

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RON ALLERD TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ron Allerd, a Colorado businessman who transformed Telluride, Colorado into one of the nation's most treasured, world-class ski resorts. Because of his vision and determination, Mr. Allerd will officially be inducted into the Colorado Ski Hall of Fame on November 2, 2011.

Mr. Allerd first envisioned what the town of Telluride could become after skiing with Telluride native, Johnnie Stevens. In 1978, Mr. Allred and his business partner, Jim Wells, purchased the Telluride Ski Company, a small company that operated only a few lifts and one day resort.

Their vision slowly became a reality in the community, but on more than one occasion its existence was threatened. After tireless effort and determination, Mr. Allred worked with various stakeholders and the community to bring amenities to the area, such as an airport, a golf course and a gondola transportation system.

Today, Telluride is an all-season resort that offers unique character to a once dying mining town. Networks of lifts now cover Telluride and its adjoining town, Mountain Village, bringing tourists from around the world to visit this vibrant and active Colorado community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Ron Allerd. His legacy and vision is one that will affect Coloradans and Americans for many years to come.

MR. BRIAN GRYBOSKI

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Brian Gryboski for the recognition of his athletic ability as he is accepted into the Plains Sports Hall of Fame in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Gryboski began his sports career as a pitcher and shortstop in the Plains Little League and as a running back and linebacker with the Plains Yankee football team. In 1989, his final year in the Plains Little League, he threw a no-hitter against Pittston, and he and his team would go on to win the District 16 Little League championship.

While attending Bishop Hoban High School, Mr. Gryboski was a two-year starter for the Argents basketball team when they won two District 2 championships. In 1994, the team reached the state quarterfinals. Also in 1994, Mr. Gryboski was named the McGrane Tournament Most Valuable Player. In 1995, he was a Wyoming Valley Conference All-Star,

and he was the leading scorer in the conference.

While at Wilkes University, Mr. Gryboski played in a record-setting 116 games for the Colonels through his four years. During his stretch at Wilkes, the team earned an impressive 99 wins with just 17 losses. He was a three-year starter, and he was team captain as a senior. Mr. Gryboski's teams accumulated four Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Freedom League Championships, three MAC conference titles, and trips to the NCAA Division III "Elite Eight" in 1996, "Final Four" in 1998, and "Sweet 16" in 1999.

Individually, Mr. Gryboski was selected to the All-Eastern College Athletic Conference Third Team in 1997–1998. He left a legacy at Wilkes University, where he is ranked in the Top 20 in all-time scoring with 1,120 points, and he is in the Top 10 in rebounding, free throws attempted, and free throws made.

Mr. Speaker, as a fantastic baseball and basketball player, Mr. Brian Gryboski, left his mark on numerous sports teams, and he will be honored by being inducted into the Plains Sports Hall of Fame.

VETERANS' BENEFITS TRAINING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2349, the Veterans' Benefits Training Improvement Act. I particularly appreciate that the language from my bill, H.R. 1826, was incorporated into H.R. 2349 in Committee. The language that I introduced would simply reinstate the criminal penalties that were previously in place on any individual charging veterans illegal fees for claims before the VA.

Though it is already a violation of the law to charge a veteran in conjunction with filing a benefits claim before the VA, no federal punishment exists, leaving the door open for fly-by-night companies and con artists to take advantage of veterans, unlawfully charging them hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

The language from my bill would make this offense punishable by up to one year in prison and/or fines. Crooked practices must be stopped, and this enforcement mechanism is a critical first step.

Taking advantage of our most vulnerable veterans is a shameful act. I have seen local news reports, and I hear frequently from veterans' liaisons in my district that this problem is rampant, so much so that one of the counties in my district, Hillsborough County, is moving forward to implement a county ordinance that borrows the concept of implementing such an enforcement mechanism from my legislation.

All veterans, regardless of where they reside, should not be forced to bear the financial

burdens of an unenforceable law. They so diligently protected us during our nation's time of need, and now is our opportunity to protect them in their time of need. I am both honored and humbled to serve on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

I would like to thank Chairman MILLER for his strong leadership on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and all of my colleagues on the Committee for their cooperation in pushing this language.

RECOGNIZING PROF. KRZYSZTOF KANIASTY FOR RECEIVING THE STRESS AND ANXIETY RESEARCH SOCIETY (STAR) LIFETIME CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding scholar for being honored by his peers with an internationally coveted award for excellence in the field of social psychology. Krzysztof Kaniasty, a psychology professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, received the Stress and Anxiety Research Society (STAR) Lifetime Career Achievement Award during the 32nd annual STAR Conference held recently in Munster Germany. Each year, STAR presents this award to one of its members who has contributed an original and impactful body of work to one or more of the psychology sub-fields of stress, coping, emotions and health.

Dr. Kaniasty received a Master of Arts in Clinical psychology from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poland in 1981 and a Ph.D. in Social/Community Psychology from the University of Louisville in 1991. Since completing his Doctoral work, he has had over 50 articles published in respected professional journals and has been invited to speak about his work at over 150 different international conferences and meetings. In addition to receiving STAR's lifetime achievement honor, he has been given awards for his work by both the Polish government and Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Kaniasty rose to prominence in his field by producing research that provides valuable insight into the psychological impact of natural disasters and criminal victimization. His ability to write and speak prolifically on the complex social dynamics and psychological processes that characterize populations that have experienced a traumatic event is a testament to his skillfulness as a scholar.

It pleases me greatly that Dr. Kaniasty's scholastic efforts have been officially recognized by a professional society as reputable as STAR. I expect that his research from this point forward will be as edifying as it has been over the first 30 years of his distinguished career.

• 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.

HONORING FARHAD MANSOURIAN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marin County's departing Director of Public Works, Farhad Mansourian. After more than three decades of service to the County of Marin and seven years as Director of the Department of Public Works, Mr. Mansourian has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to the people of Marin. His passion for managing public works initiatives has earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues across the North Bay. Mansourian moves on to a position as General Manager of the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) District, where his voice of experience will be instrumental in bringing our regional rail service to completion.

Farhad Mansourian began his service with the County of Marin in 1980 as a Junior Civil Engineer, gradually branching into new fields as he was promoted to administrative analyst, traffic operations engineer, road maintenance engineer, and eventually Assistant Director. In 2002, the Marin County Board of Supervisors named Mansourian Director of the Department of Public Works, putting him in charge of an agency with over 200 employees and an annual budget of roughly \$80 million.

Since that time, Mansourian has distinguished himself as the principal guardian of the County's infrastructure, including roads and bridges, flood control operations, hazardous waste systems, and public buildings. The County has turned to Mansourian every winter to keep an aging infrastructure functioning in the aftermath of heavy storms. The community turned to him in the event of emergencies like flooding or earthquakes many times. Mansourian also serves as Co-Commander of the Regional Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, which has provided assistance not only in the North Bay, but in other communities recovering from natural disasters, as far away as the Gulf Coast.

In countless ways, Farhad Mansourian has been responsible for keeping our County functioning by facilitating environmental protection and economic development that ensure the safety of Marin County residents. I have found him to be a thoughtful, reliable, and expert partner when working together on these important issues.

Over the past several years, Mansourian has also been a strong advocate for the SMART initiative linking the urban centers of the North Bay with a modern and environmentally responsible rail system. He was active in gathering support for the proposal and in achieving the overwhelming public support received for the bi-county ballot measure providing SMART funding. Mansourian's new role managing the SMART District is fitting for a man so committed to advancing the North Bay's vision for its future, while bridging its infrastructure needs with strong environmental priorities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Farhad Mansourian for his many contributions to Marin County. He represents an admirable model of public service, and we wish him the same success in his new endeavors.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE OPINION THAT THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY HAS VIOLATED THE LAW AND THE ANTI-DEFICIENCY ACT IN ITS BILATERAL DEALINGS WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit an opinion that I have received from the Government Accountability Office that White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, led by Dr. John Holdren, is in violation of the law and the Anti-Deficiency Act due to its continued dealings with the Chinese government.

UNITED STATES

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE,

Washington, DC, October 11, 2011.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,

Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives.

Subject: Office of Science and Technology Policy—Bilateral Activities with China

This responds to your request for our opinion on the propriety of activities undertaken in May 2011 by the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) with representatives of the government of the People's Republic of China. Letter from Representative Wolf to the Comptroller General (May 11, 2011) (Request Letter). Specifically, you point to meetings with Chinese representatives during the U.S.-China Dialogue on Innovation Policy (Innovation Dialogue) and the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED) held in Washington, D.C., in May 2011. You ask whether OSTP violated section 1340 of the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011. Section 1340 prohibits the use of OSTP appropriations for bilateral activities between OSTP and China, or Chinese-owned companies, unless specifically authorized by laws enacted after the date of the appropriations act. Pub. L. No. 112-10, div. B, title III, 125 Stat. 38, 123 (Apr. 15, 2011).

As explained below, we conclude that OSTP's use of appropriations to fund its participation in the Innovation Dialogue and the S&ED violated the prohibition in section 1340. In addition, because section 1340 prohibited the use of OSTP's appropriations for this purpose, OSTP's involvement in the Innovation Dialogue and the S&ED resulted in obligations in excess of appropriated funds available to OSTP; as such, OSTP violated the Antideficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. § 1341(a)(1)(A).

Our practice when rendering legal opinions is to obtain the views of the relevant agency to establish a factual record and to elicit the agency's legal position on the subject matter of the request. GAO, *Procedures and Practices for Legal Decisions and Opinions*, GAO-06-1064SP (Washington, D.C.: Sept. 2006), available at www.gao.gov/legal/resources.html. In this case, OSTP provided us with its legal views and relevant supporting materials. Letter from General Counsel, OSTP to Assistant General Counsel, GAO, Re: B-321982, Office of Science and Technology Policy—Bilateral Activities with China (June 23, 2011) (OSTP Response). We also spoke by telephone with OSTP's General Counsel to ask questions about OSTP's June letter. Telephone Conversation with General Coun-

sel, OSTP (Aug. 4, 2011) (August Conversation). See also Letter from General Counsel, OSTP to Senior Attorney, GAO, Re: Follow-up to August 4, 2011, Telephone Call (Aug. 29, 2011) (OSTP August Letter).

BACKGROUND

The Presidential Science and Technology Advisory Organization Act of 1976 established OSTP to "serve as a source of scientific and technological analysis and judgment for the President with respect to major policies, plans, and programs of the Federal Government." 42 U.S.C. 6614(a). Part of the agency's mission is to "advise the President of scientific and technological considerations involved in areas of national concern including . . . foreign relations. . . ." 42 U.S.C. 6613(b)(1).

Between May 6 and 10, 2011, OSTP "led and participated in a series of meetings with Chinese officials" as part of the Innovation Dialogue and the S&ED. OSTP Response, at 3. On May 6, 2011, the OSTP Director and Chinese Minister of Science and Technology participated in the Innovation Dialogue. According to OSTP, a goal of the Innovation Dialogue was to "serve as a forum for persuading the rollback of discriminatory, counterproductive Chinese procurement and intellectual property policies. . . ." OSTP Response, at 3. Among the topics discussed were "market access and technology transfer; innovation funding and incentives; standards and intellectual property; and government intervention." OSTP Response, at 4. OSTP informed our office that the OSTP Director opened and closed the Innovation Dialogue and served on discussion panels. OSTP August Letter, at 1. OSTP staff helped the Director prepare for and participate during the meetings. *Id.* See OSTP Response, at 5.

On May 8, 2011, OSTP hosted a dinner to honor Chinese dignitaries. Six U.S. participants attended the dinner, along with an unidentified number of "staff-level employees from other federal agencies." OSTP Response, at 4, n.13. The Director is the only listed dinner attendee from OSTP. There were six Chinese invitees. *Id.*

On May 9 and 10, 2011, OSTP participated in the S&ED. The purpose of the S&ED was to bring together various U.S. and Chinese government officials to "discuss a broad range of issues between the two nations," including on matters regarding trade and economic cooperation. U.S. Department of the Treasury, U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue, available at www.treasury.gov/initiatives/Pages/china.aspx (last visited Oct. 4, 2011). The Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of State co-chaired the S&ED along with the Vice Premier and State Councilor of the People's Republic of China. *Id.* Topics of discussion included "enhancement of trade and investment cooperation; an overview of bilateral relations; military-to-military relationships; cooperation on clean energy, energy security, climate change, and environment; customs cooperation; and energy security." OSTP Response, at 4. The OSTP Director spoke many times during the various sessions, including on U.S.-China cooperation on climate science. August Conversation. OSTP also had at least one staff member attend the S&ED in addition to the Director. *Id.*

The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011, enacted into law on April 15, 2011, included appropriations for OSTP for fiscal year 2011 in title III of division B. Pub. L. No. 112-10, div. B. Section 1340 of title III provides:

"None of the funds made available by this division may be used for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration or the Office of Science and Technology Policy to develop, design, plan, promulgate, implement,

or execute a bilateral policy, program, order, or contract of any kind to participate, collaborate, or coordinate bilaterally in any way with China or any Chinese-owned company unless such activities are specifically authorized by a law enacted after the date of enactment of this division.”

Pub. L. No. 112-10, 1340.

OSTP informed us that it incurred costs of approximately \$3,500 to participate in the week's activities, including the cost of staff time for nine employees preparing for and participating in the discussions, as well as the cost of the dinner OSTP hosted on May 8. OSTP Response, at 5.

DISCUSSION

At issue in this opinion is whether OSTP violated section 1340's proscription, and, if so, whether the agency violated the Antideficiency Act.

As with any question involving the interpretation of statutes, our analysis begins with the plain language of the statute. *Jimenez v. Quarterman*, 555 U.S. 113 (2009). When the language of a statute is “clear and unambiguous on its face, it is the plain meaning of that language that controls.” *B-307720*, Sept. 27, 2007; *B-306975*, Feb. 27, 2006; see also *Lynch v. Alworth-Stephens Co.*, 267 U.S. 364, 370 (1925).

The plain meaning of section 1340 is clear. OSTP may not use its appropriations to participate, collaborate, or coordinate bilaterally in any way with China or any Chinese-owned companies. Here, OSTP's participation in the Innovation Dialogue and S&ED contravened the appropriations restriction. The Director opened the Innovation Dialogue and moderated discussions therein. OSTP staff prepared materials for and attended the discussions. OSTP then invited U.S. and Chinese officials to a dinner that it paid for using its appropriation. Finally, OSTP participated in the S&ED, during which the Director spoke on multiple occasions, including on climate science. OSTP did not identify, nor are we aware of, any specific authority to do so that was enacted after the date of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011.

OSTP does not deny that it engaged in activities prohibited by section 1340. OSTP Response; August Conversation. OSTP argues, instead, that section 1340, as applied to the events at issue here, is an unconstitutional infringement on the President's constitutional prerogatives in foreign affairs. OSTP Response, at 1; August Conversation; Letter from Director, OSTP, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Re: Section 1340 of the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011 (May 16, 2011) (OSTP May 16 Letter). OSTP claims that section 1340 is “unconstitutional to the extent its restrictions on OSTP's use of funds would bar the President from employing his chosen agents for the conduct of international diplomacy.” OSTP Response, at 1. OSTP asserts that the President has “exclusive constitutional authority to determine the time, place, manner, and content of diplomatic communications and to select the agents who will represent the President in diplomatic interactions with foreign nations.” OSTP May 16 Letter. OSTP argues that, for this reason, Congress may not “use its appropriations power to infringe upon the President's exclusive constitutional authority in this area.” *Id.*

It is not our role nor within our province to opine upon or adjudicate the constitutionality of duly enacted statutes such as section 1340. See *B-300192*, Nov. 13, 2002; see also *B-306475*, Jan. 30, 2006. In our view, legislation that was passed by Congress and signed by the President, thereby satisfying the Constitution's bicameralism and present-

ment requirements, is entitled to a heavy presumption in favor of constitutionality. *B-302911*, Sept. 7, 2004. See *Bowen v. Kendrick*, 487 U.S. 589, 617 (1988). Determining the constitutionality of legislation is a province of the courts. U.S. Const. art. III, §2. Cf. *Fairbank v. United States*, 181 U.S. 283, 285 (1901). Therefore, absent a judicial opinion from a federal court of jurisdiction that a particular provision is unconstitutional, we apply laws as written to the facts presented. See *B-114578*, Nov. 9, 1973. In 1955, for example, we stated that we “accord full effect to the clear meaning of an enactment by the Congress so long as it remains unchanged by legislative action and unimpaired by judicial determination.” *B-124985*, Aug. 17, 1955. We see no reason to deviate here. Indeed, we are unaware of any court that has had occasion to review the provision, let alone adjudicate its constitutionality, nor did OSTP advise of any judicial determination or ongoing litigation.

As a consequence of using its appropriations in violation of section 1340, OSTP violated the Antideficiency Act. Under the Antideficiency Act, an officer or employee of the U.S. Government may not make or authorize an expenditure or obligation exceeding an amount available in an appropriation. 31 U.S.C. §1341. See *B-300192*, Nov. 13, 2002. If Congress specifically prohibits a particular use of appropriated funds, any obligation for that purpose is in excess of the amount available. 71 Comp. Gen. 402 (1992); 62 Comp. Gen. 692 (1983); 60 Comp. Gen. 440 (1981). By using its fiscal year 2011 appropriation in a manner specifically prohibited, OSTP violated the Antideficiency Act. Accordingly, OSTP should report the violation as required by the act.

Sincerely,

LYNN H. GIBSON,
General Counsel.

MS. ERIN TREASTER

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Erin M. Treaster for her performance on the basketball court and soccer field, and as she is accepted into the Plains Sports Hall of Fame in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

A graduate of Bishop Hoban High School, Ms. Treaster was a four-year starter on both the soccer and basketball teams. In both sports she excelled, as she was selected as an all conference performer. She was also selected as the most valuable player of the Wyoming Valley Soccer Conference, and she was selected to the All-State Soccer team.

While attending college at Bloomsburg University, Ms. Treaster was a four-year starter for the Huskies in both basketball and soccer. In soccer, she was selected to the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) second team from 1995 through 1998, a regional All-American in 1996 and 1997, and ranks as the 10th overall soccer assist leader in Bloomsburg University history.

In basketball, Ms. Treaster's performance was equally impressive. She was selected All-Conference PSAC East Rookie of the Year in 1995-1996. With 456 assists, she is the all-time leader in the school's history, and the eighth all-time leader in steals with 202.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to officially congratulate Ms. Erin M. Treaster for all of her

accomplishments, and especially her induction into the Plains Sports Hall of Fame.

VETERANS OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mrs. BLACK. Madam Speaker, as our servicemembers return home from Iraq and Afghanistan, Congress must continue to focus on assisting in their transition back to civilian life. For many of these individuals, the wounds of war are not easily forgotten and it is imperative that we stand by these soldiers.

As the wife, mother and daughter of servicemen I have a strong appreciation for the contributions of our United States military personnel and I am a constant advocate for improving military and veteran benefits. That is why I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 2433, the “Veterans Opportunity to Work Act of 2011.”

H.R. 2433 provides unemployed veterans and active duty members who are about to retire with comprehensive training opportunities and employment assistance. It achieves these goals by: extending training benefits to unemployed veterans to teach them new skills for high-demand jobs; making career and transition courses mandatory for servicemembers leaving the military; strengthening re-employment protections for National Guard and Reservists; and improving licensing and credentialing processes for new veterans.

Recently I held a veterans job fair in my district and got to meet with some of these brave men and women as they looked for jobs. It is an honor to be able to help veterans while at home and this bill serves as a chance for us to help our veterans back home from Washington, DC.

Ensuring that our servicemen are well taken care of is one of our Nation's greatest responsibilities and I am pleased we will take up legislation today that will do just that.

GREATER NEW BEDFORD COMMUNITY HONORS NATE MEDEIROS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, there is no way that those of us who have stayed at home can discharge the debt we owe to the men and women who put their lives and safety at risk as members of the Armed Services, but it is important that we do what we can to show that we understand how deep that debt is. On October 23, I will have the privilege of participating in an effort to do that in the town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts, where the Greater New Bedford Community will gather to honor Army Pfc. Nathan Medeiros. Pfc. Medeiros is recovering from serious shrapnel and burn wounds he sustained from a roadside bomb last month in Afghanistan. His friends and neighbors will be gathering to show how deeply they honor his courage and appreciate his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, the wounds from which Nate Medeiros is recovering remind us all that while war is sometimes necessary in national self defense, it is always terrible in the toll it takes of our best and bravest. I am honored to be able to participate in this community effort to show Nate Medeiros how deeply we feel the debt to him, and Mr. Speaker, as an example that the nation should note, I ask that the article from the New Bedford Standard Times from October 11 about this event be printed here.

EVENT SCHEDULED TO HONOR NEW BEDFORD SOLDIER WOUNDED IN AFGHANISTAN
(By Brian Fraga)

NEW BEDFORD.—An event will be held later this month to honor Army Pfc. Nathan Medeiros, a New Bedford native recovering from shrapnel and burn wounds he sustained from a roadside bomb in Afghanistan last month.

"Honoring Our Own: Nate Medeiros" is scheduled for Oct. 23, from 3–7 p.m., at the Seaport Inn in Fairhaven. Due to military regulations, the event is not a benefit, and there will be no admission charge.

"After all, this will be the true epitome and best way to honor Nate for his heroic efforts," said Carl Pires, a friend of Medeiros's family who is coordinating the event, and will serve as its emcee.

The night will also feature performances by local musicians and artists such as poet Charles Perry and singers Tiny Tavares, Candida Rose, Glenn "G-Money" Enos, Navelle "Chops" Turner and Irving Washington III, former lead singer of the R&B group Portrait.

New Bedford Mayor Scott W. Lang, State Sen. Mark C.W. Montigny, D-New Bedford, and U.S. Rep. Barney Frank are also scheduled to be on hand to speak and present resolutions to Medeiros and his family, Pires said.

On Sept. 14, Medeiros, 28, an infantry machine-gunner assigned to the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division, was on patrol in Afghanistan, clearing roadside bombs from an area known as "IED Alley."

Medeiros said he had just noticed two Afghan men crouching at a distance, and was pointing out their location to his fellow soldiers when a roadside bomb detonated less than 2 feet from where he was standing.

"I turned back around and just as I do this, I'm blown into the air and back onto my side," said Medeiros, who has undergone several surgeries to remove shrapnel and debris from his legs.

Medeiros, a graduate of New Bedford High School's night program, also sustained lacerations to his face and neck, swelling in his hands and partial hearing loss.

He arrived home in New Bedford last week on leave, and will be present for the event.

"It's great to have him home," said Medeiros' mother, Cherele Fortes, who said her son surprised them in coming home.

"He looks good. He's got some scars, some bruising, but he is in great spirits. He is an amazing kid. God still has plans for him. That's why he's still with us," Fortes said.

HONORING THE NAACP—MORRIS COUNTY BRANCH

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morris County Branch of

the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, as it celebrates its 80th Anniversary.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest grassroots-based civil rights organization. With over a half-million members and supporters both throughout the country and around the world, the NAACP strives to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons to eliminate race-based discrimination.

To support the national organization's mission, different branches of the NAACP have been established throughout the United States. The NAACP, Morris County Branch, was established in 1931. Headquartered in Morristown, New Jersey, the Morris County Branch has provided great support to the mission and vision of the national organization.

Throughout its 80 years, the Morris County branch has sought to pursue the elimination of racial prejudice and discrimination through numerous events and fundraisers, most notably their Annual Freedom Banquet. This annual fundraiser, also celebrating its 80th anniversary, brings together people from all races, all economic backgrounds to join together for one common purpose: to ensure equality for our fellow citizens.

The NAACP, Morris County Branch, is a wonderful organization, one of which I am proud to say calls the New Jersey 11th Congressional District home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members and staff of the Morris County Branch of the NAACP as they celebrate 80 years of promoting equality for our nation.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION ENDING A CURRENT LAW LOOPHOLE THAT ALLOWS FOREIGN INSURANCE GROUPS TO STRIP THEIR U.S. INCOME INTO TAX HAVENS TO AVOID U.S. TAX

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to come before the House to introduce legislation ending a current law loophole that allows foreign insurance groups to strip their U.S. income into tax havens to avoid U.S. tax and gain a competitive advantage over American companies. I am pleased to be joined in my efforts by Senator MENENDEZ who is introducing the Senate companion bill.

Many foreign-based insurance companies are using affiliate reinsurance to shift their U.S. reserves overseas into tax havens, thereby avoiding U.S. tax on their all investment income. This provides these companies with a significant unfair competitive advantage over U.S.-based companies, which must pay tax on their investment income. To take advantage of this loophole, several U.S. companies have "inverted" into tax havens and numerous other companies have been formed offshore. And, absent effective legislation, industry experts have predicted that capital migration will continue to grow and other insurers will be forced to redomesticate offshore. As we grapple with significant budget challenges in the years to come, it is essential that we not allow the con-

tinued migration of capital overseas and erosion of our tax base.

The bill I am introducing today does not impact third party reinsurance, which adds needed capacity to the market. It is a fundamental business technique for risk management and is to be fostered. Rather, the bill is targeted solely at reinsurance among affiliates, which adds no additional capacity to the market and is often used for tax avoidance.

There have been previous attempts to address the tax avoidance problem resulting from reinsurance between related entities. Congress first recognized the problem of excessive reinsurance in 1984 and provided specific authority to Treasury under Section 845 of the Tax Code to reallocate items and make adjustments in reinsurance transactions in order to prevent tax avoidance or evasion. In 2003, the Bush Treasury Department testified before Congress that the existing mechanisms were not sufficient. In 2004, Congress amended Section 845 to expand the authority of Treasury to not only reallocate among the parties to a reinsurance agreement but also to recharacterize items within or related to the agreement. Congress specifically cited the concern that these reinsurance transactions were being used inappropriately among U.S. and foreign related parties for tax evasion. Unfortunately, as recent data shows, this grant of expanded authority to Treasury has not stemmed the tide of capital moving offshore.

Since 1996, the amount of reinsurance sent to offshore affiliates has grown dramatically, from a total of \$4 billion ceded in 1996 to \$33 billion in 2008, including nearly \$21 billion to Bermuda affiliates and over \$7 billion to Swiss affiliates. Use of this affiliate reinsurance provides foreign insurance groups with a significant market advantage over U.S. companies in writing direct insurance here in the U.S. We have seen in the last decade a doubling in the growth of market share of direct premiums written by groups domiciled outside the U.S., from 5.1 percent to 10.9 percent, representing \$54 billion in direct premiums written in 2006. Again, Bermuda-based companies represent the bulk of this growth, rising from 0.1 percent to 4 percent. And it should be noted that during this time, the percentage of premiums ceded to affiliates of non-U.S. based companies has grown from 13 percent to 67 percent. Bermuda is not the only jurisdiction favorable for reinsurance. In fact, one company moved from the Cayman Islands to Switzerland citing "the security of a network of tax treaties," among other benefits.

A coalition of U.S.-based insurance and reinsurance companies has been formed to express their concerns to Congress. They wrote to the leadership of the House and Senate tax-writing committees urging passage of my prior bill because, as they wrote, "This loophole provides foreign-controlled insurers a significant tax advantage over their domestic competitors in attracting capital to write U.S. business." With more than 150,000 employees and a trillion dollars in assets here in the U.S., I believe it is a message of concern that we should heed.

That is why I am again filing legislation to end the Bermuda reinsurance loophole. This proposal has been developed working with the tax experts at both the Treasury Department and the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation to address concerns that have been raised with prior versions of the bill and develop a balanced approach to address this

loophole. The proposal is consistent with our trade agreements and our tax treaties.

Specifically, the proposal I am filing today effectively defers any deduction for premiums paid to foreign affiliated insurance companies if the premium is not subject to U.S. tax. This is accomplished by denying an upfront deduction for any affiliate reinsurance and then excluding from income any reinsurance recovered (as well as any ceding commission received), where the premium deduction for that reinsurance has been disallowed.

The bill allows foreign groups to avoid the deduction disallowance by electing to be subject to U.S. tax with respect to the premiums and net investment income from affiliate reinsurance of U.S. risk. Special rules are provided to allow for foreign tax credits to avoid double taxation. This ensures a level-playing field, treating U.S. insurers and foreign-based insurers alike.

The legislation provides Treasury with the authority to carry out or prevent the avoidance of the provisions of this bill.

A fuller technical explanation of the bill can be found on my website.

This "deduction deferral" proposal is similar to one contained in the administration's budget this year. In an effort to combat earnings stripping, this bill uses a common-sense approach, which will effectively defer the deduction for premiums paid until the insured event occurs—thereby restricting any tax benefit from shifting reserves and associated investment income overseas.

Ending this unintended tax subsidy for foreign insurance companies will stop the capital flight at the expense of American taxpayers and restore competitive balance for domestic companies. Closing this loophole does not impose a new tax. It merely ensures that foreign-owned companies pay the same tax as American companies on their earnings from doing business here in the United States. Congress never would consciously subsidize foreign-owned companies over their American competitors. Thus, there is no reason an unintended subsidy should be allowed to continue.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the House on this important matter and I assure my colleagues that I will continue my efforts to combat offshore tax avoidance, regardless of what industry is impacted.

MR. JOHN BARANSKI

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John Baranski for his performance as an athlete, coach, and mentor, and on his acceptance into the Plains Sports Hall of Fame in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

John Baranski, who was better known as Jack, is a graduate of Coughlin High School. At Coughlin, he played tackle on both offense and defense for the Crusaders, and was part of their 1985 and 1986 Wyoming Valley Conference Championship teams. In 1987, Mr. Baranski was selected by the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader newspaper as a first-team All-Conference tackle. Because of his stellar performance in the Wyoming Valley West High School game, he was awarded the Out-

standing Senior Athlete Award from the Coughlin Booster Club and the Red Pendergrass Award. Also as a senior, Mr. Baranski played in the UNICO All-Star Game.

Mr. Baranski's playing career may be over, but his knowledge and skills are present in the student-athletes he has coached over the years. He coached at Coughlin from 1992 through 1999, and now he is the offensive coordinator for the Spartans of Wyoming Valley West. During his career as a coach, his teams have combined for seven District 2 AAAA championships and five Wyoming Valley Conference championships. He has also served as president of the Ed/Stark Little League in 2009, and of the West Side Little League in 2010 and 2011.

Mr. Speaker, John "Jack" Baranski, a product of Plains youth football and basketball, has certainly proven himself worthy of being called a "Hall of Famer" through his years of outstanding performance as a player and coach.

HONORING PAMELA ANN
COCHRANE OF LAKEPORT, CALI-
FORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Pamela Ann Cochrane, a resident and servant of the County of Lake for over three decades and among the most cherished and appreciated members of her community.

Mrs. Cochrane has been a public servant for 40 years, beginning her career of service in Lake County as an accountant in the Auditor-Controller's Office in 1980. Since that time her responsibilities and contributions have only increased. She became a supervising accountant in 1988, was promoted to Chief Deputy Auditor-Controller in 1994, served as Interim County Clerk/Auditor-Controller in 1998, and was successfully elected by the citizens of Lake County to the post of County Clerk/Auditor-Controller in 1998, 2002, 2006, and 2010.

Always a leader who valued versatility and adaptability among her staffers, Mrs. Cochrane made good on her campaign promise to "cross train all employees of the Auditor-Controller's Office," and is regarded by many of her colleagues and peers as an outstanding boss and coworker, and a great friend. She has always been quick to champion the accomplishments of her staff and department, which has won awards for excellence in financial reporting from the Government Finance Officer's Association and the State Controller's Office.

Mrs. Cochrane is also a model citizen and an enduring participant in a number of community organizations and groups. She is treasurer and a long-time member of the Lake County Hospice Board of Directors, a very active member of the Lakeport Rotary Club, a proud mother of three and grandmother of four.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I believe it is appropriate at this time that we commend and applaud the tremendous contributions that my friend, Mrs. Cochrane, has made to the County of Lake and her fellow members of that community. We wish to ex-

tend to her our deepest gratitude and best wishes for many years of happy retirement with her husband, James.

EXTENDING THE GENERALIZED
SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2832, legislation that will extend the Trade Adjustment Assistance program and the 2009 TAA reforms for workers, firms, and farmers through December 31, 2013.

Since its creation nearly half a century ago, TAA has helped millions of Americans whose jobs were lost to outsourcing, off-shoring, and increased foreign competition.

For many, TAA is a critical lifeline that provides retraining and education, health insurance assistance, and other crucial support initiatives to workers affected by international trade.

TAA also helps small businesses and farmers become more competitive through the TAA for firms and TAA for farmers program.

This legislation will also extend important reforms made to TAA in 2009, but were allowed to expire in February of this year. These improvements include guaranteeing access to training for American service and manufacturing workers, as well as allow workers to qualify for TAA benefits if their firms shifted production to any country, including China and India, not just countries with which the United States has entered into a free trade agreement.

More than 185,000 additional trade-impacted workers have become eligible for training opportunities and benefits under the 2009 reforms.

In my state alone, over 20,000 workers have benefited from TAA's services and support since May 2009. Nationwide, nearly half a million Americans have benefited from TAA over the past two years.

TAA has historically received bipartisan support in this chamber. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me and support this legislation.

Unfortunately, programs like TAA would not be necessary if this Congress and this Administration would push for trade deals that would focus on job creation here at home.

The history of free trade agreements shows that the promised benefits of FTAs, be with Mexico and NAFTA, or with China and Most-Favored-Trade Status, have not materialized.

In fact, it has been the opposite.

Soon after the enactment of NAFTA in 1994, six factories in my district in Houston were shut down. The thousands of Houstonians who were laid-off were able to get assistance through TAA, but would have much rather have kept their jobs than seen their livelihoods moved to Mexico.

Before NAFTA came into effect, the United States had an annual trade surplus of over \$1 billion with Mexico. Last year, our nation's trade deficit with our southern neighbor reached \$66 billion.

The story is similar with China. In 1999, the year before permanent MFT status was granted on China, our trade deficit was \$68 billion.

Today, that deficit has exploded to \$273 billion, and with it, millions of American jobs. A recent study by the Economic Policy Institute found that the trade deficit with China eliminated or displaced 2.8 million jobs between 2001 and 2010.

I fear that enactment of the trade agreements debated in this chamber today will further exacerbate job losses in our country.

EPI found in a study last year that the Korea FTA alone would displace 159,000 jobs in the United States. The same study found that the Colombia FTA would cost the American people 55,000 jobs.

It is time for this chamber to ask why our nation gives open access to our markets to foreign competitors—as is the case with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama—and only, years later, look to gain similar access into their markets.

History has shown me that genuine free trade comes when all parties receive equal access to each others' markets. All three of these agreements fail to do so.

I close by calling on my colleagues today to vote in favor of working Americans by voting against these trade agreements and voting in favor of TAA.

CAPE VERDEAN EX-PRESIDENT
PIRES IS PRAISED FOR HIS
LEADERSHIP ROLE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, last week, on the death of former Cape Verdean President Aristides Pereira, I noted the great achievement of that country in showing the world that a nation winning its independence in the post-World War II period can progress economically while fully respecting democratic norms. Earlier this week, that extremely admirable record was recognized as well by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation as they awarded the Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership to Pedro de Verona Rodrigues Pires, the recently retired President of Cape Verde. President Pires was elected to two terms as President and was one of those responsible for the great record of economic development a record recognized by both the Bush and Obama administrations in their strong support for Cape Verde's participation in our Millennium Challenge program. President Pires' popularity and record of success was such that some urged him to support a constitutional amendment so he could run for a third term, but he refused to do that, demonstrating a strong commitment to both the spirit and the letter of democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the people of Cape Verde for the example they set so much of the world in combining economic progress and democratic commitment, and I am glad to once again express to President Pires, whom I had the privilege of meeting in Brockton, Massachusetts last summer, my great admiration and respect for his work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the article from the New York Times about Pedro Pires winning the Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership be printed here, because the example set by President Pires and by the peo-

ple of Cape Verde is one that deserves to be chronicled widely, and, I hope, followed.

[From the New York Times, Oct. 10, 2011]

EX-PRESIDENT OF CAPE VERDE WINS GOOD-GOVERNMENT PRIZE

(By Adam Nossiter)

MONROVIA, LIBERIA.—Pedro de Verona Rodrigues Pires, the former president of Cape Verde, the desertlike archipelago about 300 miles off the coast of West Africa, has won one of the world's major prizes, the \$5 million Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership.

The record of governing in Africa has been poor enough lately that the Mo Ibrahim Foundation decided not to award the prize for the past two years. In many African countries, leaders have refused to leave office after losing elections, tried to alter constitutions to ensure their continued tenure or gone back on pledges not to run for re-election.

But on Monday the foundation of Mr. Ibrahim, a Sudan-born telecommunications mogul whose goal is to promote good government in Africa, announced it had picked Mr. Pires of Cape Verde, a sparsely populated former Portuguese colony of 500,000 people, mostly of mixed Portuguese-African descent. The islands are a perennial exception to the many low rankings that international organizations, including Mr. Ibrahim's, give to nations on the continent for human rights and governing.

Mr. Pires served two terms—10 years—as president until stepping down last month. During that period, the foundation noted, Cape Verde became only the second African nation to move up from the United Nations' "least developed" category. The foundation says the prize is given only to a democratically elected president who has stayed "within the limits set by the county's constitution, has left office in the last three years and has demonstrated excellence in office."

Mr. Pires resisted suggestions that his country's Constitution could be changed to allow him to run again, a further point in his favor, the foundation said. In addition to the \$5 million award paid over 10 years, the winner receives \$200,000 annually for life thereafter.

"It is wonderful to see an African leader who has served his country from the time of colonial rule through to multiparty democracy, all the time retaining the interests of his people as his guiding principle," Mr. Ibrahim said in a statement. "The fact that Cape Verde with few natural resources can become a middle-income country is an example not just to the continent but to the world."

Mr. Ibrahim publishes an index scoring African countries on how they govern, and this year the index noted significant improvements in Liberia and Sierra Leone, while nonetheless finding an "unchanged continental average" in "overall governance quality."

THE U.S.-KOREA FREE TRADE
AGREEMENT: A NO WIN SITUATION
FOR AMERICA AND ITS
WORKERS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, why would Congress pass three leftover Bush NAFTA-style "free trade" agreements with Korea, Panama and Colombia?

A report issued by the Economic Policy Institute concluded that the Korea FTA agreement not only fails to create jobs for American workers, it would result in the net loss of 159,000 U.S. jobs in its first seven years. And when one considers the details of the agreement, it is not hard to see why.

Under the proposed Korea FTA, the United States will eliminate tariffs on South Korean cars and trucks, increasing South Korean imports here, without requiring them to buy more of our vehicles. As a concession, South Korea did agree to waive certain environmental and safety requirements for up to 25,000 cars per U.S. maker—if suddenly there is demand for U.S. cars in South Korea, whose consumers historically have not bought U.S. imports. More than 95 percent of the cars sold in South Korea today are made in South Korea.

Additionally, no changes were made to the low domestic content rules. Under the proposed agreement, up to 65 percent of the value of a vehicle can be sourced in low-wage nations like China and still qualify for the FTA's duty-free access. As a result, this agreement is an open invitation to the auto industry to send American auto parts jobs to China. Indeed, the Korean Auto Workers Union opposes this FTA because the low domestic content rules will also invite the South Korean parts industry to outsource their jobs to China. Meanwhile, Europe's trade agreement with South Korea requires 55 percent domestic content. Even NAFTA required 50 percent domestic content.

But while this FTA does not follow NAFTA's domestic content requirements, it does replicate NAFTA's special privileges for foreign investors. This allows foreign investors to evade domestic courts and use foreign tribunals to get reimbursed for regulatory costs from U.S. taxpayers. There are more than 270 Korean corporate affiliates in the U.S. who would be empowered to use these tribunals to raid our Treasury if the Korea FTA were implemented.

Among the laws exposed to attack are financial regulations that the U.S. and Korea implemented to restore stability after the devastating global financial crisis. The banks and securities firms that wrecked the global economy would be newly empowered under this deal to attack the policies designed to get them under control. Not surprisingly, the Korea FTA is loved by Wall Street's titans.

And the FTA even includes President Bush's ban on references to the International Labor Organization's Conventions—the global labor standard. The agreement does nothing to require South Korean labor law to be put on equal footing with U.S. law, as under South Korean law, union members can be fired for striking and then sued for their employers' lost profits. The AFL-CIO, Teamsters, and many other American and Korean unions oppose this FTA.

With the Big Three beginning to recover and hire more workers thanks to major U.S. government assistance, it seems problematic that Congress would support an agreement that could boost the auto industry's profits, but only at the cost of more off-shored jobs.

The proposed Korea FTA is a bad deal for our country and America's workers. It's time to put the American worker first and stop these trade deals.

MR. KEVIN GRYBOSKI

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Kevin Gryboski for his lifetime of outstanding athleticism, and on his acceptance into the Plains Sports Hall of Fame in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Gryboski is a graduate of Bishop Hoban High School and Wilkes University. He began his baseball career in Plains with a Little League championship in 1984. He was also selected first-team All-State and top pitcher in the state in 1992 while playing for the Plains American Legion Baseball team. While at Bishop Hoban, Mr. Gryboski showed his talents on the field, as he was named an all-star in 1990 and 1991, and he also played basketball for the Argents.

Mr. Gryboski continued to show his talents during his time at Wilkes University, where he participated in both baseball and basketball. On the mound, he was named pitcher for the 1994 Middle Atlantic Conference championship team. To this day, he holds the Colonels' all-time record for complete games, and he has been inducted into the Wilkes University Athletic Hall of Fame.

Mr. Gryboski is an inspiration to many student-athletes because he showed the importance of education. In 1994, he was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds, but he deferred signing so he could finish earning his degree. He had truly ended up with the best of both worlds, as in 1995 he had his degree and signed with the Seattle Mariners, where he played until 2001. He was traded to the Atlanta Braves in 2002. His career also took him to the Texas Rangers, the Washington Nationals, the Pittsburgh Pirates, and finally to the San Francisco Giants in 2008 before he retired after a shoulder injury. He pitched in 190 regular-season games and 13 post-season games, and he helped the Braves win a National League East championship.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to commend Mr. Kevin Gryboski, and speak for the members of his hometown in appreciation of his gifts and abilities.

CONGRATULATING SIERRA PACIFIC INDUSTRIES ON RE-OPENING THE SONORA SAWMILL

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sierra Pacific Industries on re-opening the Sonora Sawmill. This dedicated business is assisting in bringing back economic vitality to the region.

Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) is a third-generation family-owned forest products company based in Anderson, California. With its formation in 1949, the firm now owns and manages nearly 1.9 million acres of timberland in California and Washington, and is the second largest lumber producer in the United States. Sierra Pacific employs over 3,500 people in these two states, with about 3,000 of them in

California. The U.S. Forest Service estimates that these direct jobs in California also provide more than 7,000 indirect jobs in related and affected businesses.

At Sierra Pacific Industries, the company's dedicated team members produce quality wood products using the most sophisticated equipment and machinery. This basic understanding represents Sierra Pacific's philosophy toward its valued crew members. During the course of Sierra Pacific's growth and development, efforts have been made to assure an atmosphere of fair treatment and appreciation for all employees. Some of SPI's continuing programs include: appropriate compensation and benefit levels for crew members and their dependents; development of supervisors sensitive to the needs and concerns of today's crew members; and career advancement opportunities for all employees through a desire to promote from within the company whenever possible. Through a full commitment to this philosophy, SPI continues to be an organization where its crew members are proud to work and others strive to become part of the team.

Sierra Pacific continues to make substantial investments in forestry and mill modernization in the State of California. Although many companies have left the state due to its difficult economic and regulatory climate, SPI remains committed to rebuilding a competitive climate for business in California and investing in the rural communities where it operates.

Sierra Pacific Industries is committed to managing its lands in a responsible and sustainable manner to protect the environment while providing quality wood products and renewable power for consumers. To SPI, sustainable forest management means more than planting trees. The company employs modern forest management practices that closely mimic natural forest events. It has invested in state-of-the-art equipment to optimize every fiber of every tree. SPI is a voluntary partner in the independent Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) forest certification program to help ensure our forests are here for generations to come. The expertise of its registered professional foresters and natural resource specialists guarantees that wildlife habitats, water quality, and other forest values are protected.

The Sierra Pacific Foundation was established and funded in 1979 by A.A. "Red" Emmerson's father, R.H. "Curly" Emmerson. During the past 20 years, the Foundation has provided over \$3 million in Higher Education scholarships to dependent children of SPI employees. The Foundation also contributes to youth activities and other organizations in the communities in which Sierra Pacific Industries has facilities, with contributions to more than 100 worthy organizations each year. The Foundation awarded \$403,250 to 177 students to assist them as they attend colleges, universities and trade schools during the 2011–2012 school year.

Mrs. Ida Emmerson, wife of company president A.A. "Red" Emmerson for nearly 41 years, served as president of the Sierra Pacific Foundation until her death in 1996. Red and Ida's daughter, Carolyn Dietz, proudly succeeded her as Foundation president.

The original Sonora sawmill was first constructed in 1901. It had several owners before Sierra Pacific Industries purchased it and nearby timberlands in 1995. Sierra Pacific op-

erated the plant continuously until it was forced to close the facility in 2009 amid weakness in the lumber market, reduced timber harvests on nearby national forest lands, and increasing state regulatory burdens. In June of 2011 SPI announced that it would rebuild the mill using new technologies that would allow it to cut a wider array of log sizes to maximize the efficiency of the operation. The mill restarted in September, 2011 and employs about 130 workers on two shifts.

Sierra Pacific Industries generates \$11.7 million in annual payroll in Tuolumne County to its direct employees, and pays \$400,000 in property taxes. In addition, SPI pays out over \$200,000 annually to local vendors for their supplies and services.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praising Sierra Pacific Industries for their diligent work in the timber industry and applauding them in the re-opening of the Sonora Sawmill.

H.R. 2017, CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2017 would fund the Federal Government from October 1, 2011 through October 4, 2011. It was considered by a unanimous consent request, which does not require a recorded vote. Had a recorded vote been required, I would have voted against this spending bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, I regrettably missed the votes on rollcall. My leave of absence was due to a district event with the Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan. Had I been present, I would have voted "Nay" on the following bill.

H. Res. 425—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3078, United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act, H.R. 3079, United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act, H.R. 3080, United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act and the Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendments to H.R. 2832 which extends the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes.

Following H. Res. 425, I would have voted "Yea" on the following amendments.

Waxman Amendment (#11) which adds a new section at the end of the bill to ensure that the bill complies with the Republican discretionary CutGo protocol. The section says if the bill authorizes the appropriation of funds and does not reduce an existing authorization of appropriations to offset that amount, then the bill's provisions cease to be effective. CBO currently scores the bill as spending \$1 million over 5 years subject to appropriations.

Connolly Amendment (#18) which adds a new section at the end of the bill that directs the EPA Administrator not to delay actions to reduce pollution emissions from waste incinerators or industrial boilers at chemical facilities,

oil refineries or large manufacturing facilities if such emissions are causing respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses and deaths, including cases of heart attacks, asthma attacks and bronchitis.

Markey Amendment which adds a new section at the end of the bill which directs the EPA Administrator not to delay actions to reduce pollution emissions from waste incinerators or industrial boilers at chemical facilities, oil refineries or large manufacturing facilities if such emissions are increasing the risk of cancer.

Edwards Amendment which adds a finding to the bill which states, according to EPA, if the rules overturned by the bill remained in effect, they would create 2,200 net additional jobs, not including jobs created to manufacture and install equipment to reduce air pollution. This finding is drawn from EPA's analysis of the rules.

Schakowsky Amendment which adds a finding to the bill that mercury released into the ambient air from cement kilns is a potent neurotoxin that can damage the development of an infant's brain.

Ellison Amendment (#12) which allows EPA to require compliance by boilers sooner than 5 years (underlying bill says boilers get at least 5 years or longer to comply) if the new regulations required to be written under the bill result in the creation of more than 1,000 jobs.

Welch Amendment which adds a finding to the bill affirming that that the American people are exposed to mercury from industrial sources through the consumption of fish containing mercury and every state in the nation has issued at least one mercury advisory for fish consumption.

Jackson-Lee Amendment which requires boilers to comply no later than 3 years after EPA completes the re-write of boiler rules required by the bill. The bill includes a deadline of at least 5 years, the Clean Air Act currently requires 3 years and gives states or EPA the ability to extend for a 4th year. The Jackson-Lee amendment would retain the CAA's current provisions.

MR. GERRY GRYBOSKI

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Gerry Gryboski for his performance as an athlete, coach, and role model, and on his acceptance into the Plains Sports Hall of Fame in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Gerry is a graduate of Sacred Heart High School, where he participated in basketball and baseball. He posted a 4-0 record as a pitcher in the 1962 Catholic League Championship, and he led the team with a .484 batting average.

Mr. Gryboski was invited to tryouts for both the Pittsburgh Pirates and Philadelphia Phillies; however, he ended up serving his country in the United States Army from 1963 to 1966.

Mr. Gryboski coached Bidy league as well as seventh and eighth grade basketball. He also coached Little and Teener league baseball for eleven years, from 1980 to 1991. He also contributed two All-Star sons to the Wyoming Valley Conference, Kevin and Brian.

Mr. Speaker, Gerry Gryboski must surely be proud of the spectacular athletes he has coached and raised, as well as of his career and the teams he has coached. It is with great pleasure that I commend him as he is accepted into the Plains Sports Hall of Fame.

SUPPORTING THE EXTENSION OF TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE AND OPPOSING THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH SOUTH KOREA, PANAMA AND COLOMBIA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of extending the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program (TAA) and in opposition to the three free trade agreements between the U.S. and South Korea, Panama, and Colombia.

TAA provides essential assistance to workers who lose employment due to trade agreements with foreign countries. We need to extend it. More than 280,000 displaced workers in 2010 relied on the greater job training options, health care tax credit coverage, and extra weeks of income support provided under the TAA program to get back on their feet after losing their jobs to foreign countries.

The residents of my district in California have firsthand experience with the benefits of TAA. California has seen multiple plant closings due to trade with countries around the globe. Last year, the NUMMI auto plant in my district closed and nearly 5,000 employees lost their jobs along with thousands more who worked at suppliers for the plant. For these workers, TAA is a lifeline that is providing retraining, education, and other assistance to help them find new jobs.

U.S. trade policies and free trade agreements, such as NAFTA and DR-CAFTA, have decimated our manufacturing sector. They have protected corporate interests at the expense of workers and created incentives to ship jobs overseas. I opposed those agreements and I oppose the unfair free trade Agreements with Panama, Korea and Colombia that are currently before Congress.

If we want to get our economy back on track, we need to focus on creating jobs and not shipping more jobs overseas. These three free trade agreements follow the same failed Bush-era trade policies that allow multinational corporations to challenge public interest laws that protect the environment, health, and workers.

The agreement with South Korea will increase our trade deficit by billions of dollars and cost us an estimated 159,000 jobs. The Colombia agreement stands out because it would have us lower trade barriers with a country in which only 2 percent of workers are unionized and more trade unionists are murdered annually than anywhere else in the world. We should not sign more agreements that ship our jobs overseas, grant exceptional rights to large corporations, and fail to protect workers' rights or our environment.

Republicans in Congress have spent eight months tying the extension of critical TAA benefits to the three pending free trade agree-

ments. In doing so, they've abandoned the very people who will get our economy going again: workers. It is a further wrong that the extension of TAA is just for two years, and not longer. These new trade agreements are going to be permanent. We should ensure that permanent TAA protections are there for the workers who will lose their jobs as a result of the trade agreements. Our vote today in favor of an extension of TAA will provide real help to these workers and their families. We owe it to them to support TAA and to oppose the three pending free trade agreements that will cost more jobs. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING DR. JOSEPH N. HANKIN

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Joseph N. Hankin, who will be honored October 12 for his 40 years as President of Westchester Community College, the State University of New York, in Valhalla, NY. His four decades of exceptional leadership and dedication at this outstanding institution make him the longest-serving community college president in the nation.

That distinction is only the latest in Dr. Hankin's distinguished career in higher education. At age 26, he became the youngest community college president in the nation, when he assumed the presidency of Harford Community College, in Maryland. Four years later, he moved to Westchester Community College. Under his leadership, WCC's enrollment has grown from several thousand to more than 30,000 in both credit and non-credit programs. The college's Continuing Education division is now the largest in New York State, providing lifelong learning for students of all ages. Its faculty and professional staff have received more SUNY Chancellors Awards for Excellence than any other community college in the system and the Westchester Community College Foundation has grown into one of the most successful community college foundations in the nation.

Mindful of the need to keep education relevant to the changing needs of its students and society, Dr. Hankin has overseen the addition of dozens of new curricula and the redesign of existing programs as well as the growth of comprehensive corporate training for businesses and entrepreneurs. Committed to the college's mission of quality, affordability and accessibility, he launched the highly-regarded Honors Program, and continues to support WCC's English Language Institute and its Virginia Marx Children's Center on campus. The latter gives students and staff the best child care possible at affordable rates. Dr. Hankin also has expanded the college's reach into every corner of the community, with five stand-alone extension centers and class offerings at hundreds of additional locations.

For all of these accomplishments and many more, Dr. Joseph N. Hankin has been named one of the Top Fifty Community College Leaders in the Nation and one of the Most Effective College Presidents in the U.S. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing him for his exemplary educational leadership, vision, service and commitment during his 40 years at Westchester Community College.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EMMA
BATES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the memory of Emma Bates from Riviera Beach, Florida. Mrs. Bates passed away on October 9, 2011, following a year-long battle with stomach cancer. Previously, she had beaten both breast and colon cancer, attesting to the strength and perseverance that drove Mrs. Bates throughout her life.

Mrs. Bates moved from her native Baxley, Georgia to the Glades area in Florida as a child. She graduated from Roosevelt High School in West Palm Beach. After graduation, she enrolled in several business management courses at what is now known as Palm Beach State College and later found an interest in cosmetology. It was not long until she opened her own hair salon, the Intimate Salon of Beauty in Riviera Beach. Mrs. Bates was believed to have been the first licensed African-American beautician in Palm Beach County.

She was known by many in the community as an activist who worked tirelessly for what she believed was right and in the best interest of the Riviera Beach community. She served as the chairwoman of the Citizens Task Force and was a campaign manager for multiple candidates, including a successful campaign for City Council in 2007.

Mrs. Bates was a woman who was truly loved by her community and worked hard for what she believed in. I am deeply saddened by her passing, which is more than a personal loss, but also a loss for the community that she fought for and inspired. Her selfless efforts will continue to be felt for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Mrs. Bates' family and friends during this most difficult time. Her memory will live on and she will be dearly missed.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH
BIRTHDAY OF TAKAYOSHI OSHIMA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American innovator and entrepreneur, Mr. Takayoshi Oshima. On the occasion of his 70th birthday, which he celebrated last month, I would like to take this opportunity to herald Mr. Oshima's many achievements in the field of business and technology—achievements that have helped establish Silicon Valley, which I am proud to represent, as the international center of IT research and development.

Born in Tochigi, Japan on September 17, 1941, Mr. Oshima moved to the United States with the support of generous benefactors to pursue an engineering degree at the University of Florida. He began his studies with little English fluency, but he studied hard and excelled academically, demonstrating early the

high standards to which he has held himself throughout his life. Upon graduating, he was recruited by ITT to work in Puerto Rico. Restless for new challenges and opportunities, Mr. Oshima returned to Florida to study business after which he joined the esteemed ranks of the technology industry's earliest and most promising pioneers. He worked for the legendary Fairchild Semiconductor company, where he and his colleagues like Dr. Robert Noyce, Dr. Gordon Moore, and Dr. Andy Grove helped start what today has become Silicon Valley. He would later take on senior technical, marketing, and managerial roles at Advanced Micro Devices and Ungermann-Bass.

Taki currently serves as Chairman and CEO of Allied Telesis Holdings KK which he founded in San Jose, CA in 1987. Internationally recognized for developing sophisticated data networks used in high performance and high reliability applications, Allied Telesis today employs over 2,400 people in 23 countries around the world. At 70, he remains committed to leading a company on the cutting edge of technological innovation. He is personally motivated to address some of our nation's most pressing challenges: improving health care, homeland security, and transportation through more advanced technologies.

Mr. Oshima has not only distinguished himself in engineering and business; he is also a respected leader in the San Francisco Bay Area's Japanese American community. He is a committed family man—a proud father to two daughters and one son and a doting grandfather to four grandsons.

As a fellow Californian, as a Japanese American, and as a friend, I am proud today to pay tribute to Mr. Oshima for his contributions to America's technological advancement and economic growth. Although his modesty would seek to convince you otherwise, Mr. Oshima is among Silicon Valley's most successful and transformative entrepreneurs.

Mr. Speaker, I thank and applaud Mr. Takayoshi Oshima for his outstanding achievements and his passion to discover and foster untapped potential in every frontier. He is a true American pioneer.

MS. MARIE PAGE

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Marie Page, president of Marie Page Cleaning Services, for her entrepreneurial spirit. Ms. Page started her business in residential cleaning and janitorial service in 1989. She proved herself as a legitimate business owner through hard work and determination. Marie Page Cleaning Services LLC is certified by the State of Pennsylvania as a woman-owned business enterprise.

Ms. Page's company is affiliated with the not-for-profit organization, Cleaning for a Reason, through which Marie Page Cleaning Services provides free cleaning for women undergoing cancer treatment—something we should note during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Ms. Page shows her good heart as a business owner as she still offers compensation to her employees but donates the supplies and serv-

ices. Marie Page has made her presence known as a businesswoman as well as her community efforts. It is for these reasons that I commend her.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the efforts of this woman and her enterprising spirit in the face of adversity and in a difficult business climate. It is citizens such as Marie Page that make Northeastern Pennsylvania a wonderful place to live and work. As a former small business owner, I understand the concerns of starting a business, and Ms. Page has turned her start-up company into a successful and philanthropic organization that I am sure has a very bright future.

UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE
PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLE-
MENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, the free trade agreement between the United States and Colombia means jobs. If you are looking for bright spots in the U.S. economy, our trading relationship with Colombia is one of them. Even though we have been operating under a handicap to competitors like Argentina because of higher tariffs and duties, American exports to Colombia have been growing. Our exports last year were worth \$12.1 billion, up 26 percent, and the International Trade Commission estimates this agreement will increase exports by at least another \$1.1 billion.

Each of those exports supports jobs in the United States, not to mention jobs in the State of Alabama. Colombia is one of Alabama's best export markets in this hemisphere, and it is an excellent customer for high-value manufactured products like machinery and transportation equipment. Our former Governor Bob Riley demonstrated the importance of the partnership when he led a trade delegation to Colombia in 2009, and it is my view that this agreement will create even more opportunities for mutually beneficial trade.

Colombia is a strategic ally committed to a free market economy. Working together, our governments have made progress in addressing the scourge of narcotics. The Colombian government has also instituted major labor reforms, and the labor provisions in this agreement reflect the government's commitment to protect those rights. For the record, I am submitting information I received from the Colombian Ambassador to the U.S. regarding the Action Plan on labor protections.

The U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement will open up new avenues of cooperation between our two countries, and provide an immediate boost to our farmers, the textile industry, our energy industry, and our manufacturers to name just a few. It is a win-win agreement and I am pleased to support it.

THIRD PARTY VALIDATORS

COLOMBIA HAS ACHIEVED ALL OF THE ACTION
PLAN MILESTONES

September 15 Milestones: "Colombia continues to meet its milestones for the action plan."—Deputy USTR Miriam Sapiro, September 23, 2011.

June 15 Milestones: "The Action Plan is designed to significantly increase labor protections in Colombia, and we are pleased

that Colombia is meeting its commitments. We are eager to see Congress move the Colombia trade agreement forward as soon as possible (. . .).—USTR Ron Kirk, June 13, 2011.

April 22 Milestones: U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk sent a letter to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees “indicating that Colombia has taken the necessary steps, consistent with the April 22 milestones outlined in the Action Plan, to move to the next stage in the process.”—USTR Ron Kirk, May 4, 2011.

COLOMBIA IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK: PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS AND THE RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS

“On September 8, 2011, the Department of State determined and certified to Congress that the Colombian Government is meeting statutory criteria related to human rights.”—U.S. State Department, September 15, 2011.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) Committee that has monitored Colombia since 1985, excluded Colombia in June 2010 and again this year from the list of countries that need special monitoring.—ILO, June 2011.

For the first time in more than a decade, Colombia has been selected as a titular member of the ILO Governing Body for the 2011-2014 term. Colombia was elected with 96 percent of votes from the tripartite delegations of 182 countries around the world.—ILO, June 2011.

COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT AND LABOR UNIONS: WORKING HAND IN HAND

An effective Three-Party Agreement was signed by the Colombian Government, labor unions and employers to strengthen democracy and advance the social dialogue on labor issues. The Agreement, which was originally signed in June 2006, was updated in May 2011 to reaffirm all three parties’ commitment to reestablishing a social dialogue to generate solutions on labor-related issues and address conflicts and differences.—May 2011.

The Colombian Government and Colombian Federation of Educators—Fecode, which represents 250,000 educators—signed an historic agreement on May 4, 2011 that will improve working conditions and the quality of life for the nation’s educators. “We achieved very important points and discussed important topics such as the teachers’ status. As teachers, we have welcomed this agreement.”—Senén Niño, President of Fecode. June 15, 2011.

TRADE UNIONS AND NGO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR ACTION PLAN AND PROGRESSIVE AGENDA

On the Progressive Agenda: “The General Labor Confederation (CGT) salutes the achievements of the Administration of President Juan Manuel Santos during his first year in office. The Administration has enacted a series of policies of enormous value to workers and all Colombians.”—CGT, August 11, 2011.

On the Progressive Agenda: “The agenda that is being constructed at this moment is the result of a constant battle and the work of the Colombian union movement with the support of international unions. The measures contained in the agreement signed by Presidents Santos and Obama last week, the recommendations of the High Level Mission of the OIT that visited us in February, and President Santos’ programs on labor are all measures that the union movement has advocated for years.”—Luciano Sanin, Director of the National Union School (ENS), April 2011.

On the Action Plan: “It is a step in the right direction that the President (Santos) deepened the agreement so that the topics of union liberty, human rights and guarantees for workers are included in the FTA.”—Julio Roberto Gomez, General Secretary of the CGT, April 8, 2011.

A VIEW FROM OUTSIDE: “COLOMBIA’S PROGRESS DESERVES SUPPORT”

“The best way to encourage Mr. Santos to take further steps to end impunity and protect activists, political candidates and indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities is to approve the FTA.” (. . .) “Democrats should join in ratifying the Colombia pact, and they should credit progress on human rights.”—Mark Schneider, Senior Vice President, International Crisis Group and Former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, September 18, 2011.

“We commend President Juan Manuel Santos’s commitment to compensate the victims of violence and return confiscated land to poor farmers. And we applaud efforts to reduce homicides of union members, which Colombia reports have declined by nearly 90% since 2002. These are significant steps. The FTA will further Colombia’s progress by providing clear protections for fundamental labor rights.”—Sens. John Kerry (D-MA) and Max Baucus (D-MT), Wall Street Journal Op-ed, April 4, 2011.

“A Gain for Workers.” In an article on labor cooperatives, *Revista Semana* highlighted that the new decree that tackles illegal forms of labor intermediation “is very good news for the working class (. . .) 300,000 jobs will be formalized (. . .) several companies are already adjusting to the new standard. Carrefour added 600 employees to its payroll, representing additional annual costs of about 5,000 million pesos (US\$2.5 million). Exito has hired 2,500 packers, as part of a plan that includes the direct hiring of 6,250 employees this year. This will cost Exito about 70,000 million pesos per year (US\$35 million).”—*Revista Semana*, June 18, 2011. The Colombian news weekly *Revista Semana* was awarded in 2009 by the Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA) with the Charles A. Perlik, Jr. Award for Excellence in the Field of Print Journalism throughout the hemisphere.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,863,312,407,851.35.

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

This means the national debt has increased by \$4,224,886,661,557.55 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND MEDICAID

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on the Joint Select Committee on

Deficit Reduction to not make cuts to vital safety net programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

52.5 Million people received Social Security in 2009 alone—and 3 million seniors live below the \$11,000 federal poverty level.

Today, 40 million Americans are enrolled in Medicare.

More than 48 million people rely on Medicaid services.

Unfortunately, Republicans want to turn back the clock and place increasing costly burdens on the backs of America’s seniors and their families.

We must not ask seniors to sacrifice benefits before asking the wealthiest few and major companies to pay their fair share.

Seniors have health care security and a greater financial security because of these services—we must ensure their protection and avoid cuts that will negatively impact job creation.

We must lower our long-term deficit and work together to find a better solution so that America’s beneficiaries are not at risk.

TO COMMEMORATE THE GRAND OPENING OF OTTO BOCK POLYURETHANE TECHNOLOGIES IN ROCHESTER HILLS, MI

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the grand opening of Otto Bock Polyurethane Technologies in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Otto Bock is world-renowned and award-winning for its work in the field of prosthetics and orthotics. The story of the Otto Bock family of companies is a striking example of how innovation and technology can be transferred across discrete industries to create synergies for new products and processes.

Founded in 1919 in Berlin, Germany and named for its founder, Otto Bock has stayed true to its origins as an innovator and manufacturer of prosthetic devices. The perpetual process of innovating and improving prostheses combined with the challenge presented by the physical needs of returning war veterans, pushed Bock to use new materials and processes to increase production of improved prostheses. Traditionally an artisan-based process, Bock sought to move the industry toward a component-based manufacturing system. He was a forerunner in the use of aluminum parts and in 1950, he applied the first plastics to prosthetic production, some of which are still used today. Recognizing the vast potential of this new material, Max Näder, Bock’s son-in-law, founded the Otto Bock Kunststoff in 1953. Today, the company is an important technology partner for Otto Bock HealthCare as well as a successful developer

and supplier of plastics for the automobile industry. The third pillar of the company group Otto Bock is Sycor. Formerly part of the computer department of Otto Bock, the information and communication technology company develops customized solutions for company networks.

Otto Bock's Rochester Hills facility will focus on advanced products and manufacturing of technologies of noise-reducing NVH Foam Parts for automotive engines and will eventually bring nearly \$14 million in capital investments and 100 jobs to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to welcome the entire Otto Bock family to Michigan's 9th Congressional District and I am honored to recognize Otto Bock Polyurethane Technologies and the dedicated individuals who work to maintain its mission of innovation. I know that the leadership of Otto Bock will find some of the best engineers and skilled workers in the world here to further its work in advanced technology and manufacturing. I look forward to Otto Bock maintaining its strong tradition of innovation, excellence and good corporate citizenship in our communities for many decades to come.

MS. RITA LACEY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rita Lacey of Close the Loop, for her excellent work as an entrepreneur. Ms. Lacey has managed to merge business and the phrase "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" through her business, Close the Loop LLC.

Close the Loop LLC began in 2000. Ms. Lacey started a new venture with no background in sales or accounting. Its aim was to help United States manufacturers of recycled products build the demand for their products made from recycled materials. By 2008, Close the Loop had shipped more than 7 million pounds of rubber mulch and more than 130,000 pounds of plastic fencing.

In 2009, a time of economic downturn led Ms. Lacey's company to get more socially involved in the community. Close the Loop organized free community events such as "Give and Take Days," during which community members donated items they no longer needed and took items they could use. Ms. Lacey has passed her business knowledge to others by offering free workshops and classes at Careerlink in Tannersville and the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce. She shows unemployed and underemployed people how they can start their own business while on a limited budget. I commend Ms. Lacey for all she has done as an entrepreneur and a philanthropist.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the efforts that Rita Lacey has made. It is citizens such as Ms. Lacey that make Northeastern Pennsylvania a wonderful place to live and work. In these struggling times, it is wonderful to see all of the positive work Ms. Lacey is doing to promote her community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR.
RICHARD "FOZ" RYAN

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Richard "Foz" Ryan, teacher, coach and community servant, who passed away this week on Monday, October 10, 2011.

A native of East St. Louis, Illinois, Foz Ryan was a competitive athlete who blended his interests in education and sports as a highly successful coach. Foz coached an impressive array of sports over a 36 year career, including basketball, football, cross country, track and volleyball. The lessons learned by his athletes enabled them to achieve success, not only in their athletic pursuits, but in life as well.

Foz never faced a worthy cause he did not champion or an event he could not organize. He became involved with the Special Olympics over 30 years ago and was a dedicated supporter of that organization ever since. While Foz was honored for his years of service to Special Olympics he noted that his true reward came through his interaction with the Special Olympics athletes.

Through his work with the Knights of Columbus and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Foz organized and initiated a number of community events, including the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in Belleville, Illinois, which was founded through Foz's initiative and which has grown in popularity every year.

Always proud of his Irish ancestry, Foz made several trips to Ireland and worked tirelessly to promote an appreciation for Irish heritage within his community. He was honored as the "Hibernian of the Year" and held every office of his local chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Foz Ryan's lifetime of achievement was accomplished through his roles as a teacher, coach, mentor, volunteer, fund-raiser and community servant. He is now reunited with his wife, Shirley, to whom he was married for 44 years and who preceded him in death in 2000. Foz is survived by three children, Theresa, Timothy and Patrick, and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Richard "Foz" Ryan, offering our best wishes to his family and recognizing the indelible mark he left on his community and in the hearts of everyone who knew him.

A GOTHAM HEART—IN HONOR OF
AN AMERICAN HERO, PFC BYRAN
A. DILBERIAN, JR., UNITED
STATES ARMY, 10TH MOUNTAIN
DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 32ND
INFANTRY REGIMENT

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 2011 PFC Bryan Dilberian, Jr., while on patrol in Arghandab Valley in Afghanistan, was nearly killed by an Improvised Explosive Device that

took both of Bryan's legs and an arm. His brother in arms, SPC Jimmy Waters died literally in his arms from the same IED explosion.

But, because of his Gotham Heart and extraordinary will to live, and not just live but flourish, he is now walking less than three months from the day he lost his legs. His courage is a lesson to us all in the resilience of the human spirit. PFC Dilberian and his wonderful family make us all proud to be Americans; their faith, courage, and character throughout this trying ordeal is an inspiration, and like all Wounded Warriors, are shining examples for our nation. I submit this poem penned by Mr. Albert Caswell to honor PFC Bryan Dilberian Jr. of The Tenth Mountain Division from Brooklyn, New York and his fallen brother in arms SFC Jimmy Waters.

A GOTHAM HEART

(By Mr. Albert Caswell)

A Gotham Heart!

And from this Gotham City of great consequence!

Has but come such a fine young Man, to all hearts to so enhance!

A Man of such heart and soul, to warm our hearts when they are cold!

Oh yes my Lord, something so special so . . . as but such a sheer work of art, to behold!

One Mountain of a Man! Tenth Mountain . . . "The Chosen" . . . America's Son,

who makes all of us so very proud this one! As One of The Band of Brothers, known as 10th Mountain Men!

Angels put upon this earth, to but protect us all our Lord has sent!

Oh to be A Tenth Mountain Man!

Magnificent . . . Magnificent . . . Magnificent!

And so gallantly off to war, for all of us he so went!

Who upon battlefields of honor bright!

One of Brooklyn's best, who so makes all our hearts ignite!

As so soon Bryan, you began your new fight! While, out on patrol . . . as you so stood at death's door that night!

Losing your two strong legs, and arm of might!

As the tears rolled down your most precious eyes, this sight!

And your Brother In Arms SPC James Waters, almost in your arms so died!

As the Angels cried, The Angels Cried!

As there they found you together side by side

And Bryan, you so said to yourself, I will live! I will not die!

Armed now, with only the kind of courage that makes the Angels cry!

As Bryan you so wiped away all of those tears from your most brilliant eyes!

To so teach as all, how high a heart can rise! All about, what within a Gotham Heart so lies!

Even Batman, doesn't have such a Gotham Heart as comprised!

With such courage and faith, oh how Bryan you make us cry!

As you were off running, for you had mountains to so climb!

In less than three months Bryan, you would walk with your head held high!

Making your wonderful Mother Mary Jane, and your family so cry!

With your heart as big as New York City, full of courage . . . as tall as any building does rise!

Yea, The Beastly Boys ought to write a song about your life . . . Word!

Don't Sleep to Brooklyn, might be one of the lines!

Showing us all, as to what new heights a heart can climb!
 Beseaching us all to behold, the beauty of mankind!
 As against all odds, somehow Bryan the way back you'd find!
 As you live each new day, all in honor of your Brother Waters in kind!
 And that blood that binds you, forever in time!
 For in your heart your brother in arms, Machine Gunner . . . this American Hero will never die!
 Yes, Strength In Honor Bryan . . . is what your most courageous life defines!
 As so Gotham is your heart, so beating here now so in time!
 For all in your life, you will so teach woman and mankind!
 Because, Tenth Mountain man . . . you do, you do shine . . .
 For Bryan there is no mountain that you cannot climb!
 All over this Gotham City with your Gotham heart in time!
 Yes, arms and legs we all need . . . but we can survive!
 But, without a Gotham Heart of Gold . . . we will surely die!
 Because, up in Heaven you need not arms or legs!
 And Bryan my son, that's where your are going one day!
 And you will look into our Lord's eyes!
 And if ever I have a son?
 I wish he'd have a heart as Gotham, as your one!
 Hooah Bryan! For you have mountains to so climb!
 And you have miles to go, and hearts to heal and inspire before you die!
 As Bryan, out across our Nation your Gotham Heart so cries!

HONORING GERALD SCOTT

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Mr. Gerald Scott, on the occasion of his induction as a distinguished alumnus of Mountain View High School.

Mr. Scott graduated from Mountain View High School in 1970, after which he received his Associate's Degree from Keystone College and his Bachelor's Degree from Wilkes College, all while working as a carpenter and a machinist. In 1983, he received his Master's of Science Degree from the University of Virginia and two years later his Doctorate. Mr. Scott then began his career at Alcoa as a senior engineer overseeing the Wire and Bar Division of the company. Mr. Scott gained invaluable experience while at Alcoa, primarily in the field of international business, as he was able to travel to Asia, Europe, Australia, and South America on behalf of Alcoa.

Mr. Scott has numerous patents and publications, both here in the United States and internationally. His community involvement includes membership to the Carnegie Museum, service as a judge for Junior Academy of Science at the University Of Pennsylvania Wharton School Of Business, automotive racing consultant to the NHRA, and a NASA advisory board member. Gerald and his wife, Lynn, are the proud parents of three children, Alexander, Philip, and Karl.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Mr. Gerald Scott, and ask my colleagues to join me in praising his commitment to country and community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, I inadvertently voted "no" on rollcall No. 774. I intended to vote "aye."

UNITED STATES-PANAMA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the U.S.-Panama Free Trade Agreement.

We have been waiting to vote on this agreement since it was first signed in 2007, which means four years of lost opportunities.

But now we have a chance to repair that damage.

In the past year alone, Panama's economy grew 6.2 percent, making it one of the fast growing in Latin America and an expanding opportunity for American exporters.

Panama is already among Miami-Dade county's top 25 trading partners, and Florida as a whole ranks number one among the 50 States in exports to that country.

These figures will only increase once the FTA has been approved and American businesses no longer face heavy tariffs and other artificial barriers to trade.

Currently, U.S. industrial exports face an average tariff of 7 percent, with some tariffs as high as 81 percent.

Once this agreement goes into effect, 87 percent of all U.S. goods exported to Panama will become duty-free immediately.

In the past 4 years since the U.S.-Panama Free Trade Agreement was signed, American companies have paid millions upon millions of dollars in tariffs to the Panamanian government.

Those are dollars needlessly spent by U.S. businesses, which they could have used for investments and expansion here in the U.S. instead of paying fees to a foreign government.

Approval of the U.S.-Panama FTA will eliminate this transfer of wealth, increase U.S. exports, and create new jobs here at home that so many Americans are desperately searching for.

The agreement also has many other provisions of importance to U.S. businesses, especially strengthening intellectual property rights, which are under assault around the world.

In addition to the potential economic growth stemming from this agreement, Panama is a key strategic ally in the region.

Ever since the Panama Canal was completed a century ago, Panama's importance to

the U.S. has only increased as a major transportation route, with two-thirds of its traffic consisting of shipments between our west and east coasts.

For these many reasons—expanded exports, increased jobs, and closer ties with a strategic ally—I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of the U.S.-Panama Free Trade Agreement.

AMERICAN TRADE AGREEMENTS

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the spirit of competition, in support of American workers and as an advocate for a government that seeks to provide economic certainty for the businesses that create jobs in this country.

Later today, the House will vote on bipartisan trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea. These agreements represent an opportunity to compete, grow jobs and promote American exports.

Here is what we know. Ninety-five percent of the world's customers live outside of our great country.

Here is what I believe. If America gives itself the opportunity to compete with other countries—like these three agreements will—American manufacturers and farmers will deliver, and we will win.

Job creation is a red, white and blue issue. And that is why you see Democrats and Republicans coming together to provide this opportunity for American exports to compete.

In the 17th District of Illinois which I have the honor to represent, I recently visited a company that manufactures mining trucks. Nine out of 10 of these mining trucks are bought by customers overseas. These jobs are dependent on exports. This same company also manufactures bulldozers, 8 out of 10 of which are sold to buyers overseas. Yet again, this is an example of jobs being created because of demand for American products by customers in the global economy.

These trade agreements will reduce tariffs on goods and remove barriers that are currently in place. By leveling the playing field for our manufacturers and farmers, we can further promote these cornerstones of the American economy. We need to enact policies that strengthen our manufacturing base which is why I am a cosponsor to legislation offered by my colleague and friend, DAN LIPINSKI. Three million manufacturing jobs and almost 4 million agriculture sector jobs are dependent on U.S. exports.

The independent U.S. International Trade Commission estimates that these agreements will increase American-made exports by \$13 billion and inject \$10 billion to our GDP. President Obama estimates that these agreements could create a quarter-of-a-million jobs.

According to the Congressional Research Service, the last time the United States signed a trade agreement was back in 2006 with Peru. These FTA's could have been sent to Congress back in 2009. Every day we hold off on is a day we deny American workers the opportunity to compete.

These trade agreements aren't about rhetoric, they are about results. We cannot afford

to sit on the sidelines while other countries enter in to trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea, causing us to lose market share.

Again, I rise in support of these trade agreements. If as a country we are allowed to compete, I know we will deliver.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
MAYOR FRANK SALVATO OF
WARREN, NEW JERSEY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mayor Frank Salvato of Warren, New Jersey. Frank was a lifelong resident of Warren Township, in the heart of Somerset County, where he owned and operated a farm for over forty years.

Frank held the record as New Jersey's longest serving elected official. During his 60 years of public service Frank served five terms as Mayor of Warren and was a member of the Township Committee for eleven terms. Frank also served on the Board of Adjustment, the Board of Health, the Planning Board and the Recreation, Police, Roads, Finance, Environment and Senior Citizens Boards. He was a 50-year Charter member of the Warren Lions Club and served on the Watchung Hills Regional High School Board of Education for 27 years, including seven years as its president.

Today I rise to share Frank's tremendous accomplishments and dedicated public service with the House of Representatives. I extend my sincere condolences to his wife, Aldona, and his family and my deep gratitude to Frank for his lifetime of service and leadership.

HONORING RAYMOND WILMARTH,
JR.

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Mr. Raymond Wilmarth, Jr., on the occasion of his induction as a distinguished alumnus of Mountain View High School.

Mr. Wilmarth graduated from Harford Vocational High School in 1950 and went on to attain a General Certificate from the American Institute of Banking. Mr. Wilmarth served as an active duty member of the United States Army, including a tour in Germany from 1953 through 1955. In 1962, Mr. Wilmarth became Vice President of County National Bank, a position he held until 1990. Raymond, along with his wife Ruth, owned and operated Harford Store until he became Business Manager for the Mountain View School District in 1993.

As a proud member of his community, Mr. Wilmarth has served as President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Montrose Rotary Club. Additionally, Raymond founded the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and the District 741 Girls Leadership Camp. From 1992 to the present, Mr. Wilmarth has served as the Chairman of the Board for the Endless Moun-

tains Health System and has worked to raise money for equipment purchases, facility improvements, and land purchases, striving to improve healthcare in the area.

Raymond and Ruth are the proud parents of six children.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Mr. Raymond Wilmarth, Jr., and ask my colleagues to join me in praising his commitment to community and country.

IN RECOGNITION OF KATHY
CLONINGER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER OF GIRL SCOUTS OF
THE USA

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kathy Cloninger for her outstanding service as the Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of the USA for the past 8 years, and for her 28 years of service to the Girl Scouts Movement.

Kathy Cloninger epitomizes the American spirit of community service. She has devoted her life to girls and to an institution that itself is a shining example of America at her best. We honor her today for a career that has been dedicated to building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

Ms. Cloninger's journey with Girl Scouts began in 1983, and spanned more than two decades of service as CEO of Girl Scout councils in Tennessee, Texas and Colorado.

After taking the reins at Girl Scouts of the USA in 2004, Kathy initiated a truly transformative strategy that led to a national realignment of the Girl Scout Movement. Under her guidance, Girl Scouts accomplished a nearly impossible task by successfully merging 315 councils down to 112 high-performance councils. Thanks to Kathy's compelling leadership, the Girl Scout Movement has unified around a common mission and business strategy that has set the organization on a path to success for its upcoming 100th anniversary and beyond.

Kathy has also been instrumental in developing the Girl Scout Leadership Experience where girls discover themselves and their values, connect with others and take action to make the world a better place. She oversaw the launch of the first-ever national program evaluation system that measures girls' development of 15 leadership outcomes and ensures that all Girl Scouts grow into strong leaders in their lives today and into the next generation of female leaders in our country and the world.

Ms. Cloninger should also be commended for heightening Girl Scouts' focus on research and advocacy activities. During her tenure, the Girl Scout Movement amended its Constitution to be the "voice for girls and an expert on their growth and development." The Girl Scout Research Institute has published many groundbreaking studies on issues that affect girls and leadership, such as research on body image, social media and girls' participation in science, technology, engineering, and math, as well as research on African American and Hispanic girls' leadership aspirations.

Thanks to her vision, Congress and decision makers across our nation have an incredible resource in the Girl Scout organization, so all of us can better understand the issues girls face today and advocate for the solutions important to their success.

Ms. Cloninger has received numerous awards for her work, including "Nonprofit CEO of the Year 2000" from the Center for Nonprofit Management, and "CEO of the Year 2008" from the National Assembly of Human Services. In 2010, Ms. Cloninger was named one of the "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" by Women's eNews.

Kathy's service as a leader expanded beyond the Girl Scouts. As a champion for youth empowerment and the non-profit community, Kathy served as chair of the National Collaboration for Youth, she was the secretary of the board of directors of the National Assembly of Human Services (2008–2011), was on the national boards of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance and the National Council for Research on Women, and she is a member of the Women's Leadership Board of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Ms. Cloninger is also the author of the forthcoming book *Tough Cookies*, which chronicles the recent transformation of Girl Scouting and issues a call to arms on behalf of all girls today. Johnnetta Cole, President Emerita of Spelman College and Bennett College for Women, explained, "Tough Cookies shows what vision, courage, and an unflinching dedication to mission can accomplish. Kathy Cloninger makes it clear that the Girl Scouts—and girls—rank high among our nation's treasures."

It is obvious why Kathy has received such wide praise for her leadership. I would have to agree with Willie Pietersen, leadership guru and author of *Reinventing Strategy*, who noted that, "Guided by a transcendent mission and Kathy Cloninger's courageous leadership, the Girl Scouts have transformed themselves for a new century."

Kathy leaves Girl Scouts on the eve of its 100th anniversary, which they will celebrate throughout 2012. Kathy led the Girl Scout Movement to this exceptional point in history with a mission and program that is as critically important today as it was 100 years ago, and I know she leaves it a stronger, more vibrant part of our culture.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Kathy Cloninger for nearly 30 years of service to the Girl Scouts and to our country. We wish her the best in all of her continuing work for girls nationwide.

UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, at a time when millions of American families are struggling and so many people are looking for work, passage of the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement should be a top priority for our government.

It is time to grant American businesses and exporters barrier-free access to the world's 13th largest economy.

The U.S. International Trade Commission estimates that it will increase our export of goods by at least \$10 billion a year.

That's not even counting the high-value services in which our country leads the world, which are now largely shut out of many areas of South Korea's economy.

The Administration estimates that at least 70,000 jobs will result from the free trade agreement with South Korea alone.

That means paychecks for 70,000 American families.

The years of delay in sending this agreement to Congress since it was first signed in 2007 have put U.S. businesses at a severe disadvantage.

Earlier this year, the European Union's free trade agreement with South Korea went into effect, giving their companies a major boost and resulting in lost sales for American companies and lost jobs here in the U.S.

But there is more at stake than just increased exports.

South Korea is a key U.S. ally in an unstable region of the world, where tens of thousands of U.S. troops stand on guard against aggression, and where U.S. interests are increasingly under threat from China and other countries.

At a time when much of the world is waiting to see if the U.S. will retreat from its responsibilities, passage of this free trade agreement will serve as a clear demonstration of our enduring commitment to our ally South Korea and our determination to defend our interests throughout East Asia.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade agreement and for the creation of tens of thousands of jobs for the many Americans who desperately need them.

OPPOSITION TO THE KOREA, PANAMA, AND COLOMBIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD a letter from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in opposition to the Korea, Panama, and Colombia Free Trade Agreements.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
OF TEAMSTERS,

Washington, DC, June 15, 2011.

*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.4 million men and women of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, I am writing to urge you to oppose the three pending so-called free trade agreements (FTAs)—South Korea, Colombia, and Panama—when they reach the floor of the House for a vote. All three agreements are modeled after the job-killing North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Trade agreements based on the NAFTA model have resulted in nearly two million job losses in the U.S. The three pending FTAs continue this trend. With the unemployment rate at a record high of more than nine percent, we must focus on job creation and growth in the U.S. Not only will these trade agreements result in job losses, they

will further exploit workers and deny basic human rights.

The South Korea FTA is projected by the Economic Policy Institute to cause job losses of 159,000 in the U.S. and the International Trade Commission estimates the trade deficit will increase in seven high-paying sectors. In addition, the South Korea HA forbids reference to the International Labor Organization (ILO) conventions.

The South Korea FTA's investment chapter would give South Korean investors rights to challenge U.S. laws, regulations, and even court decisions in international tribunals that circumvent the U.S. judicial system. Any potential benefit from reduced tariffs would be mitigated, as South Korea is one of the three countries that the U.S. Department of Treasury lists as a currency manipulator.

Even more troubling is that the South Korea FTA lacks assurances that products assembled in South Korea will not contain parts from North Korea's Kaesong Industrial Complex.

These three pending agreements insult basic human rights. The country of Colombia remains the global capital for violence against workers; more unionists are killed every year in this country than any other country. Most recently, a lawyer representing sugarcane workers was gunned down in May—only five weeks after a so-called U.S.-Colombia Labor Action Plan was released.

Nearly 2,680 unionists have been murdered in the country. Only six percent of the murders have been prosecuted. Most are never even investigated. In June, a Colombian rights leader campaigning for the return of land snatched by illegal militias was gunned down. While the Action Plan is a step in the right direction, it does not go far enough to ensure enforcement and compliance. We must see real improvement in labor laws and a stop to the killing of unionists in Colombia, before any trade agreement is approved. Simple public relations gimmicks and laws that go unenforced are not enough.

The Colombia FTA will result in the further displacement of the country's Afro-Colombian population. The country has the highest population of displaced people, an estimated 5.2 million. The agreement will only accelerate the displacement of impoverished Afro-Colombians and farmers.

Panama remains one of the world's top tax havens. The country is home to approximately 400,000 corporations, including U.S. firms, which incorporate in the country to avoid paying taxes. The pending Panama FTA does not require U.S. construction and other firm's equal access to work on the Panama Canal improvement project. In addition, Panama continues to be a main site for drug money laundering by Mexican and Colombian drug kingpins.

Each of these three pending trade agreements remains flawed. None will further U.S. job growth, which should be our nation's top priority. Ensuring basic human rights and dignity is a moral imperative. For economic and moral reasons, we urge you to vote against these agreements. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa P. Kinard, Director, Department of Federal Legislation and Regulation, International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Sincerely,

JAMES P. HOFFA,
General President.

UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF DUNCAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to H.R. 3080, the Korean Free Trade Agreement.

Earlier today, I voted to support free trade agreements with Colombia and Panama because I recognize the value of promoting trade with our neighbors.

Unfortunately, the Korean trade agreement that we're debating right now is deeply flawed, poorly negotiated, and will cost American jobs by picking winners and losers in the market place.

The textile provisions alone in the agreement will cost Americans nearly 40,000 jobs over the next 7 years. Sadly, many of those jobs will be lost in my own state of South Carolina.

While this agreement gives South Korean goods duty-free entry into the U.S. market, American exports to South Korea will still be subjected to a 10 percent Tax. That amounts to an automatic 10 percent tariff on certain US goods, putting our manufacturers at an immediate competitive disadvantage. Additionally, this agreement opens US markets to Korean goods, but doesn't guarantee the Korean market will be open for US goods.

Finally, I'm concerned about this agreement's impact on our national security as it relates to the extended domestic supply chain for industrial and military applications. These include fuel cells, oil booms, rapidly deployable shelters and tents, radar covers, Kevlar body armor for our troops, and many more advanced applications. This trade agreement could have a major negative impact on the private sector's ability to innovate and supply our military.

I strongly urge my colleagues to send this trade agreement back to drawing board. For the sake of our economic and military security, I urge a NO vote. Thank you, and may God Bless America.

JANUARY 20, 2011.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, As representatives of the domestic textile and apparel sector and its nearly 600,000 workers, we strongly urge you to oppose the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS). In regards to textiles and apparel, the FTA is seriously flawed and will result in the continued outsourcing of valuable textile, apparel and other manufacturing jobs. With our nation struggling through one of the worst economic periods in its history, we believe the current agreement sends the wrong message to our workers and to American voters.

During the past forty years, Korea has developed a sophisticated industrial and apparel fabrics sector and, as a consequence, is the second largest exporter of textile yarns and fabrics to the United States. Although the U.S. textile sector is one of the most efficient and quality-driven producers in the world, the Korean economy presents virtually no export opportunities to Korea for U.S. textile producers. As a measure of this one-way trading relationship, the U.S. trade deficit in textiles and apparel totaled \$708 million in 2009.

As a result, the textile industry asked the Obama Administration to make three fixes

to the KORUS agreement in order to ensure that U.S. textile, apparel and fiber jobs were not outsourced to Korea and China. These fixes concerned (a) loopholes in the enforcement portions of the agreement that benefit China, (b) a tariff schedule that gives Korean exporters better terms than U.S. companies and (c) the exclusion of textile components in the agreement's rules-of-origin that advantage non-signatories to the agreement such as China.

These mistakes not only hurt our manufacturing workers but also damage our industry's ability to supply our military with essential goods for our men and women in uniform. In particular, Korea's producers get longer phase-out schedules than U.S. producers on a number of sensitive product lines that include products that are needed by the U.S. military. Damaging surges by Korean producers because of this inequitable arrangement will hurt U.S. companies that the military depends on for a number of important products.

Unfortunately, the Administration chose not to address the concerns of textile workers in your districts, and we are concerned that their jobs are now in jeopardy.

Polls have shown a rising concern by the American voter regarding the outsourcing of American jobs, particularly manufacturing jobs, and the decline of the U.S. as an economic power. Recent Wall Street Journal and Pew polls show voter dissatisfaction regarding badly written trade agreements is at a record high.

An analysis by the Economic Policy Institute estimates that 159,000 good paying American jobs will be destroyed if the KORUS agreement in its present form passes Congress. Of that total, we estimate that between 9,300 and 12,300 jobs will be lost specifically in the U.S. textile and apparel sector as a result of legal KORUS trade. U.S. government figures show that approximately three additional jobs are lost to the U.S. economy for each textile job that is eliminated. In addition, U.S. job losses from illegal Chinese exports are not included and these would be significant. Total U.S. job losses because of the flawed KORUS textile text are expected to be at least 40,000 jobs.

With job creation a central concern in the country, we do not believe that this agreement meets that goal. We continue to urge that the textile portions of the agreement be renegotiated in order to ensure that textile jobs are not imperiled. Until that time, we ask you to stand firm on behalf of textile workers in your district and oppose the Korean FTA when it comes before a vote in Congress.

Sincerely,

AUGGIE TANTILLO,
Executive Director,
American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition.

KARL SPILHAUS,
President, National Textile Association.

PAUL O'DAY,
President, American Fiber Manufacturers Association.

CASS JOHNSON,
President, National Council of Textile Organizations.

RUTH STEPHENS,
Executive Director,
U.S. Industrial Fabrics Institute.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
DAVID J. PALMER

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Lieutenant Colonel David J. Palmer, on the occasion of his induction as a distinguished alumnus of Mountain View High School.

After graduating from Mountain View High School in 1973, David J. Palmer enlisted in the United States Air Force as an aircraft maintenance specialist. Four years later, Mr. Palmer transferred to the U.S. Air Force Reserves, where, in 2004, he was commissioned to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Over his illustrious career, Lieutenant Colonel Palmer has earned fourteen medals and awards for his dedicated and selfless service.

Lieutenant Colonel Palmer received both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the University of Scranton and has always been diligent in service to his community. He has worked with the Northern Tier Planning and Development Commission, the Susquehanna Housing Authority, and Wilkes University. Lieutenant Colonel Palmer continues to be active in many local organizations, including sitting on the Board of Trustees for the First Universalist Church, as well as serving as a Citizenship Merit Counselor for the Boy Scouts of America's Baden-Powell Council.

Lieutenant Colonel Palmer and his wife, Luann, have two sons, both of whom are combat veterans and have received a Purple Heart and Joint Service Commendation for their service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Today, the Palmers reside on their farm, near Hop Bottom, Pennsylvania, where they raise sheep and train border collies.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Lieutenant Colonel David J. Palmer, and ask my colleagues to join me in praising his commitment to community, country, and family.

(SCREEN) ACT FOR 112TH
CONGRESS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Supporting Colorectal Examination and Education Now (SCREEN) Act. This legislation will remove barriers to one of the most effective preventive health screenings available, saving lives and reducing health care costs in the process. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

The statistics surrounding colon cancer are startling. Colon cancer is the number two cancer killer in the United States for both men and women. (CDC Colorectal Cancer Vital Signs; July 2011)

Over 50,000 people will die this year from this disease according to the American Cancer Society (2010 Fact & Figures).

These deaths become more tragic when one considers that colorectal cancer is highly preventable with appropriate screening. Ac-

ording to the American Cancer Society (2010 Facts & Figures), the 5 year survival rate is 90 percent for those diagnosed at an early stage; however, less than 40 percent of the cases are diagnosed at that stage.

During colorectal cancer screening by colonoscopy, pre-cancerous polyps are removed during the same encounter, thus preventing cancer from developing, as opposed to other cancer screenings where early detection is the goal. That is one reason why the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force provides an "A" rating for CRC screenings.

The CDC "colorectal cancer control program" screening target rate is 80 percent. The American Cancer Society and other patient advocacy groups have a target rate of 75 percent. Unfortunately, only half of the Medicare population is being screened, despite the availability of a Medicare colon cancer screening benefit. According to CMS and American Cancer Society (March 2011), Medicare claims indicate that only 52–58 percent of beneficiaries have had any colorectal cancer test and there is "clearly an opportunity to improve colorectal cancer screening rates in the Medicare population."

The latest findings by the American Cancer Society confirm that screening rates among the Medicare population continue to be in this 50th percentile range, with screening rates among minority populations are especially low among Medicare-aged beneficiaries.

The CDC concludes that 1,000 additional colorectal cancer deaths will be prevented each year if screening rates reached 70.5 percent. (CDC Colorectal Cancer Vital Signs; July 2011).

In addition to saving lives, colorectal cancer screening has been demonstrated to save Medicare long-term costs as noted by the New England Journal of Medicine in a recent article (Feb. 2008).

The direct costs of treating colorectal cancer in 2010 reached \$4 billion. (CDC Colorectal Cancer Vital Signs; July 2011)

I am pleased that Congress took steps to improve access to life-saving colon cancer screening when it passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act PPACA in March 2010.

While Congress has made tremendous strides in increasing colorectal cancer utilization rates in PPACA, this bill will further make live saving screenings more accessible to Medicare beneficiaries.

Currently, Medicare waives cost-sharing for any colorectal cancer screening recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. However, should the beneficiary have a precancerous polyp removed, the procedure is no longer considered a "screening" for Medicare coding purposes.

The unintended consequence of this is that the beneficiary is obligated to pay the Medicare coinsurance because the procedure is no longer a "screening." However, the purpose of the screening is to find and remove precancerous polyps.

The SCREEN Act waives all Medicare beneficiary cost-sharing for colorectal cancer screenings that become "therapeutic" or diagnostic procedures.

The legislation also resolves this unintended consequence for beneficiaries participating in health insurance exchanges beginning in 2014.

The SCREEN Act also provides incentives for Medicare providers to participate in nationally recognized quality improvement registries

so that our Medicare beneficiaries are in fact receiving the quality screening they deserve.

Lastly, the SCREEN Act removes barriers to screening rates by allowing a Medicare beneficiary to sit down and discuss the importance of the procedure before seeing the provider for the first time right before procedure. The federal government and colorectal cancer patient advocacy groups have concluded that the "fear of the procedure" is a major impediment to increasing colorectal cancer screening rates.

Promoting access to colorectal cancer screening is good policy. It will save lives and reduce costs to families and the health care system. Please join with me in the fight against colorectal cancer by cosponsoring this legislation.

H.R. 3078 COLOMBIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT, H.R. 3079 PANAMA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT, H.R. 3080 SOUTH KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT, H.R. 2832 TAA AND GSP EXTENSION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the three trade agreements this House is considering with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea, respectively. At a time when our national unemployment rate is at 9.1 percent, with 14 million Americans looking for work, we cannot afford to pass trade agreements that cost jobs here in the United States. Instead, I urge my colleagues to bring a real jobs bill—one that will create jobs for American workers—to the floor of the House immediately.

America depends on trade with countries around the world to expand export markets for our products and create good-paying jobs in the U.S. To achieve fair trade, agreements must not export U.S. jobs or economically harm communities. We must insist that all trade agreements promote environmental sustainability, workers' rights, and improved living standards for people throughout the world. The negotiated trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea do not meet the standard of fair trade agreements and will leave Americans worse off. I do not support their passage.

In Colombia, the intimidation and murder of trade unionists and human rights workers is widespread. According to Human Rights Watch, over 50 trade unionists were murdered last year. The Colombian government's human rights record may be improving but it is still very poor. This is not the time to reward Colombia's poor record with a preferential trade arrangement. This agreement does not advance fair trade, and I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

The proposed free trade agreement with Panama fails to create any American jobs. Widely known as a tax haven for multinational corporations, Panama has not shown the inclination or ability to change its status as an off-shore tax shelter. This practice rewards U.S. companies that ship jobs overseas to avoid taxation here. This agreement does not advance fair trade, and I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

In South Korea, between 2001 and 2009, the U.S. ran a trade deficit in goods of approximately \$125 billion. The Economic Policy Institute found that implementation of the Korea trade deal would increase U.S. trade deficit by \$16.7 billion and result in 159,000 American jobs lost over the next seven years. According to Public Citizen, almost 8,000 good-paying jobs would be lost in the 4th Congressional District of Minnesota. This agreement does not advance fair trade, and I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

As we've seen with free trade agreements with China, NAFTA, and CAFTA, unfair trade deals cost American jobs. This is why Trade Adjustment Assistance, TAA, exists—to provide training to workers who lose their jobs due to trade. Considering TAA while we consider these three agreements is evidence that these deals result in the loss of jobs here in the U.S. I support the passage of the needed TM extension, H.R. 2832, in order to provide some protections for American workers.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to oppose these unfair trade deals and support the badly-needed extensions of TAA.

YES ON COLOMBIA AND PANAMA
AND NO ON KOREA

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, at one time, North Carolina's Sixth Congressional District was one of America's manufacturing power houses. Over the years, our manufacturing strength has been compromised by discriminatory trade practices that unfairly benefit overseas competitors.

Unfortunately, the Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement (KORUS) is a critically flawed trade proposal. With respect to textiles, South Korea has a highly sophisticated and vertically integrated industry. In 2010, South Korea was America's 8th largest supplier of textiles and apparel by volume. For example, yarns and fabrics, the largest component of the U.S. industry, South Korea was America's 2nd largest source of imports this past year.

The U.S. textile industry is staunchly opposed to the KORUS agreement due to the fact that it provides Korean textile exporters with instant, duty-free access for virtually all textile and apparel products, while giving U.S. producers no time to adjust. At the same time, KORUS has a number of non-reciprocal tariff phase-outs that favor the South Korean textile industry in key product areas.

We also understand that China could exploit the KORUS agreement by utilizing business relationships in South Korea to reach U.S. markets.

Our manufacturers are competing against foreign trade barriers, high tariffs, export subsidies, state-ownership of enterprises, and currency manipulation. The goals of this Congress should be to prioritize fixing U.S. trade policy, stopping manufacturing job loss, and closing the trade deficit.

South Korea and its people are true allies of the United States, and I value our diplomatic relations. As a Korean War-era veteran, I have witnessed first-hand how relations between our two great nations have improved dramatically over the years.

Unfortunately, I cannot support KORUS because it will do real harm to the North Carolina textile industry. I am sure that our two countries will continue our harmonious relations, but I am hopeful that we can reach a trade deal someday that is fair and equitable to both trading partners.

On the other hand, trade with Colombia and Panama does not pose similar threats to the textile industry in the United States generally and North Carolina's Sixth Congressional District specifically. In fact, textile trade among these great nations is healthy and balanced—we trade raw materials, value added materials and finished goods. Furthermore, agreements with Colombia and Panama are far less likely to be exploited by countries such as China or Vietnam.

Colombia and Panama are strategic diplomatic partners with America in Central and South America. Free trade agreements with these countries will boost our economy, according to the International Trade Commission. A deal with Colombia will boost exports of goods by \$1.1 billion and add \$2.5 billion to our Gross Domestic Product. An agreement with Panama will greatly improve the export of American agricultural goods, manufactured goods, specialized services, and support other diplomatic efforts to close a notorious tax reporting loophole that involves money laundering and tax cheating.

The agreements with Colombia and Panama show the way fair trade agreements should be written. My hope remains that a similar deal can be reached with Korea in the near future.

UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to the U.S.-Korean Free Trade Agreement (KORUS). Put simply, this agreement is a bad business deal for the United States.

KORUS is an example of an agreement that stands to benefit certain industries at the expense of others. For instance, the Obama administration went to great lengths to include special provisions to ensure that our auto manufacturers have equal access to South Korean markets. While the economic fairness may help, the effect is likely to be minimal. Currently, over 95 percent of South Koreans drive South Korean cars. Because of this, I have serious concerns about the realistic ability of our auto industry to succeed in a reluctant Korean market.

In addition to my concerns with the feasibility of success for the auto industry in South Korea, it is widely acknowledged that textile workers will lose out because of the deal. The Economic Policy Institute estimates that 159,000 American manufacturing jobs will be lost, and because of the administration's failure to address textile issues, it is estimated that 40,000 textile jobs will be lost. I have always said that 1 job lost as a result of free trade is too much.

Perhaps most troubling about KORUS—FTA is the unintended economic boost it will give to China, currently South Korea's largest trading partner. Rules of origin provisions in the agreement are set far too low so that only 35 percent, less than half, of a product has to come from either South Korea or the United States.

Because such a small portion of a product must come from South Korea in order for it to ensure duty-free access to the United States, the majority of supplies can come from neighboring countries in Southeast Asia, such as China, or even other foreign trading partners, such as the European Union with which South Korea recently entered into a free trade agreement. The United States currently has a \$273 billion trade deficit with China, and we should not be in the business of helping China increase their exports with special access to our market.

Proponents argue that new, stronger customs provisions in the agreement prevent the transshipment of goods from China or other countries through South Korea. However, the fact of the matter is that these provisions are modeled off NAFTA, which stands as an example of failed free trade. U.S. Customs data shows that fraud has increased as a result of NAFTA, and there has been a decreased ability to intercept or deter illegal activity. These same failed policies should not be replicated in a new agreement.

We need to look no further than our previous free trade agreements to see the effects of these deals. In the 17 years since NAFTA, our trade balance with Mexico has gone from a \$1.4 billion surplus in 1994 to a \$97.2 billion deficit in 2010. South Korea is currently the seventh-largest trading partner of the United States, and the United States is South Korea's third-largest trading partner. Therefore, any agreement is sure to have significant effects on the U.S. economy and trade balance.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that this agreement includes too many loopholes, carries too many unintended benefits for foreign competitors, and will result in U.S. job loss.

HONORING STATE
REPRESENTATIVE SANDRA MAJOR

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Honorable Sandra Major, on the occasion of her induction as a distinguished alumna of Mountain View High School.

Representative Major graduated from Mountain View High School in 1972. She has been a resonant voice for Susquehanna County, beginning with her service as Direct Assistant to the late Representative Carmel Sirianni, to her current position as State Representative for Pennsylvania's 111th legislative district. Representative Major was elected to the Pennsylvania State Legislature in 1995 and has served as Majority Caucus Chairman since 2007.

Representative Major has been a leading advocate for rural and agricultural communities. She is a member of the President's Advisory Council for Keystone College, the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, and the National Rifle

Association. Furthermore, she has been recognized for her service with numerous awards, including the Boy Scouts Distinguished Citizen Award, the American Legion Generals Medal of Excellence, and the Pennsylvania Landowner Association's Representative of the Year. Representative Major and her husband, Anthony Cerasaro, currently reside near Montrose, PA.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, the Honorable Sandra Major, and ask my colleagues to join me in praising her commitment to public service.

HONORING THE USS "CRUISER"
OLYMPIA

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since 1922, an American icon of the late 19th and early 20th Century, the USS *Cruiser Olympia*, rests majestically at Penn's Landing, in our District, along the Philadelphia waterfront of the Delaware River. The *Cruiser Olympia* is a National Historic Landmark, a National Historic Engineering Landmark, is on the National Register of Historic Places, and is best known in history as the Flagship of Commodore George Dewey in his 1899 victory at the Battle of Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War, as well as being sent by the President to France in 1921 to return the remains of a World War I U.S. soldier for internment in the "new" Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery. This first unknown soldier was laid in State in the Capitol Rotunda before beginning the final journey across the Memorial Bridge to Arlington Cemetery on November 10–11, 1921. It is one of the only warships of that era still afloat in the world! The *Cruiser Olympia* stood for the principles that make America the great Nation that it is, and is the sole survivor of a time in American history when these principles helped to define a Nation to the entire world.

Unfortunately, unless the American public and the U.S. Congress takes notice to preserve this national treasure for future generations, I am afraid our Nation might lose this great ship to old age and neglect. Unless it is placed in dry dock in Philadelphia, and its hull stabilized, we could lose this historic vessel. The *Cruiser* suffers from a combination of threats. It has not been placed in dry dock for maintenance in over sixty years. There are 62 openings along the hull near or at the waterline that permit water to enter the vessel, the steel is rusting, and the original wood has been slowly rotting and deteriorating, causing leaks into the interior. The land underneath the *Cruiser Olympia* also requires dredging as years of silt have built up underneath her, not allowing her to float free from her moorings. We simply cannot permit the *Cruiser Olympia* to disappear.

The legislation I am introducing today will be one of many efforts to restore and preserve the *Cruiser Olympia*. The bill permits the U.S. Mint, at no cost to the taxpayer, to design and offer for sale to the public a commemorative coin honoring the *Cruiser Olympia*, and that the sales of these coins will be utilized by the Friends of the *Cruiser Olympia* for dry-docking

and preserving the *Cruiser Olympia* as a ship museum. As a tax-exempt organization whose mission is to restore the *Cruiser Olympia*, I cannot think of any more worthwhile project to support. I understand that after its successful voyage to Manila Harbor, the U.S. Congress in 1899 struck a medal to present to each of the sailors and officers aboard the *Cruiser Olympia* to commemorate their victory in this engagement. This would be the first time in 112 years that the Congress would once again honor the *Cruiser Olympia*.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the bill and support its passage in the Congress so that we can begin the process to restore this great historic *Cruiser* so that present and future generations of Americans and visitors to our nation can view the *Cruiser Olympia*, walk its decks and envision a time years ago when it ruled the waves.

HONORING DR. JAMES EDWARD
BOWMAN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. James Edward Bowman who passed away on September 28, 2011 at the age of 88. An American physician and specialist in pathology, genetics, and hematology, Dr. Bowman made invaluable contributions to the world of medical research.

Dr. Bowman was born on February 5, 1923, in Washington, DC After earning both his undergraduate and medical degrees from Howard University, he completed his residency in pathology at St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago. Dr. Bowman served in the U.S. Army, serving as chief of pathology for the Medical Nutrition Laboratory at Fitzsimons Army Hospital in Denver.

Dr. Bowman has many "firsts" to his credit; he was the first African-American resident to train at Chicago's St. Luke's hospital, as well as the first tenured African-American professor in the University of Chicago's Biological Sciences Division. He was also one of the first to study the relationship between genetics and minority health which led to significant findings regarding sickle cell disease and other inherited diseases.

Later in his career, Dr. Bowman focused on the legal and ethical issues surrounding human genetics and mandatory screening tests. In 1972, he garnered national attention when he declared that the passage of mandatory sickle cell screening laws was "more harmful than beneficial."

Serving as a mentor and role model to many, Dr. Bowman was highly respected and beloved among his colleagues and students alike. At the time of his passing, Dr. Bowman served as professor emeritus in the departments of pathology and medicine at the University of Chicago. Dr. Bowman is survived by his wife Barbara Bowman and his daughter, Valerie Bowman Jarrett, a senior advisor to President Barack Obama.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. James Edward Bowman. I greatly appreciate the dedication and innovative contributions he made to medical research. He will truly be missed.

UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE
PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

After having waited for four years since this agreement was first signed, the time has finally come for Congress to vote to approve it.

This agreement is good for Colombia but is even better for the United States.

According to the International Trade Commission, the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement will expand exports of U.S. goods by more than \$1 billion dollars every year, which will allow businesses to create thousands of new jobs for those Americans who are struggling to find one.

In South Florida, Colombia is already our second largest trading partner.

Our two largest economic engines are the Port of Miami and Miami International Airport, both of which will benefit tremendously from the increase in trade with Colombia.

In 2010, Colombia was the 10th largest trading partner with the Port of Miami, with bilateral trade worth \$6.8 billion.

And 96 percent of the flowers that are sent to the U.S. from Colombia come through Miami International Airport, which helps support tens of thousands of jobs related to the airport and several aviation industries.

These figures will grow rapidly once this agreement has been approved.

But there is more at stake here than increased trade.

Colombia has been a strong democracy and a steadfast ally in a region where U.S. interests are under assault.

We have jointly battled narco-terrorists, leftist guerrillas, and the aggressive actions of Venezuelan strongman Hugo Chavez.

This agreement will strengthen that vital partnership between our two nations and demonstrate to our friends and enemies alike that the U.S. intends to remain a strong presence in the region.

Madam Speaker, it is time to put American interests first instead of the partisan political considerations that have delayed this agreement for four years.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote yes on the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement and allow our businesses to finally begin creating the jobs that so many Americans are searching for.

UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, ratification of the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement—or KORUS—is economically im-

portant, for the nation and for my home state of Virginia. According to the U.S. International Trade Commission, U.S. exports to South Korea would increase by more than \$10 billion. Increased U.S. exports mean more U.S. manufacturing jobs.

Korea is the 14th largest export market for Virginia goods, and the trade agreement would strengthen that relationship. Upon implementation of KORUS, Virginia exporters would have a \$4 million cost advantage over similar global competitors without a Korean agreement. Eight out of Virginia's ten top exports would enter Korea duty free immediately.

The U.S. tech industry, which has a significant presence in Northern Virginia, also stands to gain from KORUS. According to industry groups, exports from the U.S. to South Korea could increase by up to 49 percent. Korean businesses have a strong presence in Virginia and we must ensure that businesses in Virginia and throughout the nation have equal access. I urge my colleagues to support the Korean Free Trade Agreement.

PANAMA AND COLOMBIA FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to provide qualified support of the U.S.-Panama Free Trade Agreement (FTA), and to express my opposition to the U.S.-Colombia and U.S.-South Korea Trade Agreements.

The original Panama and Colombia FTAs, negotiated by the Bush Administration, were fatally flawed. The Democratic congressional leadership negotiated substantial improvements to the accords, among them ensuring that generic medicines could be made available in these countries at the same time as the United States. There is no reason that intellectual property rules in free trade agreements should force our trading partners in the developing world to wait longer than the United States to have access to affordable medicines, and I strongly believe that we need to make more progress on this issue in future agreements. I am deeply concerned that the proposal USTR has made for the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) may result in generic medicines becoming available in TPP developing countries later than in the United States. Denying poor countries access to generic competition can mean the difference between life and death. I am prepared to support the Panama FTA, consistent with my previous support of the Peru FTA, because the issue of access to medicines is positively addressed; and I will continue to argue that, at the minimum, the precedent in the Peru and Panama treaties be followed.

Unfortunately, I regret I am unable to support the Colombia Free Trade Agreement. Colombia is a great friend of the United States. We are strong economic partners and have strong cultural ties. And Colombia has been an important ally at the UN Security Council, opposing the unilateral bid for statehood for Palestine. But this trade agreement contains a fatal flaw at the heart of what trade must be about: raising the quality of life for the people living and working here in the United States

and in the countries we trade with. Jobs, job security, and labor rights are fundamental to a successful trade relationship. Regrettably, Colombia has had a long and painful struggle with labor abuses and violence and retribution against labor rights activists. Although Colombia has taken significant steps to reform labor and workplace protections by carrying out the Action Plan on Workers Rights that was negotiated with the help of the Obama Administration, the plan is not yet fully implemented and significant benchmarks for labor reform are still outstanding. Moreover, the Republican leadership has refused to allow the Action Plan to be referenced in the FTA implementing legislation we are voting on today. If the Action Plan had been incorporated directly into this legislation, I would have been inclined to vote for the Colombia FTA today. But this inherent deficiency prevents me from supporting this measure for a country I respect and value as a strategic ally.

Finally, I regret that I am unable to support the U.S.-South Korea Trade Agreement. I am pleased that the agreement makes transformative progress in copyright protection by strengthening enforcement against counterfeiters and extending intellectual property protection to the digital and online domain. But the agreement includes a harmful provision exempting American vehicles from South Korea's progressive greenhouse gas and fuel economy standards. I have consistently believed in the principle that trade agreements negotiated by the United States should not compromise environmental standards in the US or abroad, and I believe the provisions in this FTA, by weakening South Korea's overall environmental benchmarks, sets a dangerous precedent for future FTAs. The global market for automobiles increasingly demands more fuel efficient and environmentally friendly vehicles. We should strengthen the competitiveness of our auto industry by raising our own standards, not by weakening those of others.

I am disappointed that further progress on these core issues could not be made as the Colombia and Korea trade agreements were finalized. I remain committed to strong economic ties between the United States and these vital markets in Latin America and Asia.

VETERANS OPPORTUNITY TO
WORK ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2433, the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act of 2011.

I commend Chairman MILLER for introducing legislation to allow veterans to receive retraining assistance. However, with unemployment of veterans at an all time high, and those coming back from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan not having jobs, I don't understand the reasoning of limiting the age of eligibility to those between 35 and 60.

I also don't understand the funding mechanism for the program. In this time of budget tightening, and a refusal to discuss tax increases for any issue, this bill taxes veterans with higher interest rates to pay for more government programs. This legislation doubles

the interest rates veterans for housing loans. The new lower rates went into effect on October 1, and I am sure in these tough economic times our veterans can use the estimated \$1.6 billion dollars this change in law will cost them.

The Veterans Home Loan Program is one of the homeowner programs that works in this country. The foreclosure rate is much lower than anything in the private sector and I don't think changing this program will do anyone any good.

I cannot agree with balancing the budget on the backs of our veterans.

I cannot support this legislation as it is currently written.

SOUTH KOREA, PANAMA, AND COLOMBIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the South Korea, Panama, and Colombia Free Trade Agreements. It is estimated that, combined, these free trade agreements will create over 250, 000 jobs and will increase U.S. exports by \$13 billion dollars. Given the extraordinary economic challenges we face today, we must seize every opportunity which promises to stimulate our weakened economy and put Americans back to work.

In the Texas' 30th district, merchandise exports support 64, 000 jobs and directly benefit 48 companies. In 2010, my congressional district exported \$876 million worth of goods to South Korea, which directly supported nearly 2,250 jobs. The South Korea Free Trade Agreement will increase market access for the district's goods and services exports and reduce costs for imported raw materials.

The State of Texas depends on world markets; last year alone, Texas' shipments of merchandise totaled \$207 billion. Recently implemented trade agreements, such as the U.S.-Singapore agreement, which increased Texas exports to Singapore by 159 percent, prove that trade works for Texas.

Despite the benefits we stand to reap as a result of passage of these agreements, we must not ignore the associated labor and human rights issues. The Obama Administration, along with Ambassador Kirk, have worked tirelessly to address these valid concerns. Specifically, Colombia has agreed to a Labor Action Plan which requires Colombia to fulfill a series of measures in defined time frames to advance the rights of its workers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass the South Korea, Panama, and Colombia Free Trade Agreements to ensure that America continues to remain at a competitive advantage when it comes to international trade. Our nation's economic growth depends on it.

EXTENDING THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2832, a bill whose consideration by the members of this House is long overdue. It is absolutely unconscionable that working Americans displaced by trade have had no Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) benefits since the beginning of this year. I am ashamed that partisan rhetoric has stalled congressional consideration of TAA, once a reliably non-partisan issue. In more human terms, my home state of Michigan has weathered the ill effects of free trade agreements arguably longer than any other state in the union. Thousands of displaced workers in my district have relied on TAA to start their careers over in fields like nursing, alternative energy, an information technology. These workers have experienced first-hand the benefits of TAA and understand—as I do—the value the program brings to communities across the country.

In closing, I call on my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 2832 and stand up for the American families all over the country to whom free trade has been less than fair. And when we finish voting on this measure, I urge everyone on both sides of Capitol Hill—Republicans and Democrats alike—to take the country's best interests to heart and pass legislation to create jobs.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LISA CODISPOTI

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Lisa Codispoti, a dynamic and talented champion for better health care who, tragically, lost her battle with her own personal health care challenges last week.

A senior counsel for the National Women's Law Center, Lisa was well-known on Capitol Hill. You could always count on Lisa for an on-target analysis of an arcane policy question or a suggestion for a creative way to overcome any one of the many obstacles we faced in winning health care reform. My staff and I relied on her for so much, and we were far from the only Congressional office that did so.

Lisa was also a hero to health care advocates around the country. As Rachel DeGolia, executive director of the Universal Health Care Action Network said of her, "The movement for health care justice, and for justice of all kinds for women, has lost a wonderful champion and friend."

Lisa's influence was broad and important. They may not have known Lisa personally, but millions of Americans are better off today because of her. Her work is evident throughout the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. As a result of the law she helped to fashion and then enact, being a woman will no longer be a pre-existing condition. People with

existing health problems will no longer face job-lock or the pain of knowing that their condition is raising premiums for their co-workers. Coverage will no longer be denied or lifetime limits imposed. These are very real improvements that will make tangible differences in people's lives.

As her blog post below shows so clearly, this was not a theoretical exercise for Lisa. She lived her entire adult life knowing the significant problems that the private insurance market creates for anyone living with a health care condition—big or small. Her understanding and her experience made her arguments even more compelling and more effective.

We are better off for having known and worked with Lisa Codispoti. Her eloquence and knowledge, combined with her optimistic and gracious spirit, will be deeply missed.

THE HEALTH CARE LAW: PROVIDES NEW PEACE OF MIND FOR MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WITH CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS—LIKE ME

(By Lisa Codispoti)

For many health care advocates, the fight for the health care law is more than just a job—it's personal. I was just a sophomore in college when I was diagnosed with a chronic condition that would require lifelong medical treatment. At a time when most college students believe they are invincible, my parents and I were consumed with issues like, would my life-saving medical treatment—which would be necessary for the rest of my life—be covered by insurance, and if so, would they cover my treatment at school five-hours away from my home? And what would happen when I graduated? Would I be able to find a job that had decent health insurance? And what if I decided to go to graduate school? In short, in addition to worrying about my newly diagnosed condition, health insurance was something I had to worry about. A lot. In fact, it has been a recurrent worry throughout the last 28 years since I was diagnosed. What is proper etiquette when receiving a job offer to try to figure out if the insurance they offer is good enough to cover your needed medical treatment? Will you doom a small employer's health insurance premiums with huge cost increases once you are added to their workforce? How to explain to others offering to hire you that, thanks anyway, you couldn't possibly open your own consulting gig because you wouldn't be able to get health insurance on your own?

That's why for me—and millions of Americans living with a chronic health condition—passage of the Affordable Care Act provides such peace of mind. And while I've been very lucky over the last three decades to have jobs with decent insurance, I wonder what kinds of different opportunities I might have pursued had I not been so worried about finding and keeping health insurance coverage. And still, there are opponents of the law who want to repeal it and have stated that the "private market" would somehow magically take care of these problems. Right. Like the private market has done so well for insurance for decades now. Like how the private market has created conditions where women can't find insurance at any price that includes coverage of a basic health care service like maternity. Or allows insurance companies to charge women more than men just because of their gender.

Some opponents of the law have said that there could be high risk pools for people like me who can't get coverage due to a pre-existing condition. To an insurance company executive, that sounds like a dream come true. After all, insurance companies have been rejecting people from coverage due to pre-existing conditions without accountability or

recourse for decades. But we're not just talking the serious stuff like breast cancer or heart disease—we're talking about previously having had a c-section. Or acne. Should someone who is rejected by an insurance company because they had acne be in a high risk insurance pool? All that does is incentivize insurance companies to reject even more people and fight over the remaining cream of the insurance risk pool crop: healthy, young people. And thus further incentivize insurers to reject people they deem not worth the risk (ie: a risk to their high profits).

Already the Affordable Care Act is helping millions of Americans living with a chronic health condition like me. And for us, 2014 can't come fast enough because that's when the majority of the Affordable Care Act provisions come into effect. The thought that some would want take this law away—and the peace of mind that comes with it—is maddening to me. Is the law a cure for all the problems of our current health care system? Of course not. Could the law be better? Absolutely—I could point you to several places. But to repeal the whole thing? No way. We can't go back. I know I've waited 28+ years for this law—and there are millions who have waited far longer.

That's why today I'm one of millions saying, Happy Anniversary to the Affordable Care Act; here's to many more years to come.

EXTENDING THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLEN B. WEST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Free Trade Agreements with Panama, Korea and Columbia. These long overdue trade agreements will increase exports, lower the trade deficit and stimulate much-needed economic growth in the United States.

Free market competition is the proven way to create wealth and jobs in the economy. When the Federal Government attempts to create winners and losers, the American people get the short end of the stick.

South Florida is the gateway to Latin America, and the trade agreements with Colombia and Panama will support and create jobs in Florida and throughout the nation by leveling the playing field for United States goods and services.

Today, nearly all imports from Colombia and Panama enter the United States market duty free, but these countries continue to impose tariffs on our farm and manufactured goods exports that often soar into the double digits. Colombia currently collects \$100 in tariffs on United States exports for every \$1 the United States collects in tariffs on Colombian goods, and a similar lopsidedness holds back American export sales to Panama.

The free trade agreements will eliminate these tariffs and other barriers United States exporters face, and will create new opportunities for the sale of American products. In addition, they will secure the intellectual property of United States inventors, researchers, and creators; open services markets; and protect American investors and the jobs they support in the United States.

The independent United States International Trade Commission estimates that implementation of the three pending trade agreements would increase American exports by at least \$13 billion and add at least \$10 billion to our nation's Gross Domestic Product per year, which would mean 250,000 new jobs in the United States. Passing all three pending trade agreements will directly benefit small and medium-sized businesses, as well as the hundreds of thousands of American jobs they create.

Exports are critical to United States economic growth, and will have a significant, positive impact to my Congressional District that is home to two major ports—Port Everglades and the Port of Palm Beach. In 1986, exports equaled 7.2 percent of GDP. In 2010, exports equaled nearly 13 percent of GDP.

In 2010 alone, the State of Florida exported more than \$4.2 billion to Colombia, Panama and South Korea combined. This represents a significant increase over the last decade. With the passage of the Free Trade Agreements, all indications point to significantly increased exports for the State of Florida.

Finally, the implementation of each of these Free Trade Agreements is important for our security and geostrategic goals. Each of the agreements will strengthen the United States' relationship with South Korea, Colombia and Panama, some of our country's strongest partners in advancing both regional and global security.

However, in May of 2011, President Barack Obama's Administration announced that it would not submit these three long-pending, job-creating trade agreements to the United States Congress unless "trade adjustment assistance" benefits (TAA) were renewed and expanded.

Quite simply, TAA is a federal program that sends cash and provides other benefits to workers whose jobs are purportedly affected negatively by trade. As a letter that was sent to Republican Leadership earlier this year states, "TAA is undoubtedly—and deliberately designed as—a federal wealth redistribution program that has no business existing in a free society."

Furthermore, the central components of these TAA programs—job-training, unemployment subsidies, and health-care subsidies—are available under dozens of other federal programs. In all, there are currently 47 government-sponsored and taxpayer-funded job training programs that received over \$18 billion in Fiscal Year 2009. There are eight taxpayer-funded programs that provide unemployment insurance, and six taxpayer-funded programs that provide health insurance—all duplicative to programs found within TAA.

TAA accepts the premise that free trade is bad and needs to be offset by another federal program paid for by the American taxpayers. By strictly assisting workers who claim job losses due to trade, the program provides an incentive to exaggerate the negative impact on jobs due to free trade. In my assessment, TAA programs amount to subsidized excuses. Americans can openly compete with anyone in the free market—we do not need government creating victims.

I will not support H.R. 2832 because TAA programs allow the Federal Government to pick winners and losers. As The Heritage Foundation recently analogized, "the worker who loses his job to a foreign competitor

should receive the same treatment as the Blockbuster employee who lost his job to Netflix."

Free trader benefits all parties involved—from consumers to business owners and farmers, to the port employees in my Congressional District. Free market competition and enterprise through free trade agreements should not be held back by what amounts to another duplicated, wasteful Federal Government program.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 30TH AN- NIVERSARY OF EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ekoji Buddhist Temple on the occasion of its 30th anniversary and to recognize the commemoration of the 750th Memorial for Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

Ekoji Temple, which was founded in 1981 by Rev. Kenryu T. Tsuji and Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata, shares the Pure Land Buddhist teachings of Shinran Shonin, which is based on the Nembutsu Teaching of Amida Buddha, the Buddha of Infinite Life and Light. The Nembutsu Path is to become aware of the ignorant self and to transcend the petty selfishness of the individual. The aim of the Ekoji Temple fellowship is to live the life of gratitude and share the rejoicing with others.

The name Ekoji, selected by Rev. Numata, means "The Temple of the Gift of Light." Ekoji Buddhist Temple shares this gift with all who wish to enter. Ekoji is a place where the differences of race, color and creed disappear and all who seek the truth are welcomed.

The 11th Congressional District of Virginia is blessed by its diversity. This district is more than 40% minority and is home to people of many ethnic heritages, cultures, and religions. Ekoji Temple adds to this rich tapestry and benefits our entire community by its presence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in congratulating the Sangha of the Ekoji Buddhist Temple in the celebration of its 30th anniversary, and also in thanking the Rev. Kazuaki Nakata and Rev. Shoji Honda, Emeritus for their leadership and inspiration.

UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLE- MENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the proposed free trade agreement with Colombia, which, of the three agreements we are considering today, is the one with which I have been most personally involved.

My support for this agreement did not come lightly. As the representative of the Research

Triangle region, I have witnessed the transformative impact of trade on our state's economy, and I have supported free trade agreements that help create a truly level playing field for American workers through the inclusion of robust labor and environmental standards. When agreements have failed to meet this test, I have opposed them, as I did the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

I am keenly aware of the unique challenges that Colombia has faced throughout its history and the relationship between these challenges and international trade. The country has only recently emerged from a long period of civil conflict and political instability, one of the darkest features of which has been a campaign of intimidation, violence, and murder against Colombian labor leaders. At best, the Colombian government failed in the past to adequately respond to this campaign, and at worst officials turned a blind eye to, or were even complicit in, the violence.

This left me with a fundamental decision to make when the Bush Administration proposed a free trade agreement with Colombia: I could reflexively oppose the agreement from the outset, notwithstanding the potential benefits it could bring to both of our countries. Or, using the relationships I have built through my work in Colombia, I could help shape the agreement, using it as a source of leverage to achieve meaningful progress on issues such as labor violence. I chose the latter.

From the beginning, I have been very clear about what it would take for me to support the agreement in the end. Any agreement that failed to strengthen Colombia's labor and environmental standards or to ensure meaningful progress toward addressing labor violence would be unacceptable. And, in the current economic environment, I wanted assurance that no agreement would be approved without an extension of Trade Adjustment Assistance for displaced workers.

In two subsequent visits to Colombia, and in regular consultations with the Obama Administration, I have carried this message to the highest levels. During a visit in 2007, in addition to meeting with President Uribe, members of the Colombian parliament, and Colombian labor leaders, I requested a briefing by the special Attorney General unit that was created to prosecute labor violence cases. I was not impressed with what I heard, and I made this clear to the Colombian government.

When I returned in 2009 and received a similar briefing, the progress made over the past two years was significant and encouraging. Since then, and particularly since President Santos came to office, the Colombian government has made further strides in prosecuting incidents of labor violence, legislating improved labor protections, adopting judicial reforms, and enforcing its new labor law. Colombia has welcomed an ILO office to Bogota to monitor labor violations and appointed a Ministry of Labor to guide the executive on pressing labor issues and reforms.

Has Colombia done enough to solve this problem? No. One incident of labor-related violence is too many. I believe it is critical for us to continue to hold the country's leaders accountable for prosecuting labor violence and protecting labor rights. I was among the group of Democratic Members of Congress urging the Obama Administration to go beyond the text of the free trade agreement on the issue of labor rights.

The result was the Labor Action Plan negotiated between the Obama and Santos administrations, which represents an unprecedented mechanism to hold a trading partner accountable to a set of concrete commitments on labor rights. The Obama Administration has made its commitment clear to ensure compliance with this Action Plan for as long as it takes, a commitment I confirmed with Ambassador Ron Kirk as recently as this morning.

I remain concerned about the potential impact of this agreement on Colombia's subsistence farmers, particularly among Afro-Colombians and other indigenous communities. The land reform law recently approved by the Colombian Congress is a step forward, and the agreement before us today (unlike NAFTA) allows Colombia to protect its most sensitive agricultural commodities for up to 19 years. But we must do more to mitigate any displacement caused when reduced trade barriers are combined with subsidized imports, leaving local farmers unable to compete. This means addressing the significant threat to small farmers in Colombia and around the world posed by the distortive agricultural subsidies some of our own farmers receive.

On balance, however, I believe the labor and environmental protections in the agreement, along with the Labor Action Plan and the extension of Trade Adjustment Assistance, largely meet the demands I made when I decided to participate in the negotiations surrounding this agreement. The Colombian government has made undeniable progress and continues to move in the right direction. By any metric, labor violence in Colombia is down. Colombia's land and agricultural reforms are working, albeit slowly. Progress on these fronts is much more likely with an agreement than it would be without.

We also have to consider the best way to encourage further reforms and further progress. Is it by walking away from an agreement at a time when Colombia is expanding trade with China, Canada, the EU, and other partners? Or is it by using a free trade agreement with the United States as a catalyst, as leverage, for further reforms to address the underlying causes of the country's conflict: poverty, inequality, and a lack of economic opportunity.

The best way forward is to support a robust and vibrant Colombian economy. A higher standard of living in Colombia results in greater social stability and a lower crime rate. It is important that we remain a powerful and progressive force in the development of its democracy and economy, and I believe the best way to do that is to approve the Colombia FTA. For me, to oppose this agreement now, after encouraging—even demanding—that the Colombian government enact reforms, would amount to changing the rules in the middle of the game.

THE KOREA, COLOMBIA AND PANAMA FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the House considers the Korea, Colombia and Panama trade agreements, I would like to set forth my

analysis of the effects that these agreements will have on my home state of California. In all three cases, the facts are overwhelming that California will benefit from these agreements.

At the outset, it is important to note that these agreements are mis-labeled. They do not provide "free trade" in the sense of unfettered, unregulated commerce. In reality, these agreements are a set of detailed rules that provide for regulated commerce in terms that apply to both parties. They specify the tariffs that may apply, the non-tariff restrictions that may be imposed, the rules of origin to prevent third-countries from benefiting, and the enforcement and dispute resolution procedures that will provide discipline and order.

KOREA-U.S. TRADE AGREEMENT

CALIFORNIA BENEFITS

With regard to the Korea-U.S. agreement (KORUS), California stands to benefit substantially. California already exports \$8 billion a year to South Korea, accounting for one-fifth of all U.S. exports to that country. For California's 60,000 exporting companies, there is potential for growth; in 2010 only 6 percent of California's total \$143 billion in exports went to South Korea. The U.S. International Trade Commission estimates that KORUS will lead to increases in 9 of the 10 products that now account for \$6 billion of California's exports to South Korea. Of these, 5 categories are high value-added products, produced by skilled California workers: semiconductor manufacturing equipment, computers, electrical equipment, optical and other medical equipment and aircraft and aircraft engines.

In addition, KORUS will increase exports of California-grown edible fruit and nuts, in particular walnuts and almonds. We will sell more chemicals. And, we will sell more reusable iron, steel and aluminum scrap.

According to the U.S. Trade Representative, some 6,000 jobs are supported for every \$1 billion in manufactured exports and some 4,500 jobs are supported for every \$1 billion in services exports.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTIONS

KORUS has important benefits for California's entertainment industry. KORUS relaxes a number of Korean content quotas and should increase the U.S. motion picture and television industries' opportunities to compete in the Korean market. KORUS obligates South Korea to decrease the domestic content quota on films and animation products. KORUS improves the opportunity for U.S. ownership in the broadcast sector, by permitting U.S. firms that establish Korean subsidiaries to have 100 percent ownership of program providers, phased in over 3 years.

In a side letter, South Korea has agreed to place a priority on enforcement against Internet piracy, aimed not only at direct infringement but also those who profit from services that induce infringement. KORUS also obligates South Korea to implement the World Intellectual Property Organization Internet Treaties and expands intellectual property protections and penalties against unlawful decoding of encrypted satellite TV signals. It also covers cable and satellite signals that are retransmitted without authorization of the signal distributor. Further, the side letter to KORUS ensures that copyright owners have the exclusive right to make their works available online.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION ANALYSIS

There have been many analyses and position statements issued for and against the Korea trade agreement. In particular, the analysis by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation is persuasive. In its conclusion, the LACEDC said:

"KORUS would create multiple opportunities for both U.S. goods and services. On the goods side, the agreement opens the 12th largest economy's large middle class of consumers to American-made goods. On the services side, the agreement opens up South Korea's \$560 billion services market to American and Los Angeles area based companies."

"The agreement also creates new opportunities for the U.S. manufacturing industry. And the manufacturing capital of the U.S. is Los Angeles County. Thus the local economy has a lot to look forward to in the coming years, as increased exports will boost economic growth and create new and well paid jobs in the Los Angeles region."

COLOMBIA-U.S. TRADE AGREEMENT

There are compelling foreign policy reasons to pass the Colombia-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Colombia is an important U.S. ally in the Western Hemisphere, and this agreement will help cement our relationship. The FTA will also increase American exports, providing a needed economic boost for the U.S. economy and the creation of new jobs here at home.

I've listened very carefully to the debate on issues of human rights and labor rights in Colombia, the horrific levels of violence, and its deplorable track record in bringing to justice those accused of violating these rights. These issues are profoundly important to me and I will continue to work with the government of Colombia to ensure that the Labor Action Plan is fully implemented. I believe it is in the interests of both the United States and Colombia to subject this FTA to labor rights and human rights conditions.

President Obama deserves credit as the first President to shine such a sharp spotlight on labor issues in Colombia, and it is fair to say that this FTA addresses labor issues more fully than any FTA before it. The Action Plan agreed to by the White House and the government of Colombia on April 7 was comprehensive and highlighted specific areas where it could improve its record on labor issues. And in his October 3 letter transmitting the FTA to Congress, the President pledged that he would not bring the agreement into force until key elements of the Action Plan are implemented.

Results matter and the kinds of fundamental changes we seek from and wish for Colombia and its people will be a long term process. I have derived great comfort in the positive sea-change that President Santos has represented for Colombia, but I will be watching closely for progress and whether this transformative President fulfills his promises to change the labor and human rights environment in Colombia.

PANAMA-U.S. TRADE AGREEMENT

While Panama's trade with the U.S. is small, the U.S.-Panama trade agreement includes enforceable labor standards for Panamanian workers, compulsory Panamanian membership in multilateral environmental agreements—both included at the behest of the U.S. administration and Congress. Under this agreement,

88% of U.S. commercial and industrial exports would become duty-free upon implementation, with remaining tariffs phased out over a 10-year period.

More than 50% of U.S. farm exports to Panama also would achieve immediate duty-free status, with tariffs and tariff rate quotas (TRQs) on select farm products to be phased out by year 17 of the agreement (year 20 for rice). The agreement also contains provisions on telecommunications, services trade, government procurement, investment, intellectual property rights and tax transparency—the latter to address Panama's significant problems with money laundering.

UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3080, the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act. The United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement, or KORUS, is the most significant trade agreement our country has entered into since NAFTA sixteen years ago, and it would help stimulate the U.S. economy at no cost to the American taxpayers.

Trade liberalization is a consistent precursor to global economic growth, and when done with a fair and close trading partner, could prove critical to American economic recovery. The current fiscal environment facing the federal government requires that we pursue all available options to create jobs and spur economic growth. Currently, the Republic of Korea is the world's twelfth largest economy and our seventh largest trading partner. This trade agreement will remove nearly 95 percent of tariffs on consumer and industrial goods within three years, create approximately 70,000 jobs nationwide, and increase U.S. GDP by an estimated \$10 to \$12 billion.

Further, Korea's strong record on labor rights and environmental protection ensures that American firms will compete on a level playing field with their Korean counterparts. By increasing trade with Korea, American businesses will have greater access to a nearly \$1.5 trillion economy. The provisions included in the agreement will improve intellectual property rights protections and benefit businesses across all sectors of the American economy.

KORUS would also strengthen our relationship with a critical democratic ally and reaffirm our nation's commitment to the Asia-Pacific region. As the first trade agreement between the United States and a North Asian country, KORUS underscores this strategic alliance and may serve as a model for future agreements across the region. Moreover, the benefits of this longstanding partnership are evident on Guam, where Korea was first accepted into the Guam Visa Waiver Program. To date, Korean visitors remain the second largest group to visit Guam annually.

The United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement would stimulate the U.S. economy, create jobs, and increase economic competitiveness of the United States in East Asia. I

strongly support the passage of H.R. 3080, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

CONGRATULATING MARTIN'S
POINT HEALTH CARE MEDICARE
ADVANTAGE PLANS

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, today I am thrilled to congratulate Martin's Point Health Care Medicare Advantage plans for receiving five-star quality ratings from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Martin's Point Health Care is a not-for-profit health care organization that provides primary care services, health plans, and wellness services in Maine and other parts of northern New England.

Under the direction of their president and chief executive officer, Dr. David Howes, Martin's Point has established a long tradition of providing high quality, efficient, and affordable care to thousands of veterans, seniors, and families in Maine.

Today CMS announced that Martin's Point has received five-star ratings for both its Value and Prime Medicare Advantage plans—the highest possible rating granted by CMS.

High quality care is not new to Martin's Point: for the last 3 years, Martin's Point has had the highest rated Medicare Advantage plan in Maine. But I am particularly proud to say that it is one of only nine Medicare Advantage organizations in the entire country to receive the CMS five-star designation for 2012.

The five-star rating system helps Medicare beneficiaries compare available plans and make meaningful choices about which plans are right for them based on quality of care and customer service. As a five-star plan, Martin's Point will be able to assure potential patients that they offer the highest quality, patient-centered care. And thanks to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, this five-star rating will make Martin's Point Health Care eligible for quality bonus payments from CMS to help bolster their good work and ensure that patients in Maine will continue to benefit from their services for years to come.

I want to congratulate Dr. Howes and the entire team of health care providers and support staff at Martin's Point for this tremendous accomplishment. Their commitment to delivering quality health care and service excellence is second to none.

As we continue to work to shift our health care system to one that better values quality outcomes and patient experience, Martin's Point will stand as a model for health care organizations across the country, and a real asset to the people of Maine.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 11, I missed a couple of

rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 771 and "nay" on Nos. 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779.

WELCOMING PRESIDENT LEE
MYUNG-BAK OF SOUTH KOREA
TO THE UNITED STATES CON-
GRESS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I welcome President Lee Myung-bak of the Republic of Korea to the United States and his address to the Joint Session of Congress on October 13, 2011. His visit to our great nation is another significant step in broadening and deepening the friendship and cooperation between our two sovereign nations.

For more than 60 years an enduring friendship has existed between the United States and the Republic of Korea which has been of enormous economic, cultural, and strategic benefit to both nations. Our countries share common ideals and a clear vision for the 21st century, where freedom and democracy are the foundations for peace, prosperity, and progress.

During the Korean War the United States and the Republic of Korea forged a bloodshed alliance. Approximately 1,789,000 members of the United States Armed Forces served in-theater along with the forces of the Republic of Korea and 20 other members of the United Nations to defend freedom and democracy of the Republic of Korea from 1950 to 1953. Since 1975, the Republic of Korea has invited thousands of American Korean War veterans to revisit Korea in appreciation for their sacrifices. Currently more than 28,500 members of the United States Armed Forces have served annually in the United States Forces Korea to defend the Republic of Korea against external aggression, and to promote regional peace.

The Republic of Korea is among the closest allies of the United States, having contributed troops in support of United States operations during the Vietnam War, Gulf War, and operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, while also supporting numerous United Nations peacekeeping missions throughout the world.

As a Korean War veteran, I am proud to see that in the 60 years since the outbreak of the Korean War, the Republic of Korea has emerged from a war-torn economy into one of the major economies in the world and one of the largest trading partners of the United States.

The success of Republic of Korea is a shining example of the peacekeeping efforts and contribution made by the United States.

I would like to congratulate President Lee Myung-bak for recently being awarded the World Statesman Award for his leadership in furthering democracy, freedom, peace and human rights, on September 20, 2011, by The Appeal of Conscience Foundation, an inter-faith organization founded and presided by my good friend, Rabbi Arthur Schneier.

I applaud President Lee Myung-bak's many accomplishments, including his tenure as the CEO of Hyundai Engineering and Construc-

tion, Member of the Korean National Assembly, Mayor of Seoul, and as the 10th President of the Republic of Korea. Under his presidency since 2008, Republic of Korea has emerged as one of the key players on the international scene through hosting the 2010 G-20 Seoul Summit. Now with the passage of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, I hope that the economies of both the United States and Republic of Korea would continue to prosper as our partnership remains strong.

UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

The free trade agreement with Korea is of vital importance to America's farmers and ranchers.

Korea is the fifth largest market for our agricultural exports. But currently, America's farmers and ranchers face an average tariff of 54 percent when exporting to Korea. Similar goods from Korea enter our country at an average rate of only 9 percent.

Passing this agreement corrects that imbalance and gives us better access to Korea's 49 million consumers.

The Farm Bureau estimates that once the agreement is fully implemented, we could see \$1.9 billion in increased farm exports.

Every dollar in agricultural exports creates another \$1.31 in economic activity off the farm in industries like processing, manufacturing, and transportation. So the agricultural provisions alone have the potential to provide a significant boost to our economy.

That isn't including the other tariff cuts in this agreement, which the International Trade Commission predicts will add more than \$10 billion annually to our GDP.

Within agriculture, we could see dairy exports to Korea quadruple under this agreement. Fruit and vegetable sales would increase by 50 percent. And processed food sales would increase by more than a third.

Those increased sales will translate directly to more jobs—both on and off the farm. That's especially good news because workers whose jobs depend on trade earn 13 to 18 percent more than the national average.

That's why there is such tremendous support among the agricultural community for these free trade agreements.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support our farmers and ranchers . . . to support American jobs . . . and to support this free trade agreement.

REMARKS ON TRADE
AGREEMENTS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending free trade agreements with Co-

lombia, Panama, and Korea we are considering today.

I do not support these agreements for one simple reason: I remain completely unconvinced that they can create jobs in the short term. Job creation must be our principal objective. That is what nearly everyone in New Jersey tells me is their concern. Given the tough economic times we face and the high rates of unemployment and underemployment, we need to take steps to help create jobs now. In my view these agreements fail that job-creation test. Instead of advancing these steps that might possibly start producing some jobs years from now, we should be passing immediately legislation that creates jobs now, legislation that helps homeowners now, and legislation that helps the middle class now.

H.R. 3078, THE UNITED STATES-CO-
LOMBIA TRADE PROMOTION
AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION
ACT, H.R. 3079, THE UNITED
STATES-PANAMA TRADE PRO-
MOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT, AND H.R. 3080, THE
UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to the pending free trade agreements (FTAs) with Colombia and Korea. I wish, however, to commend my good friend from Michigan and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ways and Means, SANDY LEVIN, for his hard and effective work with the Obama Administration to improve them. Sandy and the Administration have fought hard to ensure improved market access for American workers and companies, all while insisting that our trading partners' labor protections be improved. Nevertheless, my experience with FTAs has been one of nearly two decades of broken promises and widespread domestic economic dislocation, particularly in my home state of Michigan. With our economy teetering on the edge of recession and the painful memory of millions of lost jobs, I cannot vote in good conscience for more free trade agreements.

With respect to Colombia, I am disappointed by the Administration's decision not to include the Labor Action Plan as a binding and enforceable provision of the FTA. Colombia has a well known history as one of the world's most inhospitable places for labor leaders. While the country was showing some signs of progress under the action plan, there is nothing to prevent Colombia from backsliding once the FTA is in effect and the plan itself does not have the force of law.

Although I recognize that significant improvements in terms of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade have been made in the Korean trade agreement, I rather unhappily believe that promises will not translate into reality. In short, I believe the United States is giving up far too much for mediocre market share gains in the short term. This agreement may well boost our exports to Korea over the next few years, but I am firmly convinced that the benefits Korea will reap in the long run—especially

in the auto sector—will eclipse any that the U.S. may achieve. Even the International Trade Commission estimates that our auto trade deficit with Korea will rise by over \$700

million in the next ten years if this agreement is implemented.

With due recognition of my colleagues' hard work to improve these agreements, I must respectfully part ways and vote in opposition to

them. Lest we be condemned to repeat it, I ask my colleagues to learn the lessons of history and vote "no" on these trade deals.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, October 13, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 18

- 10 a.m.
 - Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the status of response capability and readiness for oil spills in foreign Outer Continental Shelf waters adjacent to United States waters. SD-366
 - Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine a review of the 2011 floods and the condition of the nation's flood control systems. SD-406
 - Finance
To hold hearings to examine tax reform options, focusing on incentives for charitable giving. SD-215
 - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Primary Health and Aging Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the recession and older Americans. SD-430
 - Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine ten years after 9/11 and the anthrax attacks, focusing on protecting against biological threats. SD-342
 - Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the "Small Business Jobs Act of 2010", one year later. SR-428A
- 2:30 p.m.
 - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Elementary and Secondary Education Act", and any pending nominations. SD-106

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine pipeline safety since San Bruno and other recent incidents. SR-253

Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219

OCTOBER 19

- 9:30 a.m.
 - Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine market microstructure, focusing on an examination of Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs). SD-538
- 10 a.m.
 - Environment and Public Works
Superfund, Toxics and Environmental Health Subcommittee
To hold a joint oversight hearing to examine the Brownfields Program, focusing on cleaning up and rebuilding communities. SD-406
 - Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business. SD-342
 - Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security. SD-226
- 2:30 p.m.
 - Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine concussions and the marketing of sports equipment. SR-253
 - Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine certain nominations. SD-226
 - Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 544, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of alternatives for commemorating and interpreting the role of the Buffalo Soldiers in the early years of the National Parks, S. 1083, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the route of the Smoky Hill Trail, an overland trail across the Great Plains during pioneer days in Kansas and Colorado, for study for potential addition to the National Trails System, S. 1084, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the routes of the Shawnee Cattle Trail, the oldest of the major Texas Cattle Trails, for study for potential addition to the National Trails System, S. 1303, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish Fort Monroe National Historical Park in the Commonwealth of Virginia, S. 1325, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating sites in the Lower Mississippi River Area in

the State of Louisiana as a unit of the National Park System, S. 1347, to establish Coltsville National Historical Park in the State of Connecticut, S. 1421, to authorize the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, S. 1478, to modify the boundary of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in the State of South Dakota, and S. 1537, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to accept from the Board of Directors of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center Foundation, Inc., the donation of title to The National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center. SD-366

Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the final report of the Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan. SR-232A

OCTOBER 20

- 2:15 p.m.
 - Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 134, to authorize the Mescalero Apache Tribe to lease adjudicated water rights, S. 399, to modify the purposes and operation of certain facilities of the Bureau of Reclamation to implement the water rights compact among the State of Montana, the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, and the United States, S. 1298, to provide for the conveyance of certain property located in Anchorage, Alaska, from the United States to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, S. 1327, to amend the Act of March 1, 1933, to transfer certain authority and resources to the Utah Dineh Corporation, and S. 1345, to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam. SD-628
 - 2:30 p.m.
 - Energy and Natural Resources
Water and Power Subcommittee
To hold an oversight hearing to examine shale gas production and water resources in the Eastern United States. SD-366
 - Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219
- NOVEMBER 3
- 9 a.m.
 - Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine speculation and compliance with the "Dodd-Frank Act". SD-342