over to the United States Army Memorial Affairs group in Europe. From there, PFC Kenner—not yet identified—went to Hawaii to the Central Identification Laboratory. It was believed that the skeleton was, indeed, one of the missing five G Company soldiers; specifically 1st Lt. Joseph F. Myers. CIA determined it was a male who was 17 to 23 years of age, between 64 and 70 inches tall and had a fracture on the left forearm at or near the time of death. They also determined it was not Lt. Myers.

The remains were returned to the Netherlands in 2001. Five years later, the CIA decided to try to examine the remains against DNA supplied by family members of the other four missing G Company members. Using the DNA and dental records, it was concluded that the remains were PFC Harold Kenner.

Harold's mother and father, Henry and Pearl Kenner, and his two siblings, Henry and Ruth, are deceased. But 50 members of his family will attend his funeral and finally bring this true American hero home. His journey is a vivid reminder of the heroism and sacrifices of our troops and our military families, whether they serve today or yesteryear. Welcome home, PFC Harold Kenner, and may you now rest in peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN CAMPBELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, on July 8, 2011, I missed rollcall votes 525–533. I was in my home state of California attending, in my role as Co-Chairman of the Congressional United Kingdom Caucus, a working reception in honor of Their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Had I been here, I would have voted:

“Yes” on rollcall vote 525: To reduce Defense Wide Operation and Maintenance by \$250 million in order to prohibit the Secretary of Defense from transferring \$250 million to the Department of Education to repair public schools on military bases operated by local education agencies.

“Yes” on rollcall vote 526: To reduce the Overseas Contingency Operations Transfer Fund by \$3.6 billion.

“Yes” on rollcall vote 527: To reduce funding for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation by 1 percent saving \$730 million.

“No” on rollcall vote 528: None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement the curriculum of the Chaplain Corps Don't Ask, Don't Tell repeal training regarding the performance of same sex marriage ceremonies.

“Yes” on rollcall vote 529: None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to maintain an end strength level of members of the Armed Forces of the United States assigned to permanent duty in Europe in excess of 30,000 members. Reduces funding for military personnel by \$813 million.

“Yes” on rollcall vote 530: None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for military operations in or against Libya except under a Congressional declaration of war.

“No” on rollcall vote 531: Motion to recommit H.R. 2219 with instructions to transfer \$200 million from the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund to the Yellow Ribbon Re-Integration program.

“No” on rollcall vote 532: On passage of H.R. 2219, Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes.

“Yes” on rollcall vote 533: On passage of H. Res. 340, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1309, the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2011.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF DONALD KENNEDY, PH.D. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Donald Kennedy, Ph.D., a highly distinguished American and treasured friend on his 80th birthday.

Dr. Kennedy was born in New York on August 18, 1931. He earned his A.B. and Ph.D. degrees in biology from Harvard University, but left the East to spend his academic career at Stanford University, a jewel in the crown of the 14th Congressional District. He joined Stanford in 1960 and was named Chair of the Department of Biology in 1964. In 1972, he became the Director of the Program in Human Biology, where he served until 1977.

In 1977, Don Kennedy was appointed Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration by Health Education and Welfare Secretary Joseph Califano. After giving our nation the benefit of his wisdom and considerable talents at the FDA, he returned to Stanford in 1979 and succeeded Richard Lyman as President of the University in 1980. He served with dignity and distinction until his resignation in 1991. He was Editor-in-Chief of Science from 2000 to 2008, and is now the Bing Professor of Environmental Science and President Emeritus of Stanford.

I've been privileged to know Don Kennedy for many years. He has been a friend, a mentor, and an inspiration to me and to thousands more. Generations of students have been the beneficiaries of his wise counsel and his scientific knowledge. We've been blessed with his ability to see the 'big picture' and to make connections across disciplines. His early attention to the health consequences of environmental degradation was visionary and his commitment to changing policies to benefit the health of our planet is nothing short of extraordinary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in wishing Don Kennedy, a patriot in the highest sense of the word, a joyful, family and friend-filled 80th birthday. May this milestone be just the beginning of more productive, creative and prolific decades. Don Kennedy is indeed a national treasure and it is a privilege to represent him and his wonderful wife Robin, and call them my friends.

HONORING FLORIDA'S SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a truly gifted educator from Northeast Florida, Jackie Cornelius, who has been named Florida's Secondary School Principal of the Year.

With tireless dedication, Jackie guides young students and their teachers to achieve their best as principal of the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts in Jacksonville, Florida.

You can accomplish anything if you truly believe in it—that is Jackie's philosophy, and she sticks to it.

With this award, her special brand of leadership will be shared across the country as she competes for national honors. It's really no surprise that Jackie has taken state-wide honors. Now, it's time for the rest of the Nation to have the opportunity to learn from this truly inspiring woman. Congratulations and best wishes.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. JOHN MCGUIRE

**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Dr. John McGuire.

Since November 1996, Dr. McGuire has served as President of St. Charles Community College, St. Peters, Missouri. Prior to his current presidency, he served as President of Owensboro Community College in Owensboro, Kentucky.

Dr. McGuire has served over forty years in community colleges in five states, including chief academic and student services officer at Community College of Aurora, Colorado, and assistant chief academic officer at Parkersburg Community College in Parkersburg, West Virginia. He has exercised leadership in institutional research and effectiveness, student success, and statewide policies to strengthen transfer opportunities for community college students.

Dr. McGuire serves on numerous civic and educational boards, including Past President of the Executive Committee of the Economic Development Council in St. Charles County, former President of the Missouri Community College Association Presidents and Chancellors Council, member, board member of the St. Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association (RCGA), and has served on the Barnes-Jewish St. Peters and Progress West Hospital Advisory Board. He has also previously served on the American Association of Community College Presidents Academy Executive Committee, the FOCUS St. Louis Board, and past president of the St. Peters Chamber of Commerce.

I rise today to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. John McGuire and the many years of service he has dedicated to Missouri and to the education of so many. I wish him the best in his retirement and ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his years of service.

RECOGNIZING LAUREN CHANG OF BURKE, VA

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Lauren Chang of Burke, Va., for her participation in the People to People World Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.

People to People offers young leaders the opportunity to grow educationally while expos-

ing them to new cultures. Founded in 1956 under the auspices of the Eisenhower Administration, People to People has continuously enjoyed Presidential support for its mission of instilling our nation's next generation of leaders with the international experience they will need to succeed in an increasingly global society and economy.

Lauren's acceptance to the program is no small accomplishment. Academically selective, the program is built for the brightest students in the nation. From June 30–July 6, Lauren participated in numerous educational activities in the Washington, D.C., area, all of which were focused on leadership development. Lauren and her fellow participants gained access to areas of American government rarely seen at such a young age, and that experience will serve her well in her studies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lauren Chang and wishing her continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, due to family obligations, I was unable to attend the vote on H. Res. 268 last Wednesday, July 7, 2011. However, I would like to make it known that as a co-sponsor of the resolution, I would have proudly voted for H. Res. 268 in support of Israel.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,342,965,850,128.20.

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

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,704,540,103,834.40 since then.

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

RECOGNIZING ALEXANDER HORNADAY OF SPRINGFIELD, VA

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Alexander Hornaday, a 2011 People to People World Leadership Forum participant. Alexander has been identified by his educators for his academic excellence, leadership potential and exemplary citizenship to participate in the People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C.

This leadership forum allows students to participate in daily educational activities in

Washington, D.C., as well as the surrounding areas. The program allows participants to make friends with young leaders from all over the world with a focus on leadership development. At the end of the program, participants receive a certificate of completion.

Alexander is a student at West Springfield High school in Springfield, Virginia. He has been active in his school and community on issues regarding agriculture and environment. It is inspiring to see young people who are interested in educational and developmental experiences such as these.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable achievement by Alexander Hornaday and wishing him continued success in his further pursuits.

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PTO LETTER

**HON. DANA ROHRBACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, a fellow southern Californian recently was featured in the LA Times with respect to an issue involving one of his patents (“Defending patents takes financial toll on inventor,” LA Times, June 14, 2011). In addition, this week, a letter to the editor from former Senator Birch Bayh appeared in the Congress Blog from Hill.com and referenced a letter that the former Senator recently received from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) about the very same issue.

While I am not weighing in on the merits of this particular case, the underlying issue involved should be of great concern. Therefore, I am submitting the aforementioned PTO letter.

UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE,  
*Alexandria, VA, June 3, 2011.*

Hon. BIRCH BAYH,  
*Venable LLP,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. BAYH: Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of Lawrence Lockwood. The letter indicates that Mr. Lockwood filed a petition for writ of certiorari in the United States Supreme Court seeking review of the Federal Circuit’s decision affirming the trial court’s holding that state tort claims by patent holders against persons who file sham reexamination requests are preempted by Federal patent law. The letter asks the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to confirm that there are no procedures permitting a damages remedy for patent owners subjected to sham reexamination requests, and to state whether it sees a problem with patent owners pursuing state tort claims for such damages.

The USPTO can confirm that it does not have a procedure that offers a damages remedy for patent owners in Mr. Lockwood’s position. As to your request for the USPTO’s support of Mr. Lockwood’s case, please understand that the USPTO cannot participate in the case without the Solicitor General, who rarely files uninvited amicus briefs at the cert stage. Moreover, any amicus brief would be due very shortly at this point, given that Mr. Lockwood has already filed his petition.

Please know that the USPTO is sympathetic to the concerns of patent owners. The agency is particularly concerned whenever a patent owner is subjected to a fraudulent re-

examination or some other form of harassment. Thus, the USPTO will be monitoring Mr. Lockwood’s certiorari petition closely. At the same time, we note that the USPTO has the power to police misconduct through its Office of Enrollment and Discipline (OED). Anyone with knowledge of unethical conduct can report it to OED for investigation.

Sincerely,

DAVID J. KAPPOS,  
*Under Secretary and Director.*

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RECOGNIZING MARC SCARBROUGH  
OF WOODBRIDGE, VA

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Marc Scarbrough of Woodbridge, Va., for his participation in the People to People World Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.

People to People offers young leaders the opportunity to grow educationally while exposing them to new cultures. Founded in 1956 under the auspices of the Eisenhower Administration, People to People has continuously enjoyed Presidential support for its mission of instilling our nation’s next generation of leaders with the international experience they will need to succeed in an increasingly global society and economy.

Marc’s acceptance to the program is no small accomplishment. Academically selective, the program is built for the brightest students in the nation. From June 30–July 6, Marc participated in numerous educational activities in the Washington, D.C., area, all of which were focused on leadership development. Marc and his fellow participants gained access to areas of American government rarely seen at such a young age, and that experience will serve him well in his studies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Marc Scarbrough and wishing him continued success in the future.

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CONGRATULATIONS CALLAHAN  
FAMILY

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my good friend and senior legislative assistant Paul Callahan and his wife Jenni on the birth of their daughter Penelope Joy Callahan. Penelope was born on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, in Alexandria, Virginia. She is welcomed home by her sister, Charlotte, and brother, Judah.

Penelope Joy Callahan is nine pounds and three ounces and 22½ inches of pride and joy to her loving grandparents, Gerald T. and Madonna Callahan of Taylors, South Carolina, and Steve and Pam Crowe of Taylors, South Carolina.

I am so excited for this new blessing to the Callahan family and wish them all the best.

ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING CHEMICALS EXPOSURE ELIMINATION ACT OF 2011

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, for decades our sons and daughters have been exposed to a chemical stew in water, food, fragrances, personal care products, children’s toys, and household items. Unfortunately we do not know if this chemical stew is safe for pregnant mothers, their unborn babies, young children, or for that matter, anyone else. That is why I’m pleased today, along with Mr. MAURICE HINCHEY, Mr. LOIS CAPP, Mr. JAMES MCGOVERN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Ms. LAURA RICHARDSON, Mr. RAÚL GRIJALVA, Ms. JAN SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NITA LOWEY, Mr. BOBBY RUSH, Mrs. LOIS CAPP, Mr. JAMES MCGOVERN, and Mr. DAVID PRICE, to introduce the “Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals Exposure Elimination Act of 2011.” This bill is of enormous importance because it will arm us all with the information that we need to keep our families safe from these potentially harmful chemicals.

There are numerous alarming studies showing increasing disease rates unheard of generations before. Asthma rates have nearly tripled in the past three decades. The United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported this year that one of every six American children has a developmental disorder such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, dyslexia, and mental retardation. A recent study from Korea shows that 4 percent of children have autism spectrum disorder—that is one in every 25 children!

Just this week an extensive University of Michigan study confirmed the correlation of phthalates and bisphenol A (BPA) to thyroid disruption. Thyroid hormones play a vital role in many human physiological processes including fetal and child growth and brain development, as well as energy balance, metabolism, and other functions in the nervous, cardiovascular, pulmonary, and reproductive systems of children and adults. The study confirmed previous reports associating phthalates and BPA with altered thyroid hormones.

Phthalates and BPA are high-production chemicals commonly used in plastics and other applications, including fragrances in perfumes, children’s toys, and body-care products. Exposure to these chemicals among Americans is widespread, according to the CDC. Recent studies show a decline in brain development related to phthalates and BPA exposure. Chemically-induced altered thyroid function may also be involved in increased waist circumference, insulin resistance, and diabetes among adults.

Cancer, after accidents, is the leading cause of death among children in the United States. Primary brain cancer increased by nearly 40 percent and leukemia increased by over 60 percent among children 14 years and younger in the last 30 years. Childhood obesity has quadrupled in the past 10 years. Type-2 diabetes has increased drastically. There is an increase in sexual abnormalities, particularly in newborn boys. An analysis of the umbilical cords of a test group of newborns found over 200 chemicals in the blood—chemicals to

which the mother had unwittingly transmitted to her fetus.

But these problems do not end with children. These chemically-induced changes linger into adulthood. Forty-one percent of Americans will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives, and about 21 percent will die from that cancer. When we look at these trends, it becomes glaringly obvious that something in our environment is making us sick.

There is mounting evidence suggesting that these alarming public health trends are the result of chemicals in the environment that disrupt the endocrine system. Small amounts of these chemicals, or mixes of these chemicals, it has been shown, can have a huge impact on our health and ultimately American healthcare costs. As a result, health groups including the Endocrine Society, The Endocrine Exchange, and renowned scientific authorities like Dr. Fred S. vom Saal have all endorsed this bill.

The Endocrine Society, the world's oldest and largest professional organization devoted to endocrine research, found that "endocrine disruptors have effects on male and female reproduction, breast development and cancer, prostate cancer, neuroendocrinology, thyroid, metabolism and obesity, and cardiovascular endocrinology." Based upon these findings they recommended that we increase "basic and clinical research."

In addition to these troubling human diseases, we're also seeing chemically-induced changes in wildlife. In parts of the Potomac River, 100 percent of the studied male small mouth bass are intersex—meaning that they are carrying both male and female reproductive organs. We are eating these fish and we are drinking the water that they swim in. Because of this, Trout Unlimited, one of the largest fisheries conservation organizations in the country, also endorsed this bill. As I said years ago when intersex fish were first reported, this discovery should serve as our early warning telling us that something is gravely wrong.

Close to 14 years ago, Congress enacted legislation requiring the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to establish an Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program. To date that endeavor has focused primarily on pesticides, to the exclusion of other chemicals. The agency has been hamstrung by its use of old science and interference by the chemical industry.

This bill will facilitate increased study and regulation of endocrine disrupting chemicals. It will require that the government focus on the chemicals of most concern, to which people are exposed through drinking water, food, household items, toys, and personal care products. It will empower federal agencies with jurisdiction to consider a range of peer-reviewed scientific sources of information on toxicity, and to act quickly in regulating substances found harmful to human health.

Finally, for those chemicals that scientists overwhelmingly agree are the most hazardous, the bill will restrict them only to uses that ensure they cannot get into human bodies. Twenty-four months after scientists find that a chemical is an endocrine disruptor, that chemical will be banned unless the industry using that chemical can ensure that it will not enter our food, our water, or our bodies.

It is time to take action. It is time we increase research on these chemical impacts. And it is time for the most dangerous chemi-

cals to be controlled. The Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals Exposure Elimination Act of 2011 will do just that.

RECOGNIZING JOSHUA LAYOG OF  
MONTCLAIR, VA

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Joshua Layog of Montclair, Virginia, for his participation in the People to People World Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.

People to People offers young leaders the opportunity to grow educationally while exposing them to new cultures. Founded in 1956 under the auspices of the Eisenhower Administration, People to People has continuously enjoyed Presidential support for its mission of instilling our nation's next generation of leaders with the international experience they will need to succeed in an increasingly global society and economy.

Joshua's acceptance to the program is no small accomplishment. Academically selective, the program is built for the brightest students in the nation. From June 20–24, Joshua participated in numerous educational activities in the Washington, D.C., area, all of which were focused on leadership development. Joshua and his fellow participants gained access to areas of American government rarely seen at such a young age, and that experience will serve him well in his studies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Joshua Layog and wishing him continued success in the future.

HONORING JIMMY SMITH FOR HIS  
SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE  
NORTH COAST INTEGRATED  
REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT  
PLAN

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jimmy Smith, chairman of the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (NCIRWMP) Policy Review Panel for 7 years, honoring his dedication to, and his achievements toward, healthy North Coast communities and ecosystems.

Mr. Smith has become known for his inclusiveness, diplomacy, and transparent leadership style through his work on the Policy Review Panel. He played a critical role in shepherding the North Coast through its first project prioritization process, helping the panel make difficult policy decisions to reduce the NCIRWMP's priority funding list from \$50 to \$25 million.

Mr. Smith led the panel through the unanimous adoption by the region's seven county Boards of Supervisors of the first and second phases of NCIRWMP. His leadership was instrumental in securing more than 70 signatures to the NCIRWMP Memorandum of Mutual Understanding.

Mr. Smith hosted the NCIRWMP's first Integrated Regional Water Management Conference, bringing more than 250 attendees to the North Coast region, representing over 50 entities comprised of local governments, tribes, legislators, agencies, watershed groups, providing a greater awareness of water management issues, watershed functions and future policy and funding opportunities.

Mr. Smith's oversight of the NCIRWMP top ranked proposals has brought more than \$41 million to the North Coast. He worked for months on behalf of the entire North Coast community during the 2008 California "bond freeze" to minimize economic impact on disadvantaged communities and to ensure that the North Coast's priority infrastructure and environmental projects were able to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize my friend Jimmy Smith for his dedication and contributions to the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and dedication to our community.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE LAND CONSERVANCY  
OF NEW JERSEY

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Land Conservancy of New Jersey, located in Morris County, New Jersey, in celebration of thirty years of successful land preservation.

The Land Conservancy of New Jersey was founded on July 30, 1981 by Russell W. Meyers, with the goal to preserve land and water resources, conserve open space, inspire and empower individuals and communities and to protect natural land and environment. The Conservancy has worked with 58 municipalities in 11 counties, impacting over half of New Jersey's counties, and benefiting millions of residents throughout the state. The Conservancy has established an Aresty Mapping Center to produce professional, computer generated maps used throughout the state to target open space lands for preservation.

Concerned with preserving open space and protecting New Jersey's drinking water and other natural resources, the Conservancy helped to pass the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act and the Highlands Stewardship Act in 2004.

The Conservancy has won several awards over the past 30 years, including the Take Pride in America National Award, given by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 2005. This award recognizes volunteer projects for youth organizations, corporations, and public/private partnerships among other categories.

In 2010 alone, the organization completed 27 projects and preserved over 1,364 acres of land. The Conservancy's devoted staff has worked closely with state and local government officials and agencies to make these projects possible.

This year their goal has been to preserve another 25 properties and 1,500 additional acres.



Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Land Conservancy of New Jersey for its 30 years of dedicated work on behalf of the great state of New Jersey.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. ADAM KINZINGER**

OF ILLINOIS

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 September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Chair, there is no bigger supporter in this body of the Air Force than me. For nearly ten years, I have been privileged to serve my country in the Air Force and Air National Guard as a pilot. During that time I often thought, "If I am willing to fight for my country on the outside, I must be willing to defend and preserve our country for future generations on the inside." Today I rise in support of my amendment to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, H.R. 2219. My amendment would save the U.S. taxpayers nearly \$100 million by not allowing the Air Force to redevelop the current flight suit.

Since coming to this House, my colleagues and I have been working diligently to determine essential versus non-essential government spending projects. One area I wanted to examine more closely was a \$100 million project to develop a new flight suit for the Air Force, called the "Integrated Aircrew Ensemble." This flight suit is not being developed in response to specific needs of the Air Force's next-generation fighter, the F-35 Lightning II. Rather, it is designed to integrate the already existing protections which are included in our current flight suit.

In February, at the Air Force's 2012 budget hearing, Chief of Staff General Norton Schwartz was asked—at my request—whether the Air Force was developing a new flight suit. General Schwartz stated, "We are not in the business of redesigning our flight suit under the current circumstances." Since his testimony, General Schwartz said this quote is "accurate but incomplete," and does not represent his position on the flight suit contract.

Our office met with management from TIAX LLC, the company awarded the contract. After reviewing the information from TIAX and speaking with many of my fellow pilots who fly different aircrafts, I remain confident that the current flight suit provides more than adequate protection.

Over the past 10 years, the Air National Guard has not had a single G-LOC (induced loss of consciousness due to excessive G-force) Class A mishap, while the Air Force has had 5 G-LOC Class A mishaps. Of those 5 Air Force Class A mishaps, 3 occurred in an F-16 aircraft, while the other two occurred in a T-6 and T-37, respectively. The Air Force was unable to provide details surrounding the T-6 and T-37 Class A mishaps; however, they were able to provide the details sur-

rounding each of the F-16 Class A mishaps. In each of those cases, the pilot flying the F-16 was performing Basic Fighter Maneuvers (BFM) under the supervision of an instructor pilot. It is important to note that all of these accidents took place in a training environment and by young pilots still honing their skills. In none of the executive summary reports surrounding those accidents was the flight suit noted as a contributing factor toward causing G-LOC.

For these reasons, it is my strong belief that updating and integrating the flight suit will not be the panacea that proponents of the program claim in terms of protecting against these types of G-LOC Class A mishaps. Protecting against G-LOC has much more to do with the innate physical abilities of our pilots and the training they receive than any flight suit they will wear.

These findings led me to offer an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to postpone the flight suit development and save taxpayers nearly \$100 million. This amendment was adopted into the NDAA, which passed the House by a vote of 322-96.

Many of my colleagues in the House support this amendment, including Congressman SAM JOHNSON (R-Texas), a twenty-nine-year Air Force veteran, former POW in Vietnam, former Director of the Fighter Weapons School and pilot with the Thunderbirds. He said, "With men and women in harm's way in three different wars, the Air Force shouldn't even think about using scarce dollars for new flight suits."

My other colleague, Congressman PETE OLSON (R-Texas) said, "As a former Navy Aviator, I know firsthand that our current flight suits provide all of the protection and comfort our aviators need. Our nation is facing record debt and deficits and as such, we must apply careful scrutiny over every new project we are looking to fund. If I thought for one second that our pilots were in danger, I would be the first to support a new flight suit, but the reality is that this is a \$100M solution looking for a problem."

Senator KIRK (R-IL) also stated, "While nothing takes precedence over protecting and arming our troops in the field, we still have a responsibility to protect taxpayers from excessive spending. Given our current fiscal situation, we must make tough decisions to ensure that tax dollars are spent efficiently—even at the Pentagon. Cutting a \$100 million program the Air Force says it does not need is exactly the kind of spending restraint the American people want to see from Congress."

Make no mistake, I am committed to ensuring our military is the strongest and best equipped in the world. However, we must make tough decisions with regard to military needs and military wants. I was sent to Washington to make difficult decisions, even those that require the military to prioritize its spending.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLARD  
OVERTON

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, the Almighty God has called to his eternal rest, Mr. Willard Overton; and

Whereas, Willard Overton was born on April 9, 1935 to the parentage of Arthur Overton Sr. and Osca C. Presley in Chicago, Illinois and was the 7th of 9 children; and

Whereas, Mr. Overton received his formal education in the Chicago Public Schools and worked for 31 years at AT&T Western Electric Hawthorne Works and retired at the age of 47, as the youngest person ever to retire from this company; and

Whereas, he received many awards and commendations for his outstanding works; and Whereas, Willard was a very talented, bright, accomplished, witty and intelligent person who was committed to protecting and improving the quality of life; and

Whereas, he was actively involved with Provident St. Mel High School and was a regular and skilled debater on WVON and other radio talk shows: now be it

*Resolved*, that we pause and pay tribute to Mr. Willard Overton on a very outstanding and productive life.

On a personal note, Bill's niece Levogne and my wife Vera were best friends and worked together in the Business Department at Collins High School; brother Ray made my first political sign and Al had a variety store in front of my office on Cicero Avenue and was a benefactor to many of our community activities; and niece Crystal is a community and political activist who is involved with many of the public things that I do. A great family, I am proud to know them.

FALL RIVER CHAMBER URGES  
RESPONSIBLE ACTION

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, an organization with which I am proud to work closely on behalf of economic development in the Greater Fall River Area, and for sensible national policies, the Fall River Area Chamber of Commerce, recently published in the Fall River Herald News a very thoughtful article which "respectfully urges Congress to place the nation ahead of party politics by raising the federal debt limit without delay." The Chamber notes that "failure to increase the statutory debt limit in a timely fashion can have a significant and long lasting negative impact on any potential recovery in the towns and cities of the South Coast."

Mr. Speaker, the Chamber understandably and correctly notes that they are "extremely concerned about the level of the federal debt and the unchecked annual budget deficits that have become the new normal in Washington, DC". I also agree with them that "the U.S. government must learn to spend more wisely." And I believe that they have the sequencing of these issues in the correct form when they close by urging those of us in Congress to "raise the federal debt ceiling and set in motion a dialogue to curb unchecked federal spending." I believe it is essential that we raise the debt ceiling and avoid negative economic consequences, and at the same time commit ourselves to adopting a set of policies that will substantially reduce the deficit over

time. For example, Mr. Speaker, I personally renew my call to our colleagues to put an end to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq which no longer can be justified in terms of national security, and which together costs us well over \$100 billion dollars a year, as part of a package of steps that will bring down our annual deficits.

[From the Herald News, July 13, 2011]

**CHAMBER URGES CONGRESS TO RAISE DEBT LIMIT**

(By Jason Rua and Robert A. Mellion)

The Fall River Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry represents a broad range of businesses in the South Coast region of Massachusetts.

Our membership employs tens of thousands of people comprising all sectors of the economy including education and high tech to healthcare, tourism and hospitality, manufacturing, service and small businesses. They are also the individuals who are making the local investments, taking risks, creating jobs and through their taxes and payrolls, providing the means for the community to afford the public amenities we all enjoy.

That is why the chamber, on behalf of its diverse and vested membership, respectfully urges Congress to place the nation ahead of party politics by raising the federal debt limit without delay. Failure to increase the statutory debt limit in a timely fashion can have a significant and long-lasting negative impact on any potential recovery in the towns and cities of the South Coast. For that reason we urge the Massachusetts congressional delegation to act prudently by representing the best interests of your constituency.

Raising the statutory debt limit is critical to ensuring global confidence in the creditworthiness of the United States. Not acting decisively on this issue will raise national interest rates and inevitably the ability of businesses to secure financing.

With economic growth in the commonwealth of Massachusetts slowly picking up for the first time in three years, we cannot afford to jeopardize a few steps forward with the threat of a massive spike in borrowing costs that would result if our country defaulted on its international obligations. To the contrary, it is practical economic theory that the United States stands fully behind its legal obligations.

In making such recommendations, business leaders in the SouthCoast also remain extremely concerned about the level of the federal debt and the unchecked annual budget deficits that have become the new normal in Washington D.C. Balance to our fiscal position is critical for national economic sustainability and tough decisions on federal spending must be made as part of a long term debate about the future of this nation. Quite simply, the U.S. government must learn to spend more wisely.

The chamber trusts that under the continued leadership offered by the bipartisan Massachusetts congressional delegation, Congress will again take the necessary steps to preserve our nation's financial standing in the world. Such stewardship is required in this 11th hour. Please ensure that the national and Massachusetts economies continue on a path toward restored prosperity. Raise the federal debt ceiling and set in motion a dialogue to curb unchecked federal spending.

**RECOGNIZING THE 37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS**

**HON. LOIS CAPPES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mrs. CAPPES. Mr. Speaker, on July 20, we mark the 37th anniversary of the Turkish invasion and subsequent occupation of Cyprus.

Cyprus has a rich culture and religious history. However, its history has been difficult due to myriad conflicts with its neighbor Turkey, including the occupation, which continues to this day on over a third of the Island.

I want to express my concern about violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Cypriot people. Moreover, reports of the segregation of Greek and Turkish Cypriot people are equally troubling. Any means of violence has simply exacerbated conflicts between the Cypriot and Turkish people, and cannot be an option moving forward.

Cyprus and the U.S. share a deep and abiding commitment to upholding the ideals of freedom, democracy, justice, human rights, and the international rule of law. Infringements upon these American—and Cypriot—principles should not go unnoticed. I remain steadfast in my dedication to correcting these problems and working with others to ensure that Cyprus can flourish for years to come.

Thirty-seven years later, I remain committed to the goal of a reunified and prosperous Cyprus where Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots can live together in peace and security.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE INNOVATIVE DESIGN PROTECTION AND PIRACY PREVENTION ACT**

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, Article I, section 8, of the Constitution lays the framework for our nation's copyright laws. It grants Congress the power to award inventors and creators for limited amounts of time exclusive rights to their inventions and works. The Founding Fathers realized that such an incentive was crucial to ensure that America would become the world's leader in innovation and creativity. This incentive is still necessary to maintain America's position as the world leader in innovation.

Most industrialized nations provide legal protection for fashion designs. However, in the United States, the world's leader in innovation and creativity, fashion designs are not protected by traditional intellectual property regimes. Copyrights are not granted to apparel because articles of clothing, which are both creative and functional, are considered useful articles, as opposed to works of art. Design patents are intended to protect ornamental designs, but clothing rarely meets the criteria of patentability. Trademarks only protect brand names and logos, not the clothing itself. And the Supreme Court has refused to extend trade dress protection to apparel designs. Thus, a thief violates Federal law when he steals a creator's design, reproduces and sells

that article of clothing, and attaches a fake label to the garment for marketing purposes.

But it is perfectly legal for that same thief to steal the design, reproduce the article of clothing, and sell it, provided he does not attach a fake label to the finished product. This loophole allows pirates to cash in on the sweat equity of others and prevents designers in our country from reaping a fair return on their creative investments.

The production lifecycle for fashion designs is very short. Once a design achieves popularity through a fashion show or other event, a designer usually has a limited number of months to produce and market that original design. Further complicating this short-term cycle is the reality that once a design is made public, pirates can immediately offer identical knockoffs on the Internet for distribution.

Again, under current law, this theft is legal unless the thief reproduces a label or trademark. And because these knockoffs are usually of such poor quality, they damage the designer's reputation as well. Common sense dictates that we should inhibit this activity by protecting original fashion works.

Our undertaking is similar to action taken by Congress in 1998 when we wrote Chapter 13 of the Copyright Act, which offers protection for vessel hull designs. The "Innovative Design Protection and Piracy Prevention Act" amends this statutory template to include protections for fashion designs. Because the production lifecycle for fashion designs is very short, this legislation similarly provides a shorter period of protection of 3 years that suits the industry.

The bill enjoys support among those in the fashion and apparel industries. While concerns have been expressed about the scope of previous versions of this legislation, my office has engaged in discussions through the years with interested parties to ensure that the bill does not prohibit designs that are simply inspired by other designs; rather, the legislation only targets those designs that are "substantially identical" to a protected design. Other provisions, including a "home-sewing" exception and a requirement that a designer alleging infringement plead with particularity, ensure that the bill does not encourage harassing or litigious behavior.

I urge the Members of the House to support this legislation, which will grant to American creators similar protections that those in most other industrialized countries enjoy.

**H. RES. 268—U.S. SUPPORT FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT**

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of H. Res. 268. This resolution reaffirms the United States' support for a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

For those who say the path to peace in the Middle East is easy, let them consider the path I recently had to take just to fly to Israel. In May, I traveled with other members of this body on a bipartisan Congressional delegation to the Middle East. Our trip was scheduled to

take us from the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, across Kuwait and Iraq and into Israel. However, before our plane was able to take off the Kuwaitis denied us overflight rights because our destination was Israel. After lengthy negotiations, our pilots were given permission to fly over Kuwaiti airspace, but as our plane neared the Iraqi border the government of Iraq denied our request to enter their airspace, again because our destination was Israel. We were forced to circle for 90 minutes while we once again negotiated with a government for whom the United States has spilled both blood and treasure. Finally, the Iraqis gave us permission to fly over their country only if we agreed to land in Jordan before flying on to Israel. Our plane landed in Amman, taxied to the end of the runway, and then took off for a seven minute flight to Israel. Apparently, American service members can die in Iraq, American taxpayer dollars can be spent on Iraq, but an American Congressional delegation on a U.S. military aircraft cannot fly over Iraq en route to Israel. So, when Israel's neighbors demand that Israel make difficult concessions as a precursor to peace negotiations, we should keep in mind the behavior of these neighbors and their refusal to accept Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state.

Now the Palestinians are threatening to seek a unilateral declaration of statehood through the United Nations. President Obama has already stated that the United States will veto any unilateral declaration at the UN, so the Palestinians' continued push for a UN vote in September is nothing but an attempt to delegitimize the state of Israel. Today, the House of Representatives can reinforce our nation's support for Israel and support for a negotiated peace.

Israel has shown it is ready to take risks for peace. If the Palestinians want a state that is formally recognized by the international community they should sit down with the Israelis and negotiate.

H. RES. 268

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2011*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I emphatically agree that a negotiated settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the only viable path forward for the parties and for those in the international community and region who seek peace and stability in this contentious area of our world.

I want to be clear: unilateral actions by the Palestinians or Israelis, including seeking recognition at the U.N., are not helpful to the peace process. It seems to me that there have not been many successful unilateral acts undertaken in this region that have resulted in more peace and less violence. Why would anyone want to go down that road again?

Limiting this resolution to the sentiment expressed in bullet number one of the resolution that reaffirms Congress' "strong support for a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict resulting in two states, a democratic, Jewish state of Israel and a viable, democratic Palestinian state, living side-by-side in peace, security, and mutual recognition" would have won my enthusiastic and full-hearted support.

It was the presence of this language that kept me from voting no on this resolution. I

again reiterate my condemnation of this House continuing to bring resolutions that only seem to relitigate every wrong committed by one party to this conflict. Whatever happened to the grandiose ideal that the United States of America would be an "honest broker" in this process?

The fact is that both Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have tough choices ahead of them that will affect the pursuit of peace in the Middle East. As I stated in a letter to President Obama last year in support of strong U.S. engagement in renewed Middle East Peace talks, allowing actions by either party that undermine the process to go unchallenged serves to fan animosity and mistrust, which feeds a cycle of conflict and violence. This neither serves the interests of the U.S., our ally Israel, nor the Palestinians.

We must avoid ending up in a situation like Canada reportedly faced last year when it cut funding for activities of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees only to have the government of Israel, among others, push for a reversal of that decision. It's an example of an action that looks "pro-Israel" on the politics, but failed the more important test of whether it actually advanced or hindered the interests of our allies in the region.

The Palestinian people don't want symbolic statehood, they want an actual state with borders and the ability to enjoy a livelihood in peace and security. The same for the Israeli people. They want real security and real peace. Both peoples would gladly trade resolutions from the U.S. Congress for real progress on the ground.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 14, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 15

10 a.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine internet freedom in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) region, focusing on current trends in internet governance.

210, Cannon Building

JULY 19

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Madelyn R. Creedon, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary for Global Strategic Affairs, and Alan F. Estevez, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Logistics and Materiel Readiness, both of the Department of Defense.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine enhanced consumer financial protection after the financial crisis.

SD-538

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kenneth J. Kopocis, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Rebecca R. Wodder, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife.

SD-406

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of David S. Adams, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, and Joyce A. Barr, of Washington, to be Assistant Secretary for Administration, both of the Department of State.

SD-419

10:30 a.m.

Judiciary

Crime and Terrorism Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Drug and Veterans Treatment Courts, focusing on seeking cost-effective solutions for protecting public safety and reducing recidivism.

SD-226

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the recent report of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) energy initiative entitled "The Future of Natural Gas".

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Disaster Recovery and Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine 2011 spring storms, focusing on picking up the pieces and building back stronger.

SD-342

Foreign Relations

Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine United States policy in Yemen.

SD-419

JULY 20

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine building American transportation infrastructure through innovative funding.

SR-253

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Economic Policy Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine access to capital, focusing on fostering job creation and innovation through high-growth startups.

SD-538

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Earl Anthony Wayne, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to Mexico, and Arnold A. Chacon, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala, both of the Department of State.

SD-419

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 958, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program of payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs, S. 1094, to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-416), an original bill entitled, "Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization of 2011", and any pending nominations.

SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Federal regulation, focusing on a review of legislative proposals, part II.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine S. 598, to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, focusing on assessing the impact of the Defense of Marriage Act on American families.

SD-226

Environment and Public Works

Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Yellowstone River oil spill.

SD-406

2 p.m.

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine providing legal services by members of the Judge Advocate Generals' Corps.

SR-232A

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine looking to the future, focusing on, lessons in prevention, response, and restoration from the Gulf oil spill.

SR-253

JULY 21

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine floods and fires, focusing on emergency preparedness for natural disasters in the native communities.

SD-628

JULY 27

2 p.m.

Armed Services

Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine financial management and business transformation at the Department of Defense.

SR-232A

JULY 28

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine enforcing the "Indian Gaming Regulatory Act", focusing on the role of the National Indian Gaming Commission and tribes as regulators.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 264, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Mississippi 2 parcels of surplus land within the boundary of the Natchez Trace Parkway, S. 265, to authorize the acquisition of core battlefield land at Champion Hill, Port Gibson, and Raymond for addition to Vicksburg National Military Park, S. 324, to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission, S. 764, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to make technical corrections to the segment designations for the Chetco River, Oregon, S. 864, to designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California, S. 883, to authorize National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor free persons and slaves who fought for independence, liberty, and justice for all during the American Revolution, S. 888, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of Illabot Creek in Skagit County, Washington, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 925, to designate Mt. Andrea Lawrence, S. 970, to designate additional segments and tributaries of White Clay Creek, in the States of Delaware and Pennsylvania, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 1063, to allow for the harvest of gull eggs by the Huna Tlingit people within Glacier Bay National Park in the State of Alaska, S. 1134, to authorize the St.

July 13, 2011

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—*Extensions of Remarks*

**E1317**

Croix River Crossing Project with appropriate mitigation measures to promote river values, and S. 1235, to recog-

nize the memorial at the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida,

as the official national memorial of Navy SEALs and their predecessors.

SD-366