

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF GENERAL JAMES E. CARTWRIGHT

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to General James E. Cartwright, who is retiring this week after forty years of accomplished and distinguished military service. Throughout his career as a senior officer, General Cartwright has provided invaluable testimony and advice to this body, and in particular to the Armed Services Committee. From U.S. operations in Afghanistan, to missile defenses in Europe, to Department of Defense efficiencies—General Cartwright has provided his expert military advice on a wide range of defense and national security issues. I think I speak for all of my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee when I say that his depth of knowledge, outstanding leadership and professionalism, and deep respect and consideration for all of our men and women in uniform will be greatly missed.

General James "Hoss" Cartwright was born and raised in Rockford, Illinois, where he showed an early affinity for the military as a member of the Junior ROTC. After graduating from the University of Iowa in 1971, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. During his career as a Marine aviator, General Cartwright served as a Flight Officer in the F-4 and as a pilot in the F-4, OA-4 and F-18. In 1983, he was named outstanding Carrier Aviator by the Association of Naval Aviation. His flying career culminated with command of the First Marine Aircraft Wing in Okinawa, Japan from 2000 to 2002.

After a brief assignment as the Director for Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment (J-8) on the Joint Staff, in 2004 then-Lieutenant General Cartwright was selected for promotion to full General and became the first Marine Corps officer to lead United States Strategic Command. As Commander, General Cartwright led STRATCOM through a period of transition as the military adapted and evolved to confront an increasingly dynamic strategic environment. General Cartwright led development and implementation of strategies to integrate the military's approaches to cyber, space, nuclear proliferation, and missile defense and reorganized STRATCOM to increase interagency cooperation.

Over the last four years, General Cartwright has served as the eighth Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Through my roles as Ranking Member and now Chairman of the Armed Services Committee I have had the pleasure of working directly with General Cartwright during this time. He has faithfully executed his oath of office and constitutional duties and provided the President and Congress with honest, direct, and sound advice. He is a

model Vice Chairman and a model Marine, and will leave a lasting legacy on our Armed Forces.

He is also a tremendous advocate for soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. General Cartwright's efforts to accelerate procurement and deployment of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle saved countless lives. He has leveraged his knowledge of technology and Department of Defense resourcing processes to streamline acquisition and deliver a variety of desperately needed new capabilities to the troops in the field. Most important of all, however, General Cartwright is a steadfast champion of our wounded warriors, our troops who have given their lives in service to their country, and their families.

For forty years General Cartwright has performed his job professionally, honestly, and with great dedication. We will miss his leadership and vision, and wish him all the best as he takes off the uniform for the last time.

A TRIBUTE TO ARCHIE WARNER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Archie Warner for his professionalism as a public servant for the United States Postal Service and for his contribution to the Brooklyn community.

Mr. Warner has been promoted throughout the Postal system in a relatively quick manner during his 38 year tenure. Mr. Warner's long and successful career began with an appointment in the United States Postal Service as a Distribution Machine Operator. He was then promoted to Supervisor of Mails, then another later position as a supervisor.

During his time at the USPS, Mr. Warner was promoted several times in the Customer Services sector. He was promoted to Manager of Customer Services EAS 18, followed by another promotion to a higher level Manager, EAS 21, and finally promoted in 2000 to Manager, Customer Services Operations or Area Manager for the North. This area encompasses Cadman Plaza Station, Pratt Station, Metropolitan Station, Williamsburg Station, Brownsville Station, Bushwick Station, Greenpoint Station, Red Hook Station, Shirley Chisholm Station, Wyckoff Heights Station and the Collections Unit.

Throughout his loyal career with the USPS, Mr. Warner is most proud of when he became the manager of Brownsville. For Mr. Warner working as the manager of Brownsville he was able to see firsthand how the station changed for the better, and in turn improved the community. Mr. Warner has enjoyed working with the United States Postal Service and views his contribution as a direct service to community businesses and citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Archie Warner.

ON THE ACTIONS OF THE KOSOVO GOVERNMENT AND BORDER PATROL

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the recent violence in Kosovo and applaud the actions of the Border Patrol of the Kosovar government. As a sovereign, independent state, Kosovo deserves the right to protect its citizens and patrol its border. I strongly support Kosovo for maintaining control over its border with Serbia. Since Kosovo declared her independence in 2008, Serbia has consistently discriminated against Kosovars and prevented the region from accepting her legitimacy.

Recently, Kosovar authorities banned goods coming in from Serbia with the intention of countering their northern neighbor's rejection of Kosovo's statehood and Serbia's boycott of Kosovo's produce. It is vital that the Kosovar government re-establish territorial integrity within its borders. With increased uncertainty on her country's northern border, Kosovar special police units launched an operation to gain complete control over the border crossing with Serbia to prevent the continued flow of illegal goods from Serbia. In order for Kosovo to continue to join the developed world, it is necessary for them to have authority over their own economy. I also rise to express my gratitude for NATO peacekeepers that have arrived to maintain peace along the border.

I am proud to represent a large and vibrant community of Kosovar Americans in southeast Michigan. Many of my constituents have relatives along the Kosovo/Serbia border and I know that they are deeply concerned about the security of their loved ones and the prospect for Kosovo remaining an independent nation. Recognized by nearly 80 nations across the globe, Kosovo deserves to be a player on the world stage and I stand with their freedom-loving people who thirst for true independence.

ERIN NISSEN TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Erin Nissen, this year's 42nd Annual Ag and Tech Awards 2011 Outstanding Ag Student of the Year. Ms. Nissen was one of 200 students who attended this year's event, but only one of two students honored with the award.

The Outstanding Ag Student of the Year award is considered one of the more prestigious agriculture awards, but it sits only in the shadows of Ms. Nissen's other accomplishments. As a student at Northeastern Junior College (NJC), Ms. Nissen was a member

• 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.

of the honor's association, Phi Theta Kappa. In addition, she served as the president of the Farm Bureau Chapter, president of the Plainsmen Shooters Club, and was a member of the Post-Secondary Agriculture Students at NJC.

In her community, Ms. Nissen volunteered at the Logan County Literacy Coalition, and was also awarded with the Rising Star distinction among community college students in Colorado. Ms. Nissen recently graduated from NJC with an associate's degree in general studies. In the fall, she plans to major in agricultural business at Texas Tech University.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Erin Nissen. She demands excellence in every area of her life, which has helped her to win one of the most prestigious agriculture awards in the nation—an award well deserved.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES
AURORA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. James Aurora for his exceptional service to his community and the youth.

James Aurora is a third generation of owners of the now famous Sonny's Collision Specialists in Brooklyn, New York. This renowned business has been serving the community for 60 years and has gained a distinct reputation for quality customer service.

Mr. Aurora has built an operation that employs 25 professionals that offer clients guaranteed personal attention. In the years that Mr. Aurora has been operating Sonny's Collision Specialists he has never known any unsatisfied customers. Every customer of Sonny's has only experienced top notch service in the most expeditious manner.

Jimmy Aurora knows the importance of giving. Sonny's is not only a staple in the community for their expertise in auto body collisions, but they are famous for their giving spirit. Mr. Aurora on a yearly basis has sponsored cricket teams, baseball leagues, and boys clubs, along with donating thousands of dollars towards Autism awareness and The American Cancer Society. He has not only provided a necessary service to his community but he has found the means to give more to those in dire need.

Mr. Aurora lives by the company's motto: "Perfection is not an accident." Jimmy proudly represents his heritage and family legacy by ensuring that Sonny's Collision Specialists continues to be a leader and trendsetter in auto body collision work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. James Aurora.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED STATES REAUTHOR-
IZATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2480, "The Administrative Conference of the United States Reauthorization Act of 2011," which authorizes \$2.75 million in appropriations to the Administrative Conference of the United States for each of the fiscal years from 2012 through 2014. The Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS) is considered both an independent agency and a federal advisory committee, and is charged with providing guidance to Congress on matters of administrative law. The recommendations put forth by the ACUS have resulted in significant savings and increases the efficiency of federal agencies.

As a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I have the privilege of having worked closely with the Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS) over the years and become familiarized with many of their initiatives. ACUS is a federal agency charged with making recommendations for the improvement of administrative agencies and their procedures, particularly with respect to efficiency and fairness.

The ACUS was established 50 years ago by President John F. Kennedy and became a permanent independent agency in less than 4 years. The purpose of the ACUS is to develop recommendations for improving procedures by which federal agencies administer regulatory, benefit, and other government programs; the ACUS has served as a private-public think tank that conducts basic research on how to improve the regulatory and legal process. It has broad jurisdiction over administrative procedure to study the efficiency, adequacy, and fairness of the administrative procedure used by administrative agencies in carrying out administrative programs, and make recommendations to administrative agencies, collectively or individually, and to the President, Congress, or the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Further, the ACUS facilitates the interchange among administrative agencies of information potentially useful in improving administrative procedure, collects information and statistics from administrative agencies and has published extensive reports evaluating and improving administrative procedure.

The members of the ACUS represent both the public and private sectors. Individuals from private sector members are generally attorneys and scholars selected to ensure broad representation of the views of private citizens and utilize diverse experience. Over the years its membership spans the ideological spectrum. For example, Justice Antonin Scalia, before his appointment to the bench, served as the chair of ACUS from 1972 to 1974. Justice Breyer was a member of ACUS and actively participated in its activities from 1981 to 1994. In the past, both Justices Breyer and Scalia testified in strong support of ACUS. According to Justice Breyer, "The Administrative Conference is unique in that it develops its recommendations by bringing together at least

four important groups of people: top-level agency administrators; professional agency staff; private (including "public interest") practitioners; and academicians. ACUS will typically commission a study by an academician . . . who often has the time to conduct the study. . . . The professor will spend time with agency staff. . . . The professor's draft will be reviewed . . . by private practitioners, who bring to it a critically important practical perspective. The upshot is likely to be a work-product that draws upon many different points of view, that is practically helpful and that commends general acceptance." (Letter from Justice Stephen Breyer to Sen. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, Chair, Subcomm. on Administrative Oversight and the Courts of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary (Aug. 21, 1995).

The ACUS has made many government wide recommendations; among its most influential recommendations have been ACUS's proposals facilitating judicial review of agency decisions and eliminating various technical impediments to such review. They recommended a model administrative civil penalty statute that has served as the basis for dozens of pieces of legislation. The ACUS has developed and promoted procedures implementing the Negotiated Rulemaking Act, which encourages consensual resolution in a process that takes into account the needs of various affected interests. In addition, ACUS is credited with playing a prominent role in improving the nation's legal system by issuing recommendations designed "to eliminate excessive litigation costs and long delays." For example, Congress, in response to an ACUS recommendation, passed the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act in 1990, which established a framework for agencies to resolve administrative litigation through alternative dispute resolution. It has been noted that half of the budget of ACUS is devoted to trying to find ways to reduce, or eliminate government litigation within and by the Government. The ACUS saves tax payers dollars and in a time of economic crisis every penny counts.

The ACUS serves to focus attention on the need for the federal government to be made more efficient, less big, and more accountable. It was viewed as one of the leading federal proponents of practical ways to reduce administrative litigation. In this regard, ACUS actively promoted information-technology initiatives, such as developing methods by which the public could participate electronically in agency rulemaking proceedings to increase public access to government information and foster greater openness in government operations.

We have witnessed a number of successes under the ACUS. The ACUS is a vital tool in improving upon a process. There has been a lot of talk on the Hill of late about efficiency, streamlining process, and reducing costs. The fundamental purpose of the ACUS is to find out how to ensure that our government is operating in the most effective manner possible. The more efficiently we are able to operate the lower our cost. It has been estimated that ACUS saved the federal government and the private sector many multiples of its expenditure over the years it was in operation. Just one agency alone—the Social Security Administration—estimated that ACUS's recommendation to change that agency's appeals process would result in approximately \$85 million in savings. ACUS helped federal agencies

to implement the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act of 1990, which resulted in savings estimated to be many millions of dollars. The President of the American Arbitration Association asserted that ACUS's encouragement of ADR saved "millions of dollars that would otherwise be frittered away in litigation costs."

Accordingly, the elimination of ACUS in 1995 was described by several observers as being "penny-wise, pound foolish." Even after its demise in 1995, Congress continued to assign ACUS various responsibilities apparently unaware of the Conference's termination. Finally, after a 15-year hiatus, ACUS was reauthorized and appropriated funding.

Currently, President Obama nominated Paul R. Verkuil to serve as chair of ACUS in November 2009 and he was confirmed by the Senate in March 2010. The ACUS formally resumed operations in April 2010.

Then since its recent Reauthorization the ACUS has started to do what it does best figuring out ways to decrease expenses and increase efficiency. Current cost-saving projects underway at ACUS include the following:

A study on the use of video hearings in administrative agencies and how they can generate "significant savings;" a study on rule-making that focuses on the legal and logistical issues presented by transitioning from a paper-based system to an electronic system for handling rulemaking comments, an examination into how international regulatory cooperation could be improved and lead to trade harmonization.

Over the course of its existence, ACUS has promulgated approximately 200 recommendations to improve the administrative process, many of which were implemented, which, in turn, helped save taxpayers many millions of dollars. ACUS is an invaluable instrument established by us that has resulted in significant improvements to federal administrative law.

ROBERT POLLARD TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to rise in tribute of Dr. Robert Pollard, for being recognized in "Great Stories on Halls in Walls," a program that he founded.

The Great Stories on Halls in Walls project is a great way to appreciate and share the lives and stories of the alumni, faculty, staff and friends of Adams State College. Funds raised from the donations for these dedications are given to the Adams State College Foundation to provide active leadership, direction and expertise in college fund-raising efforts.

The first member in his family to attend college, Pollard attended Adams State and returned to Alamosa after serving in the U.S. Army in the Colorado National Guard Unit. Mr. Pollard later received his doctorate degree from Stanford University.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Robert Pollard is a man who should be recognized for his outstanding and generous character, which is worthy of praise and admiration.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. HARVEY LAWRENCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Harvey Lawrence and his exceptional service to the public health of his community and his ongoing public service career.

Mr. Lawrence began his career by attaining a Master of Science degree in Management Science and Policy Analysis from Harriman college and SUNY Stony Brook. He is also a graduate of the Johnson & Johnson/UCLA Health Care Executive Certificate Program.

Mr. Lawrence has been serving in the capacity of President and CEO of the Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center since January 2009. Before his ascent to President, Mr. Lawrence served as the Corporation's Executive Vice President and COO. Working with the Brownsville Family Health Center since 1994, Mr. Lawrence has been responsible for most of the new initiatives and expansions the corporation has taken on.

Using his vast experience in public finance and non-profit development, Mr. Lawrence has been able to accelerate the growth of this corporation and provide more services to the public. Mr. Lawrence began his public service career as Management Trainee at the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey and quickly gained experience in NYC's Office of Economic Development.

Mr. Lawrence is a former non-profit developer for affordable housing and vice president in the investment banking, public finance and real estate divisions of the former Manufacturers Hanover Trust Bank. Using his knowledge, Mr. Lawrence maintains his position as the executive director of the city's industrial commercial incentive board and senior finance/development director at the NYC Public Development Corporation.

Mr. Lawrence is a man of exceptional character and one that has been humbled through his ability to serve those with greater needs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. Harvey Lawrence.

IN HONOR OF THE WOMEN'S CIVIC IMPROVEMENT CLUB

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Women's Civic Improvement Club, WCIC, as they celebrate their 75th anniversary. It is my pleasure to recognize the Women's Civic Improvement Club's dedication to promoting the professional and personal growth of members of the Sacramento region. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring their leadership.

The Women's Civic Improvement Club began in 1936 as the Negro Women's Civic

Improvement Club. The Club was created to provide housing for African American women that had moved to Sacramento to work at the McClellan Air Force Base. At the time, racial segregation and the financial devastation of the Great Depression made finding a safe home next to impossible for many women. In 1945, the Club's Board of Directors signed incorporation papers and the name was changed, making it the WCIC that we know of today. Throughout all of the changes our nation has faced since 1936, the WCIC has remained strong and relevant to those of us in Sacramento.

Over the course of the last 75 years, the WCIC has evolved into an organization that helps people from low-income and disadvantaged families. The Club has expanded to include several new programs, helping individuals of all ages grow through community involvement. Their congregate meal program provides food and recreational activities for senior citizens, allows members of the program to get a healthy meal, and provides opportunities to socialize and be involved in the community. Moreover, the Playmate Head Start Program provides quality childcare to its members and has maintained an excellent focus on healthy child development.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Women's Civic Improvement Club on their 75th anniversary, and to their outstanding commitment to improve our community. I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating them on their 75 years of success.

PROCLAMATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, forty one years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority in Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, Mrs. Sarah Fitten began her career with a heart for the people and today retires as a longtime Assistant Director who has touched the lives of many; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents, giving the citizens of our District a friend to help those in need, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to insure that the system works for everyone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Sarah Fitten is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Sarah Fitten on her retirement from the Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority and to wish her well in her new endeavors;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim July 30, 2011 as Mrs. Sarah Fitten Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 30th day of July, 2011.

PHIL PEARCE TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to rise in remembrance of Mr. Phil Pearce, for his service in the Air Force, as well as in the National Guard. Mr. Pearce was a true patriot and a man of tremendous character.

Born in Wilson, North Carolina in 1953, Mr. Pearce received his commission as a Second Lieutenant through the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1975, and he later received his Master's degree from UCLA.

During his military career, Mr. Pearce flew B52's at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, and served with the Louisiana National Guard. He also built artillery shells, missiles, jets, and infrared technologies for the U.S. military and our allies. Mr. Pearce was also a great businessman who constructed the largest pharmacy distribution systems in the world.

Mr. Pearce and his wife Christine Pearce have three children, Sean, Shannon, and Brandon.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Phil Pearce is an ideal embodiment of service and passion for his country. He will be fondly remembered.

BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, S. 365, the Budget Control Act of 2011, is a landmark in American history, but for the wrong reasons. It is a fake solution to a phony crisis. It provides for a radical transformation of the structure of government. It is an attack on the principle of government of the people. All this in the name of fiscal accountability.

The choice we have today, default or dismantling of the social compact through draconian spending cuts, is a false choice. The President could have simply told Congressional leaders back in December of last year that the debt ceiling was not negotiable, and invoked the 14th Amendment as a backstop.

The "debt crisis" was spurred on by credit rating agencies of dubious integrity threatening a downgrade of the nation's credit unless the government cut spending. Most of the cuts are guaranteed to hurt those who live at society's margins, while S. 365 protects the investor class whose interests are served by the rating agencies.

Unelected credit ratings agencies like Standard and Poor's, the self-declared arbiter of U.S. Government creditworthiness, must themselves be subjected to a new level of scrutiny absent in the run-up to the Wall Street crisis. The credit raters helped to create that crisis too by procuring business through selling rating marks. The very idea that the sovereign United States must genuflect to dishonest rating agencies is antiquated and counterproductive to America's economic recovery.

This bill fails on its own terms, which are allegedly about fiscal accountability. The debt has three main drivers:

The first is the recession. If we want to reduce the debt, we have to stimulate the economy, which is hobbled by a jobless recovery. America has 14 million people out of work. We have over \$3 trillion of infrastructure which must be replaced or rebuilt. We should be investing in America, rebuilding America, stimulating the American economy, priming the pump of our economy instead of capping our economic water well. Our GDP is lagging. This bill cuts nearly \$3 trillion in government spending, which is one of our main tools for fighting the recession. So much for the recovery. So much for putting America back to work.

The second reason for the size of the debt is the Bush tax cuts. This bill fails to end the Bush tax cuts for the rich, which added a trillion dollars to the deficit. Not only are the wealthy not paying a fair share of the taxes but their privileged position is locked in, to the detriment to the rest of the society. This single action makes clear that this bill is a vehicle for the rich to get richer and the poor to get poorer.

That working Americans are being offered a tax holiday is one of the cruel ironies of this bill in that the tax holiday adds more to the deficit on one hand, while requiring cuts to pay for it on the other. Those very cuts will undermine the social and economic position of those whom the tax holiday is alleged to help.

The third reason for the size of the debt is the wars. This bill fails to realize savings from ending the wars. Instead it continues the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan at current funding levels for at least another 10 years. According to the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, "The caps would not apply to spending for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and for similar activities (sometimes referred to as overseas contingency operations) . . ." If this bill required a slow drawdown of troops as the Reid bill did, it would save at least \$1.2 trillion.

It is inexplicable that we are creating more space for war and less space for jobs, housing, education, caring for our elderly, home heating assistance and a wide range of activities of any government which truly cares for its people.

A policy of no limits for war and hard limits on domestic spending, coupled with hundreds of billions of dollars in tax cuts for the rich, disproportionately affects the poor and middle class. Wall Street has swelled with bailouts, multiple editions of largesse through quantitative easing, skyrocketing executive pay and bonuses, and freedom to gamble the public's money through hedge funds. Main Street has suffered a massive loss of retirement savings, housing security, access to affordable health care, real wages and benefits, full employment and massive loss of small businesses. The wealth of America is being accelerated to the top and this bill pushes that acceleration.

This bill is a direct assault on representative government. The House of Representatives and the Senate consist of 435 and 100 Members, respectively. With the creation of a super-committee, the Congress has been reduced to a czardom where 7 of 12 members are given the power to determine the course of the American economy, with hordes of K Street lobbyists already poised to swoop in to protect their narrow interests against \$1 trillion in deficit reduction measures.

The Congressional committee and subcommittee process, with its membership composed of individuals with expertise in specific areas, is designed to encourage thorough consideration of measures which affect the lives of hundreds of millions of Americans. This process is now abandoned. Abandoned with it is the intent of the founding Fathers when they established the House of Representatives specifically to avoid such a dangerous concentration of power. The super-committee is poised to cut Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security while limiting accountability.

We could have avoided this hostage-taking if the President chose to apply his expertise in Constitutional law to invoke the 14th Amendment of the Constitution to raise the debt ceiling. Instead, we are taking America from the New Deal of 1932 to the Raw Deal of 2011. We should be focusing on strengthening Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid and creating jobs. The Democratic Party is running away from its traditional role of protecting the poor, the elderly, and the working class. To whom do these groups now turn?

A TRIBUTE TO MR. OLEG SMURYGIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Oleg Smurygin for his continued contribution to the health care initiatives of his community.

Mr. Smurygin was born to a middle class Jewish family to Yuriy and Bella Smurygin on April 7, 1966, in Kiev, Ukraine. He attended school in Kiev from 1973 until 1983, when he was recruited into the army for 2 years. Mr. Smurygin served as a Sergeant in the army from 1985 until 1987 under Special Forces by the border of China, Khabarovsk City. Once Mr. Smurygin was discharged in 1987, he attended the University of Kiev, where he graduated with a Bachelors Degree in the Arts in 1991.

In 1992, Mr. Smurygin and his family decided to relocate to the United States as refugees. He supported his family working at Victoria Memorial Hospital in Brooklyn, New York as a full time regular security guard. With more experience, Mr. Smurygin was promoted to shift supervisor and eventually to Director of Security in 2006. Spending over 10 years at Victoria Memorial Hospital, he was awarded Victory Memorial Hospital 10 Year Award of Excellence.

When the Victory Memorial Hospital closed its doors in 2009, Mr. Smurygin headed to the PAIN Institute as a Business Manager.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. Oleg Smurygin.

PROCLAMATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, thirty two years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve at the Department of Agriculture in Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, Ms. Regenia A. Roberts began her career with the Department of Agriculture as a Stenographer in 1979 and today retires as a Lead Investigative Technician; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents, giving the citizens of our District a friend to help those in need, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to insure that the system works for everyone; and

Whereas, Ms. Regenia A. Roberts is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Regenia A. Roberts on her retirement from the Department of Agriculture and to wish her well in her new endeavors;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim August 1, 2011 as Ms. Regenia A. Roberts Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 1st day of August, 2011.

PROVIDING GREATER AUTHORITY
AND DISCRETION TO CONSUMER
PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2715, a bill which places profits ahead of public health; especially the health of children. Though some flexibility in the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act's implementation is warranted, this bill goes too far.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, and the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, there is no safe level of exposure to lead. Even the most minute exposures, including so-called "trace" amounts, have enduring health effects. Lead has many of the same chemical properties as calcium, which is why the body takes it up and deposits in the brain and in bone. However, once lead enters the brain, it doesn't leave. Commonly seen health effects of lead exposure include delays in neurological and physical development, learning disabilities, hyperactivity, lower IQ, hearing loss, reduced attention span, and extremely aggressive behavior. A growing body of research links criminal activity to exposure to lead, which stands to reason given this list of effects.

This bill provides industry with several exemptions from the law and enhances its ability to self-regulate, an approach that has already proven to fail to protect public health. First, the bill exempts all products from the lead standards contained in the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act except children's products. Though children are disproportionately susceptible to lead exposure, it is a disproven myth that adults are not susceptible. Adults

suffer many of the same effects which are harder to detect because there are no programs to test blood lead levels, BLL, in adults.

This bill sets forth a series of harmless-sounding criteria to be used to grant specific exemptions that facilitate exposure to lead. If a company decides it wants to manufacture a product that can only be made with dangerous amounts of lead, that is now perfectly acceptable. In exchange, that company would need to show that the product is unlikely to be eaten, even though most lead exposure actually occurs through habitual hand-to-mouth activity after hands come into unwitting contact with the vast array of consumer products that contain lead. That company would also need to show that blood lead levels—of children only—would not be affected. That is not a difficult hurdle since blood only remains in the body for about two weeks before it is expelled or taken up into the brain or bone, where it is nearly impossible to detect.

This bill also gives manufacturers the ability to initiate a petition to exempt their products, without any way to prevent the well-worn tactic of applying for so many exemptions, and submitting so much information, much of which is meaningless, that the agency is effectively paralyzed with work. Worse, the bill allows the CPSC to make decisions about exemptions based solely on information submitted by the manufacturer. It is an inherent conflict of interest to turn over the burden of proof of harm to the company that stands to profit handsomely if no harm is proven. Citizens, advocates, and the CPSC do not have the resources to be able to generate enough information arguing against exemptions to match the volume of applications and information the manufacturers will put out. Chemical companies have been using this tactic for decades to push toxic chemicals through the approval process.

The bill also contains blanket exemptions for narrow interests like off-road vehicles, bicycles, books, and magazines, even though the products are meant for children and most Americans would be surprised to learn that they contain lead at all.

There is a balance to be struck between unnecessarily burdensome regulations and protection of public health. This bill fails to strike that balance.

MEMBERS CALL FOR COMMUTA-
TION OF POLLARD SENTENCE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, August 1, I spoke on the floor to renew a request that I made along with 38 of my colleagues that the President commute the long prison sentence of Jonathan Pollard. None of us condone Mr. Pollard's espionage, and we do not ask that he be pardoned for his crime. We do believe that he has already served a much longer sentence than is close to that served for any comparable offense, and we believe that both compassion for an individual and the interests of strengthening American-Israeli ties in a way that can contribute to important decisions being made that

can advance the peace process call for his commutation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the text of the letter and the list of signatories be included in today's RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2010.

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA,
The White House,
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, We write to urge you to use your constitutional power to extend clemency to Jonathan Pollard, thereby releasing him from prison after the time he has already served. Mr. Pollard committed serious crimes and he has expressed remorse. Such an exercise of the clemency power would not in any way imply doubt about his guilt, nor cast any aspersions on the process by which he was convicted. Those who have such views are of course entitled to continue to have them, but the clemency grant has nothing to do with that.

We believe that there has been a great disparity from the standpoint of justice between the amount of time Mr. Pollard has served and the time that has been served—or not served at all—by many others who were found guilty of similar activity on behalf of nations that, like Israel, are not adversarial to us. It is indisputable in our view that the nearly twenty-five years that Mr. Pollard has served stands as a sufficient time from the standpoint of either punishment or deterrence.

In summary, we see clemency for Mr. Pollard as an act of compassion justified by the way others have been treated by our justice system. We urge you to use the clemency power in this case.

Sincerely,

Rep. Barney Frank; Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr.; Rep. Edolphus Towns; Rep. Anthony Weiner; Rep. Henry A. Waxman; Rep. Gary L. Ackerman; Rep. Gregory W. Meeks; Rep. Maurice D. Hinchey; Rep. Michael E. McMahon; Rep. Janice D. Schakowsky; Rep. John W. Oliver; Rep. Eliot L. Engel; Rep. Theodore E. Deutch; Rep. Robert A. Brady; Rep. Donald M. Payne; Rep. Shelley Berkley; Rep. Jerrold Nadler; Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney; Rep. Steven R. Rothman; Rep. Ron Klein; Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva; Rep. Steve Kagen; Rep. Carolyn McCarthy; Rep. Chaka Fattah; Rep. John Lewis; Rep. Frank Pallone Jr.; Rep. Charles B. Rangel; Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott; Rep. Laura Richardson; Rep. James A. Himes; Rep. Brad Sherman; Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy; Rep. Bennie G. Thompson; Rep. John J. Hall; Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee; Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton; Rep. Robert E. Andrews; Rep. Danny K. Davis; Rep. Niki Tsongas.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. MARK
GLADSTEIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Mark Gladstein for his ongoing ability to serve his community by providing advanced health care options.

Dr. Mark Gladstein is a founder and a medical director of Brooklyn's leading pain management facility, Pain Institute of New York.

He is offering his community an expert team of personnel that have completed over 4,000 procedures per year—retaining the recognition of being the fastest growing, advanced, and most diverse pain management practice in New York. With locations in Brooklyn and Queens, Dr. Gladstein's practice serves over 2,500 patients from all five boroughs as well as outside of New York City and all walks of life, ethnicities and religious backgrounds.

Being in practice for over 8 years, Dr. Gladstein has gained the trust and respect of the community by providing the most advanced care in the field. Their patients receive quality care in an accredited state of the art office and ambulatory surgery facility. To this end, the entire skilled staff follow one simple philosophy: pain is an individual struggle and requires a unique and personal approach to manage. This approach allows Dr. Gladstein and his staff to personalize their attention to patients in a unique way.

Over the past years, Dr. Gladstein's achievements have been recognized by his peers and patients alike. He is a recipient of multiple Patient's Choice Awards, Consumer Research Council of America Awards as well as multiple teaching awards.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many accomplishments of Dr. Mark Gladstein.

PROCLAMATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, Jim Gullett, Sr., was born in Camden, Alabama between 1850 and 1852 in slavery, his life has blessed us with descendants that have helped to shape our nation; and

Whereas, the Gullett Family has produced many well respected citizens and their matriarchs and patriarchs of the family are pillars of strength not only for their families, but for our nation as well; and

Whereas, in our beloved Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, we are honored to have many members of the Gullett family, including Mrs. Adrienne Clark one of our most beloved citizens in our District who resides in Lithonia, Georgia; and

Whereas, family is one of the most honored and cherished institutions in the world, we take pride in knowing that families such as the Gullett family have set aside this time to fellowship with each other, honor one another and to pass along history to each other by meeting at this year's family reunion in Lithonia, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Gullett family in our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim Friday, July 15, 2011 as Gullett Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 15th day of July, 2011.

NON-IMMIGRANT NURSES VISA REAUTHORIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1933—To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the requirements for admission of nonimmigrant nurses in health professional shortage areas.

A number of hospitals with unique circumstances experience a great difficulty in attracting American nurses. Hospitals serving mostly poor patients have special difficulties. Some hospitals in rural areas do also. For example: St. Bernard Hospital and Health Care Center is located on the South side of Chicago in the Englewood Community. It is the only remaining hospital in an area with a census in excess of 100,000 and the patient base is almost entirely poverty care or charity care. St. Bernard almost closed its doors in 1992, primarily because of its inability to attract health care professionals, most importantly registered nurses.

H.R. 1933 reauthorizes the program for an additional three years. The number of visas that may be issued in each fiscal year cannot exceed 300. An alien may be admitted for three years and this stay may be extended once for an additional three years (the possibility of an extension is new with H.R. 1933). Furthermore, H.R. 1933 allows an H-1C nurse to be able to switch employment between any of the 14 H-1C-eligible hospitals. This prevents those nurses here through this program to have some flexibility in their employment options in the event they run into any hardship at the hospital where they are employed.

The Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act, signed into law in 1999 created a new H-1C temporary visa program for registered nurses. The program was modeled after the expired H-1A temporary nursing visa program but limited the number of visas that could be issued to 500 a year and only allowed in-need hospitals who met certain criteria to petition for alien nurses. To be able to petition for an alien, an employer had to meet four basic conditions. First, the employer must have been located in a health professional shortage area as designated by the Department of Health and Human Services. Second, the employer must have had at least 190 acute care beds. Third, a certain percentage (35 percent) of the employer's patients must have been Medicare patients. Fourth, a certain percentage (28 percent) of patients must have been Medicaid patients.

Employers had to make certain attestations pertaining to payment of a wage which will not adversely affect wages and working conditions of similarly employed registered nurses; payment of wages to aliens at rates paid to other registered nurses similarly employed by the facility; taking timely and significant steps designed to recruit and retain U.S. nurses in order to reduce dependence on nonimmigrant nurses; absence of a strike/lockout or lay off of nurses; notice to workers of its intent to petition for H-1C nurses; percentages of H-1C nurses to be employed at the facility; and placement of H-1C nurses within the facility.

This is a common sense employment-based immigration program that fills a desperate

need in some of our nation's neediest hospitals. This program is very limited in who is admitted to work in this country, but fulfills a gap in our healthcare system.

The Department of Labor has determined that the following hospitals are eligible for the program, some of which are located in Texas: Beaumont Regional Medical Center, Beaumont, TX; Beverly Hospital, Montebello, CA; Doctors Medical Center, Modesto, CA; Elizabeth General Medical Center, Elizabeth, NJ; Fairview Park Hospital, Dublin, GA; Lutheran Medical Center, St. Louis, MO; McAllen Medical Center, McAllen, TX; Mercy Medical Center, Baltimore, MD; Mercy Regional Medical Center, Laredo, TX; Peninsula Hospital Center, Far Rockaway, NY; Southeastern Regional Medical Center, Lumberton, NC; Southwest General Hospital, San Antonio, TX; St. Bernard Hospital, Chicago, IL; and Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen, TX.

The Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1999 was enacted as a four-year program (beginning on the effective date of implementing regulations) on November 12, 1999. The program expired in 2005 and was reauthorized in 2006 for an additional three years. The program expired in December of 2009 (but some H-1C nurses remain who received approval for three-year stays before this date). The Department of Labor reports that 499 nurses received visas under the program in fiscal year 2007 as did 110 in fiscal year 2008.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting passage of this landmark legislation.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. RONALD BERNSTEIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Ronald Bernstein, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and former Councilman for Valley View, Ohio.

Mr. Bernstein was born in Cleveland, Ohio before his family relocated to Valley View. He graduated from Cuyahoga Heights High School in 1954 and served in the United States Army soon after.

After completing his service with the Army, Mr. Bernstein sold Oldsmobiles, Fords, and Chryslers for various auto dealers—which led to the introduction of Joanne Kenley, who he would later marry. He and Joanne raised three sons and have eight grandsons and a granddaughter.

At the age of thirty-three, Mr. Bernstein was elected to Valley View's City Council, where he served for twenty-four years. While serving as a Councilman Mr. Bernstein helped develop the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. He also worked hard to reduce polluted runoff from Garfield Heights. Councilman Thomas Perk remembered Mr. Bernstein as "a fighter for the people."

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Mr. Ronald Bernstein, who as Councilman was instrumental in improving the City of Valley View and always stood on the side of those he represented.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. OLEG
SMURYGIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Oleg Smurygin for his continued contribution to the health care initiatives of his community.

Mr. Smurygin was born to a middle class Jewish family to Yuriy and Bella Smurygin on April 7, 1966, in Kiev, Ukraine. He attended school in Kiev from 1973 until 1983, when he was recruited to into the army for 2 years. Mr. Smurygin served as a Sergeant in the army from 1985 until 1987 under Special Forces by the border of China, Khabarovsk City. Once Mr. Smurygin was discharged in 1987, he attended the University of Kiev, where he graduated with a Bachelors Degree in the Arts in 1991.

In 1992, Mr. Smurygin and his family decided to relocate to the United States as refugees. He supported his family working at Victory Memorial Hospital in Brooklyn, New York as a full time regular security guard. With more experience, Mr. Smurygin was promoted to shift supervisor and eventually to Director of Security in 2006. Spending over 10 years at Victory Memorial Hospital, he was awarded Victory Memorial Hospital 10-Year Award of Excellence.

When the Victory Memorial Hospital closed its doors in 2009, Mr. Smurygin headed to the PAIN Institute as a Business Manager.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. Oleg Smurygin.

OPPOSITION TO THE HOUSE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL AND UNDERLYING CUTS TO NATIONAL ENDOWMENTS FOR THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the underlying bill, and specifically the cuts it makes to the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. These entities provide support, resources and education that inspire, cultivate and foster creativity across the nation. Investing in the arts is an investment in our future, an investment in our cultural heritage as a nation, and an investment in our economy.

In my district of Sacramento, California, there are currently 1,600 arts-related businesses that employ almost 6,000 people. These businesses play an imperative role in sustaining the economic vitality of the Sacramento region.

Similarly, the non-profit arts sector is an important part of our nation's economy and the National Endowment for the Arts is uniquely positioned to fund projects and activities that preserve jobs threatened by the decline in philanthropic support as a result of the financial collapse. The non-profit arts sector generates \$166 billion annually and supports al-

most six million full-time jobs across the country.

The NEA has a 40 year proven history of investment throughout our nation, an investment that stimulates local economies, creates livable communities, and supports tourism. In fact, cultural tourism alone contributes \$192 billion annually to our country's economy.

Just this past spring, the NEA, the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission and I co-hosted a grants workshop in Sacramento providing local organizations, artists, and galleries with the information they need to apply for and win federal grants. Over 100 people attended.

I have seen firsthand the impact of NEA grants in my district. For example, in May, the NEA generously provided \$20,000 to the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra for their educational outreach series.

Similarly, for close to 50 years the NEH has been providing grants and opportunities for lifelong learning. In the last four years alone, the National Endowment for the Humanities has invested \$48.5 million in California institutions to preserve our cultural heritage. Yet the bill before us today cuts each of these already underfunded agencies without any regard to the effect that will have on our nation's students, museums, artists, or culture as a whole.

Both the NEA and the NEH support organizations on the local level and allow them to take their programs to the next level. In fact, for every federal dollar invested in the arts, local agencies are able to leverage seven dollars in private donations. The federal government provides the seed money and the artists, curators, and historians make it grow.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of potential amendments to make additional cuts to these agencies, and I urge my colleagues to oppose those efforts and oppose this legislation.

DICKS AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2854, THE FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2012 INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the amendment offered by Representatives DICKS, THOMPSON, FITZPATRICK, and HANABUSA to H.R. 2584, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. H.R. 2584 contains language that would prevent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) from enforcing the most important parts of the Endangered Species Act. The FWS would be unable to list any new species as endangered, unable to designate as protected any habitat that is critical to species' survival, and unable to upgrade any species from threatened to endangered status.

This amendment would reverse this dangerous and short-sighted policy. It would allow the FWS to protect any of the over 260 "candidate species," species that the FWS has already determined warrant additional protection, and to upgrade the status of these species to endangered.

This amendment is not only vital for wildlife, but also for us. Many of these species play keystone roles in highly complex ecological systems on which we depend for clean water, clean air, arable soil, and healthy food. Biodiversity is a resource that can be tapped into; the complexities of organisms, only some of which have even been identified, can help us find cures for cancer and other diseases. A recent study by Dr. Felicia Kessing concluded that losses in biodiversity tend to increase the rate at which diseases are transmitted.

Willingly allowing endangered species to go extinct is irresponsible and imposes limitations on our nation's ability to progress. Species loss is forever. I urge my colleagues to support this important amendment.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE ONGOING VIOLENCE IN SYRIA

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern regarding the loss of life in Syria. In Hama, the site of massive anti-regime protests, dozens of innocent citizens chanting for freedom and democracy have been ruthlessly murdered by Syrian security forces under orders from the Syrian regime led by President Bashar Assad.

This heartless attack came on the eve before the Islamic Holy Month of Ramadan, which only makes this assault on the Syrian people all the more despicable. Assad has yet again failed to understand that the Syrian people are no longer afraid. Violence will only further convince the Syrian people that Assad is no longer their legitimate president.

Assad has ruled with an iron fist for too long. During this uprising, Assad has made fake reforms designed to give the world a false impression that he is a reformer. Reports of inhumane torture of innocent men, women, and children clearly show that the last thing he is interested in is reform. The Syrian people have spoken: they want the Assad regime to fall. I therefore reiterate my call for Assad to step down, before any more innocents are murdered.

A TRIBUTE TO HOWARD KAGAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Howard Kagan for his support and dedication to serving Brooklyn and its youth through public advocacy and educational programs.

Mr. Kagan was born in Brooklyn, NY, and was the fifth of five children. He graduated from Brooklyn College where he received his Bachelor of Arts Degree and later received his Master of Science Degree from Brooklyn College. For several years Mr. Kagan taught English and Math at the Middle School level as he has certification in General Education and Special Education. Working in the education field, Mr. Kagan has held the responsibility of being a teacher, educator and special

education teacher for the New York City Board of Education for 20 years. He was also a Track Four Coordinator for Severely and Profoundly Handicapped children.

Following his tenure at the New York City Board of Education he went to Brooklyn Law School and received his J.D. degree in 1989. He has had a private practice since 1989 specializing in all forms of personal injury cases, including slip and falls, auto accidents, medical malpractice and general negligence. His private practice is an Accredited Business with the Better Business Bureau since 2008 and has an A+ rating. Mr. Kagan has been actively practicing law for 22 years and has hosted an internship program for college and law students. Furthermore, Mr. Kagan advises law students and recent law graduates on how to start their own practices and on the basics of Tort law.

As a lawyer Mr. Kagan was admitted to the New York State Bar in June of 1989, and is admitted to practice in New York State and New Jersey. Besides his love for people and children, Howard loves reading, stained glass, traveling, Jai alai and flying Cessna 150's.

Mr. Kagan has four children of his own; two sons who are attorney's and one who is currently studying at Columbia Dental school. He has also been happily married for 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and success of Mr. Howard Kagan.

PROCLAMATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, Reverend Dr. John H. Smith, Sr., has celebrated forty (40) years in pastoral leadership this year and has provided stellar leadership to his church; and

Whereas, Reverend Dr. John H. Smith, Sr., under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Welcome Friend Missionary Baptist Church as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Reverend Dr. Smith is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our District and the nation his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Reverend Dr. John H. Smith, Sr., as he celebrates forty years in pastoral leadership;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim July 24, 2011 as Reverend Dr. John H. Smith, Sr. Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 24th day of July, 2011.

BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I have had and continue to have serious concerns about Senator REID's revised bill. The cuts to discretionary spending will be adverse to the beneficiaries of programs designed to provide essential services the private sector will never—and in some cases, should never—perform. The cuts to defense funding, the single biggest source of government waste, are a good start but are small compared to those cuts to non-defense spending. I will work to ensure that we achieve defense cuts greater than the minimum required by this bill.

We are now three days away from reaching the effective debt ceiling, a landmark that would drastically accelerate the \$400 billion of damage to our economy already caused by the mere threat of reaching the ceiling.

This bill raises the debt ceiling while not prescribing cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. It prevents further instances of the debt ceiling (which has been raised 74 times since 1962 and 10 times since 2001) from being held hostage. It cuts funding from the account that fuels the wars that dramatically increased our debt.

In the past, I voted against three of the main drivers of our debt: the war in Iraq, the Bush tax cuts and Medicare Part D. I believe in fiscal responsibility. I do not believe America should go into default over a manufactured crisis. It is time to prevent fake crises, and get on with rebuilding the U.S. economy.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES AURORA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. James Aurora for his exceptional service to his community and the youth.

James Aurora is a third generation of owners of the now famous Sonny's Collision Specialists in Brooklyn, New York. This renowned business has been serving the community for 60 years and has gained a distinct reputation for quality customer service.

Mr. Aurora has built an operation that employs 25 professionals that offer clients guaranteed personal attention. In the years that Mr. Aurora has been operating Sonny's Collision Specialists he has never known any unsatisfied customers. Every customer of Sonny's has only experienced top notch service in the most expeditious manner.

Jimmy Aurora knows the importance of giving. Sonny's is not only a staple in the community for their expertise in auto body collisions, but they are famous for their giving spirit. Mr. Aurora on a yearly basis has sponsored cricket teams, baseball leagues, and boys' clubs, along with donating thousands of dollars towards autism awareness and the American Cancer Society. He has not only provided a necessary service to his community but he

has found the means to give more to those in dire need.

Mr. Aurora lives by the company's motto: "Perfection is not an accident." Jimmy proudly represents his heritage and family legacy by ensuring that Sonny's Collision Specialists continues to be a leader and trendsetter in auto body collision work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. James Aurora.

BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to the debt ceiling and deficit reduction legislation and will vote against the bill.

Raising the debt ceiling should be a legislative act that allows us to meet the obligations our country has already incurred. But this legal formality has been taken hostage by the Republican Party and tied to dangerous and extraordinary demands regarding spending and taxes that affect everyone in our country.

As a result, we have a crisis that has been wholly manufactured. Our national debate has been paralyzed. Millions of Americans have been frightened about whether Social Security checks and salaries for our armed forces will be paid, financial markets have been rattled, and America's fiscal responsibility has been tarnished in the eyes of the world.

As a matter of economic policy, the spending cuts in this legislation will do harm to the economy and will curb our ability to stimulate job growth. Our economy is weak. The recovery is stalled. Our workers and households need action from Congress that helps promote growth and investment. With unemployment over 9 percent and growth at barely 1 percent, the last thing we need is for Washington to take the wind out of the sails of future growth. Cutting spending by over \$2 trillion hurts the economy's ability to move forward.

As a matter of equity, this package is not balanced. It is all spending cuts, cuts that are deeper because we are blocked by the Republicans' refusal to consider revenues to be gained from asking the wealthy and fortunate to play their fair share. There is nothing to end egregious tax expenditures benefiting corporations or to ask our most profitable companies today, such as the oil industry to pay a little more; or to have the burden of deficit reduction shared, even a little bit, by the wealthiest among us. This is not fair. It is willfully one-sided. And given the magnitude of the task before us to deal responsibly with our long term debt, it is not right.

As a matter of protecting and strengthening Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, this legislation is also gravely deficient. There may be buffers for these programs in the sequester, but the pressure to cut these programs as a part of the new joint congressional committee that is established to secure an additional \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts will be extreme. There will be tremendous pressure to restructure these programs in order to forestall additional defense cuts and additional cuts to discretionary spending. Such changes will undermine our country's promise to the elderly,

the poor, the vulnerable. Raising the eligibility age for Medicare or Social Security, or cutting benefit levels, will be subject to an up-or-down vote by this new joint committee. No amendments can be offered or voted on. This process weakens Congress as an institution, and it is a dangerous abdication of our responsibility for these bedrock programs.

We have worked over the years to make careful changes to Medicare when necessary to restore its solvency. In the Affordable Care Act, we enacted careful reforms that will improve the efficiency and soundness of Medicare. Arbitrary cuts to the program through sequestration, or rushed cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, are no way to guarantee the future of those vital programs. We run the risk of substantial changes that will drive providers out of the system, leaving patients without access to doctors or to nursing homes and long term care services.

This legislation does not represent the values to which I have been committed since first being elected to Washington.

That is why I have concluded that this package does not deserve my support today.

PROCLAMATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, In 2003, Ms. Kim Schofield founded the Lupus And Community Empowering Support organization better known as "LACES"; and

Whereas, LACES is an organization that continues to serve those who live with or are affected by the chronic autoimmune disorder Lupus, by empowering patients, bringing attention to the disease, and leading the way to find a cure through research; and

Whereas, today LACES sponsors its 3rd Annual Ride 4 Lupus Motorcycle ride to raise awareness and funds to assist individuals living with lupus; and

Whereas, this unique organization has given of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to advocate for our citizens and their families who battle lupus; and

Whereas, LACES continues to serve our county, state and country by being the sword and shield for those who live with lupus, encouraging better treatments, funding research and educating people about the disease to help heal families and strengthen our resolve to find a cure; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize LACES for their outstanding service to our District;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim July 9, 2011 as "Lupus And Community Empowering Support Day" in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 9th day of July, 2011.

OPENING STATEMENT OF REP. DENNIS J. KUCINICH FOR SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS, STIMULUS OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT SPENDING HEARING ON: "LIGHTS OUT: HOW EPA REGULATIONS THREATEN AFFORDABLE POWER AND JOB CREATION"

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following. Good afternoon, and thank you to all the witnesses who are here today to testify about a critical issue facing America: protection of the clean air and clean water on which we depend every single day. Today, we will once again look at the critical role the Environmental Protection Agency plays in supporting these goals.

Air toxics from coal-fired power plants cause or contribute to devastating health problems, ranging from asthma attacks to premature death from cardiovascular disease, stroke and cancer. One air toxic, mercury, damages the developing brains of fetuses, infants and small children, robbing them of the opportunity to fully develop intellectually and physically. Coal burning emissions of sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides help fuel our nation's asthma problem and can increase heart attacks.

The burning of coal is also a major contributor to the environmental, national security, and economic crisis that is global climate change. The combustion of coal produces a tremendous amount of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that contributes to increased trapping of heat in our atmosphere. In fact, coal accounts for roughly 20% of all greenhouse gas emissions. It would be difficult to underestimate the urgency of shutting down coal power plants immediately for this reason alone.

These health and environmental consequences from toxic pollution are why the Environmental Protection Agency is developing tougher safeguards to protect Americans. One proposed rule on Mercury and Air Toxics alone would be estimated to save as many as 17,000 lives every year by 2015 and prevent up to 120,000 cases of childhood asthma.

One of the witnesses here to testify today represents American Electric Power (AEP), which is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. AEP is also one of our nation's biggest polluters. Another one of Ohio's polluters, FirstEnergy Corporation, which owns Lake Shore Plant in Cleveland in my own district, is identified as the nation's sixth-most harmful plant for low-income communities and communities of color. Thanks in part to AEP and FirstEnergy, the State of Ohio has more coal-fired generating capacity than any other state in the nation. Ohio's electric sector also has the ignominious honor of ranking FIRST in the amount of toxic air pollution it emitted in 2009, emitting more than 44.5 million pounds of harmful chemicals, which accounted for 65% of the state's pollution and 12% of toxic pollution from all U.S. power plants. Ohio also ranked THIRD among all states in mercury air pollution from power plants with about 3,980 pounds emitted in 2009, which accounted for

76% of the state's mercury air pollution and 6% of U.S. electric sector pollution.

AEP has lobbied against the Environmental Protection Agency's current efforts to regulate power plant pollution, and is pushing legislation to weaken and delay these regulations. I look forward to hearing from AEP today about how they can justify the tragic and destructive side effects that coal-fired power plants wreak upon us, as well as what steps they are taking to curb emissions of toxic air pollution in the United States.

While it is consistent with the history of big business to kick and scream about having to minimize the social and environmental harms they cause, we should NOT underestimate the entrepreneurial ability of America's electric sector to invest, retrofit and construct clean energy generation, while maintaining system reliability. In fact, when they upgrade our nation's electric generation infrastructure to comply with new regulations, their capital investments will help drive economic growth and create jobs. According to a study prepared by the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, two of the proposed EPA Regulations—the Clean Air Transport Rule, and the new Mercury and Air Toxics Standards—could stimulate the creation of more than 1.4 million jobs over the next five years in the pollution controls, engineering, and construction fields.

Congress passed the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act because the American public demanded it. The American people demanded it because they don't like their children to inhale and drink and die from toxic compounds from which even the most diligent parent can't protect her child. Nothing about this equation has changed, and we must allow the Environmental Protection Agency to continue to fulfill its mandate to protect our water and air. I look forward to hearing from the Environmental Protection Agency today about how it continues to fulfill this promise to America.

A TRIBUTE TO THE BLUE DEVILS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa's Class A Baseball State Champions and current holder of the national-record winning streak, the Martensdale-St. Mary's Blue Devils.

Ladies and gentlemen of the House, what this team has accomplished is nothing short of amazing. Last week, the Blue Devils sealed their second consecutive state championship by rallying from behind three separate times throughout the state tournament baseball game. And while the Blue Devils' second state championship in as many years is an incredible feat in and of itself, their most recent win has also placed their consecutive games won at an astonishing 87, giving them the best record in the Nation.

This special team consists of a large roster of players that have each contributed a unique quality to the team's record-breaking success. The Blue Devils consist of seniors Dillon Coates and Ethan Westphal, juniors David Walker, Zeb Noel, Josh Defenbaugh, Robert Walker, J.D. Nielsen, Jake Antcil, T.J. Foster,

Jake Swihart, Brad Nauman, Jamie Swihart, and Dakota Wenzel; sophomores Garret Gehringer, Trent Verwers, Chris Darr, and Gage Gavin; and freshmen Eddy Kraber, Luke Ancil, and Travis Seymour. These young players have been expertly coached by Justin Dehmer, Sean Smith and Steve Westphal and have undoubtedly made them very proud.

Mr. Speaker, the pride and excitement that this team has brought to their community and to the state of Iowa cannot be overstated. Their unrelenting commitment to their coaches and teammates speaks volumes of the Iowa work ethic and the rewards of working together. It is truly an honor to represent the players, coaches and families of this team in the United States Congress. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these state champions and wish them continued success on and off the field in the future.

PROCLAMATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Bishop Miles and First Lady Helen Fowler are celebrating fifty years (50) in marriage today in Lithonia, Georgia; and

Whereas, on June 18, 1961 because of their union then, our community today has been blessed with a family that has enhanced our district, Bishop Fowler as Pastor of Big Miller Grove Missionary Baptist Church and Mrs. Fowler as First Lady, they both are instruments in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical, economic and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God and this phenomenal and virtuous Proverbs 31 woman have given hope to the hopeless, fed the hungry and are beacons of light to those in need, they both have been blessed with their family, their church and the DeKalb County community; and

Whereas, Bishop and First Lady Fowler are distinguished citizens of our district, they are spiritual warriors, persons of compassion, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their family, but with our District their passion to improve the lives of others; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Bishop Miles and First Lady Fowler as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary, fifty (50) years in marital bliss;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim June 18, 2011 as Bishop Miles and First Lady Helen Fowler Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 18th day of June, 2011.

BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Budget Control Act of 2011, S. 365.

First, with all the conflict and frustration surrounding this vote, I'm reverting to basic principles. One of which is, "don't negotiate with thugs." It's been long obvious that we have no partner with whom to negotiate; only a party that started as our comrades in government, then our colleagues, who evolved into our opponents, declared themselves our enemies and now demand that we be their enablers. I refuse to play.

Thugs are in the game to destroy, not build. They would destroy the government, and especially this presidency. They take hostages, and there is much work at stake that would be their next targets. It will be endless. The president has given into all of their demands, and they remain insatiable. It's time we starved the beast. Then . . .

They came to Washington they say committed not to do business as usual. Then they demanded that we protect every loophole, every billionaire and every greedy element in our society except those who need some help.

They set-up something that is their fail safe. I call it the "Kevorkian Commission" that will deliver the poison if in November, we don't volunteer to do it ourselves.

We Democrats in the House were not at the table, and we wind up on the menu.

There are arguments that are valid and good for voting "aye." But I didn't come to this place to forget the homeless, the hapless and the hungry.

The most vulnerable in our society don't watch their 401K plan, the Dow Jones Industrial Average or the futures market. Their future is getting through till tomorrow. They are more concerned about having a roof than they are the national debt ceiling. They need jobs, nutrition, education and encouragement. The time we've spent on this debate would indicate that we've bought into the trickle-down theory.

Here's what I know: the people I came here to help need real help. Their lives and future are really endangered. What happens to us people with portfolios, and Wall Street watchers is scary, but conjecture.

Sounds hokey, but I'm voting for what I came here to do.

PROCLAMATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Mr. Hank Stewart, a tenacious and poetic man from Jacksonville, Florida utilizes his gifts, talents and wisdom everyday to ensure that citizens are inspired and lives are touched; and

Whereas, Mr. Stewart is a renowned poet, motivator and community leader in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, he founded the Hank Stewart Foundation based on strengthening the whole child—mind, body and soul; and

Whereas, this model citizen has shared his time and talents for the betterment of his community and his Nation through his tireless works, words of encouragement and inspiration that continue to be a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this

day to honor and recognize Hank Stewart for his outstanding leadership and service to the citizens in the state of Georgia and on the 20th anniversary of becoming a poet and the 10th anniversary of his White Linen Affair;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim July 30, 2011 as Hank Stewart Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, This 30th day of July, 2011.

HONORING LACY AND DOROTHY HARBER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful couple from Denison, Texas, and outstanding community leaders—Lacy and Dorothy Harber. I have known Lacy and Dorothy Harber for many years and they are beloved and respected for their outstanding philanthropic work, generous spirit, and many contributions to their community. Knowing people like Lacy and Dorothy—and gratitude for their close friendship—is a great part of the benefits I receive as a Member of Congress.

This year the Harbers were awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, presented by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations. Each year, NECO honors "remarkable Americans who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage . . . creating a better world for all of us in the future by the work they do today."

The Harbers are in good company, joining past winners of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, including Presidents George H.W. Bush and Gerald Ford, Rosa Parks, and Bob Hope.

The couple's desire to help others springs from Lacy's humble beginnings. His father was a city bus driver and his mother cooked in a school lunch room. With four children in the family, Lacy, at the age of seven, began selling popcorn at baseball games.

From an early age, Lacy also suffered from severe scoliosis which, left untreated, would have likely prevented him from walking as an adult. At the time, the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas was developing new treatments for physically challenged children without charging for service. The hospital provided treatment for Lacy for nine years, and when he reached high school he was able to take his back brace off and compete on the track team.

Lacy learned from any early age the value of hard work and the understanding of what it means to do without. Through hard work, Lacy has become one of America's most successful entrepreneurs, and the couple has used their good fortune to improve the lives of those around them.

Lacy and Dorothy, who have been married over fifty years, wholly own the American Bank of Texas, but take no profits from the business. Rather, the profits go to charities and to those less fortunate. They have been known to pick up restaurant tabs for fellow patrons, hand out \$100 bills, provide fishing and

boating trips for children with physical or mental challenges, and give multi-million dollar donations to charities. Among the recipients of their generous gifts are Texoma Medical Center, Wilson N. Jones Medical Center, and Abilene Christian University. Recently, the couple helped buy a wheelchair and seek assistance for a handicapped teacher.

The Harbers routinely deflect attention from themselves with an humble attitude, stating that they merely enjoy helping others, adopting a “live to give” philosophy as they choose to share their good fortune with others. Their selfless giving is an inspiration to live a humble life in service to others. Mr. Speaker, I ask those here today to rise in honor of this most generous couple who represent the best values of philanthropy, Lacy and Dorothy Harber.

ON THE STATUS OF THE
EGYPTIAN COPTIC COMMUNITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the ongoing violence in Egypt being carried out against religious minorities. While the end of the Mubarak regime has brought about the promise for democratic reform, it has also given rise to instability and acts of violence against religious minorities. Coptic Christians have lived peacefully in this part of the world for millennia, but sadly in recent months Coptic churches and protestors have been targeted for violence.

I am grateful to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, for holding a hearing recently on the plight of the Coptic people. I was concerned to learn of reports that young women and under-aged girls fear for their safety because of the threat of violence by Muslim extremists. As a member of the Religious Minorities in the Middle East Caucus, I strongly believe U.S. policymakers need to do more to raise awareness of this issue so that the innocent Christians of Egypt are no longer targeted for violence.

I am proud to represent a vibrant Coptic community in southeast Michigan and am privileged to consider the clergy of St. Mark's Church in Troy, Michigan as my friends. Many of my constituents have relatives in Egypt and I know that they are deeply concerned about the security of their loved ones. I share their concerns—and the concerns of Copts across our nation—about the future of their community and the desire to preserve their right to continue to live peacefully in their ancestral homeland.

While we are hopeful for democratic change in Egypt, it is imperative that we maintain support for religious minority communities such as the Copts and seek to preserve and allow for the continuity of their community. I ask my colleagues to join me in raising awareness for the plight of the Copts, demanding an end to extremist violence, ensuring that all Egyptian political parties practice the values of pluralism and tolerance, and encouraging a democratic Egypt to fully respect the rights of all its citizens.

HONORABLE DISTINCTION

HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one man who has given of himself in order for others to stand; and

Whereas, Mr. Ladeadrick “Bob” Jackson's work is present throughout Meadowcreek High School for all to see, being the Principal of Meadowcreek High School, Lilburn, Gwinnett County, Georgia from 2006 to 2011, he did much to aid in the achievements of the school; and

Whereas, this giant of a man taught academics to young scholars, managed administrators, inspired elected officials, motivated the young and the old, as he accomplished so much during his time on this earth; and

Whereas, this remarkable man gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life; he never asked for fame or fortune; he just wanted to uplift those in need, he just wanted to make a difference by educating others and building up a community; Mr. Jackson inspired others to do the same by witnessing him walk the walk and talk the talk; and

Whereas, Mr. Jackson led by doing behind the scenes and on the front lines for many; Mr. Jackson was a husband, a father, an educator and a friend; he was our warrior, our patriarch, a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of the community until his end; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow an honorable distinction and recognition on Mr. Ladeadrick “Bob” Jackson for his leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens of Georgia and throughout the Nation; as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby attest to the 112th Congress that Mr. Ladeadrick “Bob” Jackson of Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this “Congressional Honorable Distinction:”

Mr. Ladeadrick “Bob” Jackson—U.S. Citizen of Distinction—in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 29th day of July, 2011.

SUSPENDING IMMIGRATION STATUS PETITION AND INTERVIEW TIME REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 398, “To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to toll, during active-duty service abroad in the Armed Forces, the periods of time to file a petition and appear for an interview to remove the conditional basis for permanent resident status, and for other purposes.” As a Senior member of the Judiciary Committee and a member of the Subcommittee on Immigration

Policy and Enforcement, I am proud to support this legislation because in many ways the current immigration system is flawed, and in need of reform.

Furthermore, I want to commend my colleague, Rep. ZOE LOFGREN for her leadership on immigration issues, especially in her former role as Chairwoman of the Immigration Subcommittee. The debate surrounding how to mend our broken immigration system continues to be polarized, with many differing opinions about how to best address the issues of unauthorized persons in our country. I would also like to commend Rep. LOFGREN for introducing this bill, H.R. 398, which addresses one of the many loopholes, oversights, and shortcomings in our current immigration system. This bill makes a simple change that helps our immigration process make more sense—it tolls time period to file a petition and appear for an interview to remove the conditional basis for permanent resident status while a petitioner is serving in active duty with the armed forces. It allows those men and women serving our country abroad to focus on protecting America, and not worry about their spouse's immigration status.

Under current law, when either a U.S. citizen or lawful U.S. Permanent Resident sponsors an alien spouse, the alien spouse is granted conditional permanent resident status. After two years, the alien spouse and the U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident spouse must jointly file a petition with the Department of Homeland Security for the removal of the conditional status. If the petition is successful, the alien spouse becomes a full permanent resident. The petition must be filed during the 90-day period before the second anniversary of the spouse's becoming a conditional permanent resident, unless the alien establishes to the satisfaction of DHS good cause and extenuating circumstances for failure to file on time. Upon the filing of the petition, DHS interviews the spouses to ascertain whether there was any possible marriage fraud. The interview is conducted within 90 days of the submission of the petition, unless DHS waives the deadline for the interview or the requirement for the interview.

As you can see, the 90-day joint filing deadline and the interview that follows, which requires the participation of the U.S. citizen or permanent resident spouse who is serving overseas in active duty status with the Armed Forces would, without a doubt, place undue hardship on the active duty petitioner. It would clearly be a disruption to the U.S. military to have to facilitate a member of the Armed Forces deployed overseas filing a petition and traveling for a personal interview with DHS. While DHS can choose to delay this process in appropriate circumstances, a blanket tolling of the time periods while a spouse is serving abroad in the U.S. Armed Forces is appropriate.

H.R. 398 tolls the time periods of time to file the petition and have an interview for removal of condition during any period of time in which a spouse is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States and serving abroad in active-duty status. The spouses do retain the right to be able to file a petition within the normal time period and DHS retains the right to waive the interview requirement in appropriate circumstances.

Let's help our military service member by giving them the peace of mind. The tolling of

dates would lift the burden on the petitioning military spouse serving abroad from (i) having to establish to the satisfaction of DHS, good cause and extenuating circumstances for failure to file on time and (ii) obtaining a waiver

of the deadline for the interview. Lifting the burden on the petitioning military spouse will allow those men and women serving our country abroad to focus on protecting Amer-

ica, and not worry about their spouse's immigration status.

I urge all members to join me in supporting passage of this landmark legislation.