

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2551) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chair, our Nation faces a significant budget deficit and a growing national debt, and we must look for simple, common sense solutions to cut spending as Congress and President Obama work toward a comprehensive, balanced deficit reduction package that will put our Nation on a path to fiscal stability. Members of Congress must lead by example.

As a State Senator in Michigan, I ran my office so efficiently that I was able to return a full year's operating budget to Michigan taxpayers. When I came to Congress at the beginning of 2009, I made it a priority to run my office efficiently, come in under budget, and return the difference to taxpayers. Last session, my office came in \$320,000 under budget, and I am continuing my efforts to save taxpayer dollars at every opportunity.

I rise today to express my support for Section 101 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2012. This provision ensures that all unused fiscal year 2012 funds from each congressional office account, known as a Member's Representational Allowance (or MRA), be deposited in the Treasury and used for deficit reduction.

Last session, I sponsored legislation that would require all future unspent MRA funds be put toward deficit reduction, and give this requirement the force of law. This bill passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support. Unfortunately, the Senate did not take action.

While it is encouraging that the legislation we consider today contains a similar provision, this will only apply to unused funds for next year. This is why I introduced H.R. 262, the bipartisan Mandatory Returning of Allowances Act with my colleague, Representative STEVE SCALISE. This bill will ensure that all future unused MRA funds, not just fiscal year 2012 funds, are automatically and permanently used for deficit reduction.

I urge my colleagues to support the Mandatory Returning of Allowances Act, and hope that House leadership will consider bringing this legislation to the floor for a vote.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND
REGINALD LEE BACHUS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Reverend Reginald Lee Bachus on the occasion of his installation as pastor of the Mount Ollie Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York.

Brooklyn has long been known as the "Borough of Churches" and has a rich history of outstanding contributions by churches of many denominations to enhancing the quality of life for its residents. The Mount Ollie Baptist Church is one such religious institution that has a long history of service to Brooklyn and has been led by a succession of outstanding clergy.

The Mount Ollie Baptist Church was organized and founded in 1932 by the late Reverend Henry Milerson and was incorporated on October 4, 1937 in Brooklyn, New York. The present edifice built under the leadership of Pastor R. D. Brown, established Mount Ollie Baptist Church as the first Baptist church to be constructed in the Brownsville community. In 1987, Reverend Spurgeon E. Crayton was called to pastor Mount Ollie Baptist Church and directed a ministry with many innovative programs that impacted the entire Borough of Brooklyn.

The installation of Reverend Reginald Lee Bachus as pastor of Mount Ollie Baptist Church continues the tradition of outstanding preachers who have led this great church. Reverend Bachus is a product of Prairie View A&M University where he earned a B.S. in electrical engineering, and Yale Divinity School where he earned his Master of Divinity degree and distinguished himself as a member of the 2009 Admissions Committee, Senior Class Officer, Chair for the Yale Divinity School Baptist Student Fellowship, and an officer of Yale Black Seminars.

The son of Reverend Reginald E. Bachus, pastor of the historic Friendship Baptist Church in Chicago, IL and grandson of Reverend Dr. C.L. Bachus, pastor of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Kansas City, KS, Pastor Bachus embodies the spirit of prophets and lives by the creed, "woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!" (1 Corinthians 9:16).

On behalf of the residents of Brooklyn, New York, I am delighted to welcome this outstanding preacher to our Borough and look forward to many years of his leadership as pastor of Mount Ollie Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Reverend Reginald Lee Bachus.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MRS.
JOANNE NOLAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mrs. Joanne Nolan, a loving wife and mother and an active member of the Northeast Ohio community.

Joanne was born in Cleveland, Ohio on October 5, 1933. She grew up in Cleveland's West Park neighborhood and attended John Marshall High School. After graduating, Joanne worked for the Erie Railroad writing reports on accidents.

Joanne married Earl Nolan, on August 2, 1957. This year would have marked their 54th anniversary. A few years later, their daughter, Janet, was born and Joanne left Erie Railroad.

Mrs. Nolan was active within her community throughout the years. She was extremely active in the PTA and could often be found at community parades. Joanne was also a dedicated member of Ward 19 Democratic Club.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Mrs. Joanne Nolan. I offer my condolences to Joanne's husband, Earl, their daughters, Kathy and Janet, and the entire West Park community. Joanne will be sorely missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 630, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

ALL IN DARKNESS'S LIGHT IN
HONOR OF A REAL AMERICAN
HERO SGT. JOSHUA W.
YARBROUGH 1/5 BRAVO COM-
PANY THE UNITED STATES MA-
RINES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a Star of Texas, a United States Marine, an American Hero, Sgt. Joshua Yarbrough of Port Arthur Texas, of 1/5 Bravo Company. On June 15, 2011, in Helmond Province in Afghanistan Sgt. Yarbrough was almost mortally wounded in an IED blast which took his two fine legs and parts of his fingers while gallantly trying to save the lives of his fellow Marines in the fog of war. After an IED explosion, which left a fellow Texan

• 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.

from Dallas, Eric Galvan, near death, he ran immediately to his side. Pulling him to safety and applying tourniquets on both his lost legs and hand, he proceeded to run to Cpl. Wheeler who was hit by shrapnel from the IED. But on the way he stepped on an IED himself, which threw him 10 ft. into the air. Losing both of his legs and parts of his fingers, his new battle had just begun. Josh joined the Marines in June of 2004, and has done tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He was married to his wife Rachael, in November 2004, and while on his 31st MEU in July of 2006 his baby boy Sean was born. Its only been only a few short weeks, but his will to live and his attitude would make any Marine proud. Hoo Rah! And with his family's support, these quiet unsung heroes. . . . Joshua has amazed us to see how far and how fast he has come. I place this tribute to Sgt. Joshua Yarbrough, penned by Albert Caswell in his honor.

ALL IN DARKNESS'S LIGHT

All
 All In Darkness's Light
 All in that fight!
 But, comes something so very special
 oh so very bright!
 All in the times of war, all in such hearts of
 faith that which so insures!
 That which so ignites!
 But come such men of honor, whose hearts
 take flight!
 While, all around them such hell so breaks!
 YOU GO I GO!
 As its there, they will not so hesitate!
 United States Marines, whose own most pre-
 cious lives will so forsake!
 All In The Darkness of Evil's Light, both day
 and night!
 Armed with but that kind of courage, which
 so make's the Angel's hearts so break!
 All In The Darkness of War's, Most Evil
 Light
 All in its fog, but comes such souls which
 burn so bright!
 Who so lead the way, to turn that
 darkness into the light!
 Because of them, and you Joshua so
 many of your Brothers In Arms live on
 this night!
 Who by all of your most gallant acts, but
 buy the time and to so save their lives!
 Is that but not what Heaven is for?
 All in that blood which binds you, you go
 ever forth!
 By all of their most heroic deeds, Bless Them
 All My Lord God Speed, God
 Speed!
 For all of their Brothers In Arms, they die
 and bleed!
 While, all in the face of hell Sargent's
 die and Sargent's lead!
 As have you Joshua, running into that face
 of death we see!
 Armed with but only your most heroic creed!
 To help a Marine all in need, all in your
 most magnificent shades of green!
 Damn right you did, with your heart of
 gold Texas T!
 For you are a United States Marine!
 As the eyes of Texas are upon you Josh, and
 we so like what we so see!
 As it was on that day in June, when your two
 strong legs were so taken away
 After one Marine's life you had so saved, to
 another one you ran that day
 As when a bomb went off, as you looked
 down all at the cost!
 All at what this war had made!
 As on the morning when you awoke, and
 your fine heart to you so spoke!
 As you so wiped all of those tears away, as
 from your heart you invoked
 The will to live, as you so realized that all
 that you so had left was but hope!

As you so reached so deep down inside, to
 find the strength to so cope!
 For you had so much to so live for, a fine
 wife and son as you went off to
 war
 And now also too for all of your Brothers In
 Arms, who live no more!
 As now you have new mountains to so climb,
 for you did not die!
 As somehow once again my Son, the courage
 you will so find!
 Already, so far you have so come as
 Thy Will Be Done!
 For from your Heart of Texas, your courage
 comes
 For you will walk, and you will run!
 As you Marine, so shine like the morning
 sun!
 And you Will Teach Us And You Will
 Beseech Us as You So Reach
 Each and Everyone!
 Step by step, day by day Marine,
 you're already on your way!
 And if I ever have a son, I wish his heart
 could be as big as your one!
 You United States Marine, you're one of the
 best things this country has ever seen!
 As one day up in Heaven you will run!
 To our Lord God, when he so says
 "come here my son!"
 Because in your life Joshua, you would not
 so let the darkness overcome!
 As your heart of faith, and your soul of cour-
 age has shone so bright!
 All, In Darkness's Light to lead us all
 the way back home!
 All In Darkness's Light!
 And that's just the way it is.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE HA-
 WAIIAN HOMEOWNERSHIP OP-
 PORTUNITIES ACT OF 2011

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunities Act of 2011. I would like to thank Congresswoman COLLEEN HANABUSA and Congressman DON YOUNG for cosponsoring this important bill.

This bill does two things. First, it reauthorizes a section of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) that supports programs that create homeownership opportunities for low-income Native Hawaiian families on Hawaiian Home Lands. Second, it would continue and expand access to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) section 184a loan guarantees, which would reduce the cost of homeownership for low-income Native Hawaiian families and would also reduce risk by lowering monthly mortgage payments.

The Congress has a long and bipartisan history of supporting Native Hawaiian housing issues. The Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunities Act of 2011 continues that tradition.

Passed by Congress in 1996, NAHASDA reauthorized a system of housing assistance provided to tribes by HUD through the Indian Housing Block Grant program. This program provides funds directly to tribes for housing development and other new approaches to create housing.

In 2000, the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant was established under NAHASDA to allow another indigenous group support for af-

fordable housing activities. Funds for this grant are administered by the State of Hawaii Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the entity charged with carrying out the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. The funds are used primarily to develop infrastructure on Hawaiian Home Lands, which tend to be in the most isolated parts of the state.

In 1921, Congress passed the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act with the purpose of establishing a homesteading program to place eligible Native Hawaiians on lands in Hawaii designated for such purpose. The law was passed at the urging of the Territory of Hawaii's Delegate to Congress, Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole. Some 204,000 acres were set aside for the purpose of providing Native Hawaiians with land.

With the passage of the Statehood Act of 1959, the control and administration of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act was transferred from the federal government to the newly formed State of Hawaii. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands was created in 1960 to administer the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.

While homeownership rates in Hawaii are typically lower than national rates, homeownership rates for Native Hawaiians in the state are even lower. In Honolulu, 38 percent of Native Hawaiians own their homes compared with 48 percent for non-natives. This disparity continues in other areas of Hawaii, where 51 percent of Native Hawaiians own their homes compared with 60 percent for non-natives.

Native Hawaiian households in Hawaii are also more likely to be low-income than non-native households. Owner households on Hawaiian home lands are among the poorest of Native Hawaiian households with approximately 25 percent having incomes at or below 50 percent of the median income for the given area.

There is a continued need for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant. I urge my colleagues to support the Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunities Act of 2011.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 631, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 25, 2011, I was unable to vote during the first vote series of the day.

Had I been present I would have voted: on rollcall No. 630—"yes"—H. Res. 363, Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2584, Department of Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2012; on rollcall No. 631—"yes"—On Approving the Journal.

REMEMBRANCE OF JESUS THOMAS
CAMPOS**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Jesus "Jesse" Thomas Campos, who died July 22, 2011 in Houston, two weeks shy of his 90th birthday.

Jesse is survived by his wife of 57 years, Esther, his son, Adrian, and his daughters, Olga and Edna, as well as numerous grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Jesse served his Nation with distinction during the Second World War, as a member of the U.S. Army from 1941–46. During the war he was assigned to the 672nd Amphibious Tank Battalion and made numerous first assault landings in the Pacific, was wounded twice, and was awarded the Purple Heart and three Bronze Stars. He was also a Pearl Harbor survivor.

Jesse was a close friend, a constituent, and an important member of our community. He was very active in our local American Legion post and with the Disabled American Veterans. He also received numerous awards for his dedication and service to our community.

His loss will be felt by family, friends, and the Greater Houston community, and I ask that you remember the family in your thoughts and prayers.

I would like to submit for the RECORD a copy of Jesse's obituary that appeared in the Houston Chronicle on July 25.

[From the Houston Chronicle, July 25, 2011]

JESUS CAMPOS

Jesus Thomas Campos, Husband, Father, Brother, Veteran and Community Leader, Jesus Thomas Campos of Houston died peacefully at home Friday, July 22, 2011. He was two weeks shy of his 90th birthday. He was born on August 6, 1921 in Goose Creek (now known as Baytown) to Maria Ramos and Jose Campos. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1941 and enlisted in the Army and served from 1941–46.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Maria Esther Estrada Campos. He is preceded in death by his parents and several siblings, as well as by his daughter, Leah Aguirre of Houston. Jesus is survived by his son, Adrian, and daughters Olga (Kevin Benz of Austin), Edna (Eldon Thomas of Houston and Asheville, NC), as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jesus was proud of his involvement in Houston's Hispanic community especially his work on behalf of various political candidates, Get-Out-the Vote efforts and improving educational opportunities for Hispanic students. He was also proud of his distinguished military record. During World War II, he was assigned to the 672nd Amphibious Tank Battalion Attached to the 15th Division. He made numerous first assault landings in the Pacific, was wounded twice and was awarded the Purple Heart, 3 Bronze Stars, an Arrowhead in the Asiatic-Pacific and World War II Campaigns and a Good Conduct Medal.

Jesus retired from Exxon after 20 years and was an active member of the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans. His recent awards and honors include the Distinguished Hispanic Volunteer from Houston Mayor Bill White in 2007; Eagles Award in 2005 from the San Jacinto Chapter

of DAV; Participant in Honor Flight #2 to visit the WWII Memorial in 2009; Fiestas Patrias Distinguished Hispanic Award 2006, recognition by numerous members of the U.S. Congress, the Texas Senate and House; the Houston City Council, the American GI Forum, and the League of United Latin American Citizens. He will be respected, loved and missed by everyone who knew him.

The family will be receiving visitors Tuesday, July 26 from 5–9 pm with a Rosary at 7 p.m. at Forest Park Lawndale, 6900 Lawndale Ave, Houston TX 77023. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, July 27 at 11 a.m. at Forest Park Lawndale. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the American GI Forum of Texas, 2626 South Loop West #320, 77054-2649, Houston, TX 77086; (713) 666-4796; www.agiftx.org. Donations will go to the Community in Housing Development which assists with housing for American Veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 632, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCING MEDICAL NEU-
TRALITY PROTECTION ACT OF
2011**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce bipartisan legislation called the Medical Neutrality Protection Act of 2011. In times of war and civil unrest, the independence of physicians and health care workers are often hindered, endangering their safety and limiting their ability to care for the wounded. I first became aware of this issue back in the 1980s during the civil war in El Salvador. The conflict ended in the early 1990s with over 75,000 people killed, some of whom were medical workers who were caught in combat or working in refugee camps. Then, as now, I was concerned that the United States was not doing enough to stop government forces from harming medical workers, who are some of the only unbiased eyewitnesses that we have on the ground.

While international humanitarian laws codify the concept of medical neutrality, we have seen systematic attacks against medical professionals by various armed forces over the last several months, particularly in the Middle East. Several independent human rights organizations—including Physicians for Human Rights and Human Rights Watch—have documented these abuses and are calling for more countries to address this disturbing trend.

This bill elevates the protection of medical professionals as a policy priority for U.S. government so that countries that attack doctors and shut hospitals will no longer be able to carry out business as usual. Under this Act, the Secretary of State will be required to maintain and regularly update a list of countries that violate medical neutrality. Countries on

this list will not qualify for certain military assistance, and government officials from the violating countries will not be eligible for visas to travel to the United States. The bill also calls for the creation of a United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Protection and Promotion of Medical Neutrality.

The issue of protecting doctors and access to medical care is not a partisan issue. This is a common sense bill that fills a void in foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker, Speaker, I would also like to submit a letter of support from Physicians for Human Rights.

PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS,

Washington, DC, July 26, 2011.

Hon. JIM McDERMOTT,

House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE McDERMOTT: Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) congratulates you and Representative Walter Jones (R-NC) for introducing the Medical Neutrality Protection Act of 2011, an important bill that will protect medical neutrality around the world.

Medical professionals often risk their lives and security to provide essential services, and they must be able to uphold this duty to patients and others in need without fear of violence, retribution, or arbitrary arrest. The importance of protecting medical professionals, facilities, and transport from attack makes up the foundation for the norm of medical neutrality, which is firmly grounded in international humanitarian law, professional codes and ethics, and international human rights law. Violations of medical neutrality include attacks on health care facilities, medical personnel, and patients; wanton destruction of medical supplies; willful obstruction of medical ethics; deliberate misuse of health care facilities, services, uniforms, or insignia; deliberate blocking of access to health care facilities and care; and arbitrary arrest or detention of medical professionals or patients.

PHR researchers documented violations of medical neutrality related to uprisings in Bahrain earlier this year including the government's takeover of hospitals, intimidation of patients, and arrest and prosecution of doctors as part of its crackdown on popular dissent. The Medical Neutrality Protection Act of 2011 would allow the United States to promptly respond to such violations.

"Physicians for Human Rights and the medical community are deeply grateful to Congressmen Jim McDermott and Walter Jones for their outstanding leadership on the issue of medical neutrality," said Dr. Robert Lawrence, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Physicians for Human Rights. "The Medical Neutrality Protection Act of 2011 for the first time shines a bright light on serious human rights violations which strike at the heart of communities at large all over the world. The act introduced today in the U.S. House of Representatives makes it crystal clear that the United States will not tolerate any attacks under any circumstances on medical professionals, hospitals, equipment and supplies, or will turn a blind eye to any interference with the ability to seek medical treatment or the ability to provide it without concern of politics, religious affiliation, or ethnic background. We urge the U.S. Congress to pass this crucial piece of legislation immediately, and call on President Obama to sign it into law."

Thank you for taking a stand against violations of medical neutrality and supporting the efforts of medical professionals worldwide.

Sincerely,

PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COMBAT
MARINE OUTDOORS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a great American hero and the exceptional organization he founded—the Combat Marine Outdoors—which exists to serve our severely wounded Marines, soldiers, airmen, and sailors with unique and extraordinary opportunities to participate in outdoor hunting and fishing excursions. As we all know, behind every great endeavor there is a great personality. In this case, that great personality, that person of extraordinary character, is United States Marine Corps Colonel Alan Orr.

Colonel Orr, while a solid Marine Corps Artillery officer (and in full disclosure my former battalion commander), is a special man whose love for our Marines, sailors and soldiers extends from the front lines of battle to the hospitals where our wounded warriors recover, and most exceptionally, to life past the battlefield. Extending beyond the stifling halls of military hospitals and recovery barracks, Colonel Orr, along with a group of dedicated hunters, ranch owners and patriots, have reinstilled our wounded heroes to the realization that excitement, adventure and Teddy Roosevelt's "Strenuous Life" doesn't end with their service wounds.

In 2005, Combat Marine Outdoors founding members Colonel Orr, Rusty Hicks, Master Gunnery Sergeant Arturo Garcia and my father, former Congressman Duncan L. Hunter, visited wounded Marines from the 1st Marine Division at Brooke Army Medical Center. None were strangers to what they saw—they witnessed the full impact of war injuries. But it was their actions that made all the difference. They responded by creating an organization that would not only accelerate the recovery process, but restore hope in our servicemen and women.

In collaboration with thousands of contributors and over 50 ranches, the Combat Marine Outdoors has provided well over 200 wounded veterans from Balboa Hospital to Walter Reed with the opportunity to hunt and fish, often at a once-in-a-lifetime adventure location, such as the Two Dot Ranch and the Y.O. Ranch in Texas. These outdoor experiences on ranches, bays and lakes foster the opportunity to engage in a challenging experience that promotes teamwork and camaraderie. In many cases, these excursions facilitated a turning point in emotional recovery through a challenging experience that helps our wounded military men and women regain confidence through a sense of accomplishment.

A story then: a United States Marine wounded in combat, blinded, with both legs amputated. He sits in Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, waiting to recover and wondering what his future holds. For a weekend, he is taken by Colonel Orr and his band of patriots to an American treasure, the Texas Ranch. In the great outdoors, this blind, double amputee is, amazingly, guided by Colonel Orr and successfully shoots a big game animal. The excitement and feeling of accomplishment and the outdoors is no less real for this Marine for the fact that he cannot see his

trophy. He has lived the hunt and is more alive for it.

While many people, myself included, make the effort to show our veterans our appreciation, whether hunting elk in Colorado or deep sea fishing in San Diego, the exceptional few transition good intentions and singular acts of compassion into a systematic execution of true benevolent action. Colonel Orr is the consummate professional, more versed in the art of artillery than any officer I have ever known. But his impact is immeasurable when he takes one of our country's greatest treasures and returns the excitement of "living life" to him. That is the beauty of what Colonel Orr has accomplished through Combat Marine Outdoors.

Mr. Speaker, most Americans will never know the pain and discomfort of combat, or what those who bear the scars of war feel when the smoke clears and they return home. But when they do return, what we can do beyond providing the care that restores the highest quality of life and self-reliance is to open doors that give new meaning, encouragement and excitement to those who were willing to sacrifice everything so that we can stay safe. This is what Combat Marine Outdoors is all about.

As a veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, I am pleased to support the mission and service of the Combat Marine Outdoors for our wounded service personnel, and I am honored to have served with Colonel Alan Orr, a man who not only epitomizes military discipline, but exudes a steady compassion and love for our young warriors through a life of service above self. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this exceptional organization and the exceptional man who started it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 633, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RETIREMENT OF MARVIN L.
BERENSON

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the retirement of Marvin L. Berenson, the Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Broadcast Music, Inc. ("BMI") after 35 years of service to the organization. BMI licenses the public-performing rights on approximately 6.5 million musical works on behalf of its 500,000 affiliated songwriters, composers and music publishers.

Mr. Berenson joined BMI in 1976 as a member of the legal staff specializing in copyright litigation. He was named Senior Vice President and General Counsel in 1991. During his tenure, Mr. Berenson actively participated in the modernization of copyright law, from the Copyright Revision Act of 1976 to the Berne

Convention Implementation Act of 1988 to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998. On multiple occasions, he testified before Congress and the Copyright Office, and he served on the staff of the National Information Infrastructure Advisory Committee during the Clinton Administration.

Throughout his legal career, Mr. Berenson honed and maintained a reputation for fundamental fairness and good judgment. As part of his advocacy, he developed a disarming sense of humor. He fervently reflected the spirit and history of BMI as an open collective rights licensing organization. During congressional testimony, he explained: "Most BMI affiliates are ordinary citizens who receive a modest income for the creative efforts of writing music that is publicly performed by others. There can be no question that the majority of songwriters are not wealthy. They struggle to make a living, day to day, just as the average citizen does."

Mr. Berenson's present and past industry affiliations include member and past Treasurer of the Copyright Society of the USA, member of the Board of Directors of the American Copyright Council, staff member of the National Information Infrastructure Advisory Council, Executive Board of the International Literary and Artistic Association—USA, Intellectual Property Organization, American Bar Association—Intellectual Property Section, and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York—Antitrust Section. He also served on the CISAC (International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers) Technical Committee for the Promotion of Repertoire, and currently serves on the CISAC Legal Committee.

Mr. Berenson graduated from Michigan State University in 1963 and from Boston University Law School in 1966. With his spouse Gloria, he raised two children, a son Harris and a daughter Allison. The Berensons are the proud grandparents of three grandchildren.

As Del Bryant, BMI's President and CEO, put it: "Marvin has worked diligently and uncompromisingly to protect the interests of songwriters, composers and music publishers for the past 35 years, and we all in the music industry salute his valuable contributions." Bryant added that Mr. Berenson would "be leaving his department and BMI in an excellent position to deal with the many complex and challenging legal issues we face."

Mr. Speaker, because of Mr. Berenson's work, our Nation's songwriters, composers and publishers will be the beneficiaries for generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF VINCENT TURNER FOR BEING NAMED CHAPLAIN OF THE YEAR BY THE UNITED STATES CORPS OF CHAPLAINS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a special Chaplain today, Vincent Turner.

Chaplain (Second Lieutenant) Turner of Alabama was named Chaplain of the Year by the United States Corps of Chaplains for 2011.

Turner has always been committed to helping others and serving God and country both through the United States Corps of Chaplains and the American Legion and Disabled Veterans.

I'm proud to congratulate Chaplain Turner on this great achievement and hope he will continue his service to God, to the United States and helping people in need. Congratulations, Chaplain Turner.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 634, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING HARMONY SENIOR
DRUM CORPS'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harmony Senior Drum Corps, a non-profit band group based in the Town of Boonton, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

The Harmony Senior Drum Corps traces its origins back to St. Mary's Flute and Drum Band, organized in 1886 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Boonton, New Jersey. Originally founded as an all-male group, one of the St. Mary's Flute and Drum Band's most memorable events was its participation in the parade to dedicate the New Jersey State Firemen's Home in 1900. During World War I, trumpets were added to the band and its name was changed to the Harmony Fife and Drum Corps when it started practicing in the Harmony Engine House in Boonton. After bells were added in the 1930's, the name was again changed, this time to the Harmony Fife, Drum and Trumpet Corps. It was not until 1965 that Harmony Senior Drum Corps became the group's official name.

Over the years, the group has participated in many grand events in Boonton. The Harmony Senior Drum Corps has welcomed home veterans from both World Wars and the Gulf War, played at the celebration of Boonton's Centennial and the United States' Bicentennial in 1976, and the passing of the Olympic Torch. Additionally, the Harmony Senior Drum Corps has participated in local parade competitions, earning its first marching trophy in 1961 at a competition in Denville, New Jersey.

The Harmony Senior Drum Corps has not restricted itself to local events. Their members have marched in New York City for the St. Patrick's Day, Salute to Israel and Puerto Rican Day parades. In 1976, the Corps played at Yankee Stadium during the World Series between the Cincinnati Reds and the New York Yankees.

In 1988, the Harmony Senior Drum Corps opened up membership to women in order to

increase their membership. Many generations of the same family play and have played in the group. Presently, 50 members between the ages of 10 and 70 march, performing with fifes, bells, trumpets, baritones, drums and cymbals, as well as a color guard, while wearing distinct black and white West Point style uniforms.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of the Harmony Senior Drum Corps as they celebrate 125 years of providing our community with wonderful music and performances.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was not present during the rollcall votes number 630–631, on June 25, 2011. I would have voted:

On rollcall vote No. 630 I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 631 would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 635, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCTION OF THE ACCESS TO
BIRTH CONTROL ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Access to Birth Control, ABC, Act in the House with Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG leading the effort in the Senate.

Ninety-eight percent of American women use birth control over the course of their lifetime. This bill ensures that any woman who would like birth control and who has a legal prescription or is seeking over-the-counter emergency contraception, will be able to get it in a timely and convenient manner.

The ABC Act would make it illegal for a pharmacist to refuse to return a birth control prescription or for a pharmacist to intimidate, threaten or harass customers or intentionally breach or threaten to breach medical confidentiality.

By placing the burden of responsibility on the pharmacy, the ABC Act strikes a balance between the rights of individual pharmacists based on their beliefs and the right of women to receive medication. If the request product is not in stock, but the pharmacy stocks other forms of contraception, the bill mandates that the pharmacy help the woman obtain the medication without delay by the method of her preference (order, referral or a transferred prescription).

Very simply, this legislation ensures a woman's legal access to birth control.

Over the past several years, there have been reports of pharmacists refusing to fill prescriptions for birth control pills.

There have been reports in at least twenty-four states across the nation including: Arizona, Massachusetts, Washington and Missouri. These refusals are based on personal or religious beliefs, not on legitimate medical or professional concerns related to quality of patient care. In some cases, pharmacist have kept and refused to transfer a prescription, refused to sell over-the-counter emergency contraception, or given the customer false medical information about the requested birth control. Pharmacists have taken it upon themselves to decide whose prescription they will fill and which over-the-counter medication they will provide.

This bill is particularly timely as just last week, the Institute of Medicine, IOM, recommended that family-planning services, including the full range of FDA-approved contraceptive methods, be recognized as a preventive-health service that must be covered by insurance plans without additional costs.

This recommendation from the IOM marks an important first step toward near-universal contraceptive coverage in America, but if women are denied the actual contraceptives when they go to their pharmacist, having no-cost contraceptives is rendered meaningless. We must ensure that American women do not face obstacles when seeking doctor prescribed, legal medications.

The Access to Birth Control Act, ABC ACT, is an important step in protecting a woman's right to contraception. Birth control and emergency contraception are part of a women's basic health care and pharmacists should not have the right to interfere.

IMPROVING CONSUMER PROTECTIONS FOR MEDIGAP INSURANCE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Medigap Medical Loss Ratio Improvement Act. The legislation improves consumer protections in the Medigap marketplace by raising the minimum percentage of premium dollars that must go toward medical care. I'm joined by my colleagues HENRY WAXMAN, Ranking Democrat on the Energy and Commerce Committee, and FRANK PALLONE, Ranking Democrat on the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee as original cosponsors of the legislation. Senator KERRY (D-MA) is introducing the companion bill in the Senate.

The medical loss ratio, MLR, is the percentage of premium dollars an insurance plan spends on the provision of medical care, rather than administrative costs, profits, executive compensation, or other expenses. It is an important point of information for consumers because it is a concrete way for people to measure the value of a health insurance product and to compare among other plans in the marketplace.

As part of the new health reform law, insurers in the private health insurance marketplace must now meet a minimum medical loss

ratio percentage of 80 percent in the individual market and 85 percent in the group marketplace. The law also requires all Medicare Advantage plans, private plans offered through Medicare, to meet an 85 percent MLR standard by 2014.

In 1990, Congress first passed legislation standardizing Medigap policies and instituting minimum MLR standards in reaction to evidence of widespread sale of duplicative policies with high overhead. Today, more than nine million Medicare beneficiaries purchase private supplemental Medigap policies to help cover cost sharing and deductibles in traditional Medicare.

The Medigap Medical Loss Ratio Improvement Act updates the MLR standards for Medigap insurers—increasing the percentages to levels put forth in health reform for other products. Specifically, it will raise the MLR from 65 percent to 80 percent in the individual market and from 75 percent to 85 percent in the group marketplace. To give insurers time to prepare for this change, it would not become effective until 2014.

It is endorsed by organizations representing millions of senior citizens and consumers of all ages, including: AARP, AFSCME, Alliance of Retired Americans, Center for Medicare Advocacy, Community Catalyst, Families USA, Health Care for America Now, Medicare Rights Center, National Council on Aging, and the National Senior Citizens Law Center.

In endorsing the bill, AARP highlights that, “AARP supports this change because it will provide greater transparency and accountability for expenditures made by health insurance issuers, and encourage them to become more efficient in their operations to help ensure that consumers receive fair value for their premium dollars.”

This bill should garner bipartisan support. At a February 10, 2011 hearing in the Ways and Means Committee, a Republican Member questioned CMS Actuary Rick Foster about this issue: “. . . Medigap policies that seniors purchase to supplement traditional Medicare are only required to meet a medical loss ratio of 65 percent . . . do you think that the MLR policy should be applied equitably across the line?” He answered that “. . . you could probably make a good case that if it makes sense in general then it would make sense for the broader spectrum, including Medigap policies.” The Member responded, “Well, I would think that most people would agree that if we are going to do something we should do it equally.”

I agree. That’s exactly what we’re doing with the Medigap Medical Loss Ratio Improvement Act today—we are extending a commonsense consumer protection to private Medigap plans. I encourage our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us to enact this sensible improvement to existing law for those who purchase private Medigap insurance.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 636, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was honored to be one of the featured speakers at an important session of the 102nd Annual Convention of the NAACP, which is being held in Los Angeles, California. My participation in this important event necessitated my remaining in my congressional district on Monday, July 25, 2011. Consequently, I was unable to return in time for rollcall votes Nos. 630, through 636.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

1. On rollcall No. 630, I would have voted “no” (July 25)—(H. Res. 363, Providing for consideration of H.R. 2584, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes).

2. On rollcall No. 631, I would have voted “aye” (July 25)—(On Approving the Journal).

3. On rollcall No. 632, I would have voted “aye” (July 25)—(Moran Amendment to H.R. 2584, Interior and Environment Appropriations Act for FY 2012).

4. On rollcall No. 633, I would have voted “no” (July 25)—(Huelskamp Amendment to H.R. 2584, Interior and Environment Appropriations Act for FY 2012).

5. On rollcall No. 634, I would have voted “aye” (July 25)—(Cleaver Amendment to H.R. 2584, Interior and Environment Appropriations Act for FY 2012).

6. On rollcall No. 635, I would have voted “aye” (July 25)—(Richmond Amendment to H.R. 2584, Interior and Environment Appropriations Act for FY 2012).

7. On rollcall No. 636, I would have voted “aye” (July 25)—(Hochul Amendment to H.R. 2584, Interior and Environment Appropriations Act for FY 2012).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain my absence from votes cast on the afternoon of July 25, 2011. My voting percentage is 98 percent for the 112th Congress, and I rarely miss votes, but yesterday, I was absent due to a prior commitment scheduled before we knew the House would be in session on Monday.

On the votes I missed: on the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2584—Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012, had I been present, I would have voted “no”; and on the Journal vote, had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

TRIBUTE TO THE VERY REVEREND
KENNETH F. GADDY, C.Ss.R.

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding faith and community leader from my congressional district in the U.S. Virgin Islands, The Very Reverend Kenneth F. Gaddy, C.Ss.R., a Redemptorist priest who has served the St. Croix community for 21 years.

On Sunday, July 31, 2011, the Holy Cross Catholic Church will honor Father Gaddy for his years of bountiful service to the Church and the parish before he leaves the Virgin Islands for a new assignment. Born to the late John and Beatrice Gaddy, Father Gaddy was the third of six children. He attended Catholic school for elementary and part of his secondary education. In 1977, Father Gaddy entered the Redemptorist Formation system, in Northeast, Pennsylvania. He went on to further his studies and in 1984, he graduated from St. Alphonsus College in Suffield, Connecticut, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy. Father Gaddy completed his theological studies at Washington Theological Union in 1988 and on May 14, 1988, he was ordained to the priesthood.

Father Gaddy’s first assignment was to St. Boniface Church, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In January of 1990, he was reassigned to St. Patrick’s Catholic Church on the island of Saint Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, and arrived in the Virgin Islands during a tremendously challenging time in our history—just months after Hurricane Hugo devastated the island of Saint Croix. He served as an Associate Pastor for six years, and then in August of 1996 he was appointed Pastor of St. Patrick’s Catholic Church. Father Gaddy served as Pastor for 9 years before he was appointed director of the Blessed Peter Donders Formation Residence in July of 2006.

Mr. Speaker, in July of 2008, Father Gaddy was appointed pastor of Holy Cross Catholic Church on Saint Croix, where he is currently serving. He credits two Redemptorists, The Rev. Jerome Moody and The Rev. Henrique Schulerbrandt, for encouraging and supporting him in his decision to pursue his studies to the priesthood. Several years later he was introduced to Rev. Carlyle Blake, another Redemptorist, whose friendship and mentorship continue to this day.

Father Gaddy believes firmly that we stand on the shoulders of those who precede us and it is our responsibility to keep their memory and contributions alive and to provide shoulders for those who come behind us to stand on. He also believes that we are all responsible for building upon what has been entrusted to us and that we are to leave our community better than as we inherited it.

The Saint Croix community will not soon forget the ministry of Father Gaddy, his impassioned sermons, his wise and down-to-earth demeanor, and most certainly we will not forget his infectious laughter and kind-hearted smile. He is a great listener who exudes sincerity and humbleness.

He has shared our ups and our downs, our trials and our triumphs, our grief and our joys and has become a much beloved and integral

part of our community. We wish that Father Gaddy were not being reassigned, but wherever he goes, however far, he will always be a Virgin Islander and more so a Crucian.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands and a grateful flock, I wish Father Gaddy continued success, and on behalf of the Congress of the United States, thank him for his long, dedicated and bountiful service to the parish of Holy Cross, the community of St. Croix and the Diocese of the U.S. Virgin islands. May God continue to richly bless him with good health and long life in service to the Almighty God.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

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

(1) "Nay" on rollcall 630, On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 363—Providing for consideration of H.R. 2584, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes.

(2) "Yea" on rollcall 631, On Approving the Journal.

(3) "Yea" on rollcall 632, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2584—Moran of Virginia Amendment.

(4) "Nay" on rollcall 633, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2584—Huelskamp of Kansas Amendment.

(5) "Yea" on rollcall 634, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2584—Cleaver of Missouri Amendment.

(6) "Yea" on rollcall 635, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2584—Richmond of Louisiana Amendment.

(7) "Yea" on rollcall 636, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2584—Hochul of New York Amendment.