

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3521, THE “EXPEDITED LINE-ITEM VETO AND RESCISSIONS ACT OF 2011”

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I join my friend House Budget Committee Chairman RYAN to introduce the “Expedited Line-Item Veto and Rescissions Act of 2011.” Taxpayers deserve a system that is accountable, and this bipartisan legislation will provide another tool to ensure that we are good stewards of their money. The process created by this bill would enable the President to effectively propose the elimination of unnecessary spending from legislation that arrives on his desk for signature, and send those items back to Congress for expedited votes on whether or not to rescind that funding.

We must do everything we can to make sure tax dollars are spent wisely and responsibly. Budget process reform cannot be a substitute for judgment, and it cannot replace the urgent need to put Americans back to work and to put our nation on a path toward long-term fiscal sustainability. But I hope this bipartisan step toward strengthening our budget process will be the first on the road of greater cooperation to meet our fiscal challenges.

I want to thank Mr. RYAN and his staff for their important and thoughtful cooperation in developing this proposal. I ask all members on both sides of the aisle to cosponsor this measure and join us in the hard work ahead.

EXPEDITED LINE-ITEM VETO AND RESCISSIONS ACT OF 2011

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the “Expedited Line-Item Veto and Rescissions Act of 2011” along with my friend and colleague House Budget Committee Ranking Member CHRIS VAN HOLLEN of Maryland.

The fiscal and economic challenges facing our nation are immense. In addition to the alarming budget deficit and painful jobs deficit, Washington’s failure to tackle these challenges fuels a growing credibility deficit. For years, policymakers—in both political parties—have failed to serve as responsible stewards of American families’ hard-earned tax dollars. Too many politicians continue to make empty promises to those they serve, spending money we don’t have on government programs that don’t work.

The stakes are too great to continue to kick the can down the road. I believe that leaders can—and must—work together to meet these challenges by advancing structural reforms to

the drivers of the debt and pro-growth solutions to create a more conducive environment for job creation.

This bipartisan legislation takes a modest step in the right direction. The Expedited Line-Item Veto and Rescissions Act gives the President an important tool to target unjustified spending, while also protecting Congress’s constitutional authority to make spending decisions.

This new authority would allow the President to specify spending provisions within an appropriations bill, requiring stand-alone consideration of the spending proposal by Congress. Legislation implementing the proposed spending cancellations would receive expedited floor considerations and an automatic up-or-down vote in both chambers of Congress. Should Congress determine the spending cannot be justified: Every dollar of savings would be devoted to deficit reduction.

This bipartisan proposal builds upon past efforts to target wasteful spending, including Legislative Line-Item Veto proposals I’ve advanced over the years and the new House Majority’s ban on earmarks. I remain grateful to Ranking Member VAN HOLLEN at the House Budget Committee for his partnership in this effort. I look forward to working with my colleagues to help advance this common-sense deficit-reduction tool—a step in the right direction as we work to address the structural drivers of the debt and continued impediments to economic growth.

REMEMBERING HAL BRUNO

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, a number of us have come to the floor today to remember a great American who passed away earlier this month. Hal Bruno made a real difference in people’s lives, both by keeping them informed about our world and by serving as an advocate for firefighters and their families.

Hal was ABC News Political Director through the 1980’s and 1990’s, covering major national events and keeping Americans engaged with their government. He skillfully moderated the vice-presidential debate in 1992 after having covered presidential campaigns since Kennedy ran against Nixon. He had the respect and admiration of leaders from both parties.

As a journalist, Hal made a reputation for himself as a truth-teller, even when the truth was difficult. That began in Chicago, when as a young reporter he uncovered how poor safety standards in the building code had contributed to a fire that claimed 95 lives. He became a respected voice for fire safety, and that experience led him to become a volunteer firefighter himself, which he continued to do for decades.

After retiring from ABC News in 1999, Hal dedicated himself to serving our communities’

firefighters and their families. He chaired the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation at a time when we lost so many brave first responders in the September 11 attacks. Hal was a champion for the families of firefighters who lost their lives in service to their communities, and he fought for and won the passage of legislation to provide them survivor benefits.

I know that Hal will be both dearly missed and dearly remembered by many in government, those who turned to him for their news for so many years, and by the families of firefighters on whose behalf he worked so tirelessly.

I join in remembering Hal and celebrating his life. I offer my condolences to his wife Meg and their children and grandchildren.

HONORING SPENCER ROSENAK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Rosenak. Spencer is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 216, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Spencer has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Spencer has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Spencer has earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, participated in the 2010 National Jamboree and has held several leadership positions within his troop, including Assistant Patrol Leader and as the Chaplain’s Aide. Spencer has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Spencer documented the directory of those buried at B’nai Yaakov Cemetery in St. Joseph, Missouri, and created a map of the plots in the cemetery. Spencer then published his work on the internet, providing an online directory for anyone interested in those buried at the cemetery.

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

RECOGNIZING ETHAN DOYLE OF OAKTON, VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ethan Doyle, a 2011 Critical Language Scholarship Program Recipient. Ethan

• 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.

has been identified by his educators for his academic excellence, leadership potential and exemplary citizenship to participate in the Critical Language Scholarship Program in Vladimir, Russia.

This Critical Language Scholarship Program allows students to participate in daily educational activities in Vladimir, Russia, as well as the surrounding areas. The program provides participants with the opportunity to build relationships with young leaders from all over the world with an intense focus in the Russian language, one of the thirteen "critical needs" foreign languages determined by the Department of State, for summer 2012. At the end of the program, participants receive a certificate of completion.

Ethan is a student at Johns Hopkins University. It is inspiring to see young people who are interested in international educational and developmental experiences such as these.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 862, due to family health issues, I was unable to make the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING PATRICIA NICKLOW

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mrs. Patricia Nicklow, a resident of Essex, Maryland, on the occasion of her retirement from the U.S. Navy's Program Executive Office for Aircraft Carriers after more than 37 years of dedicated service to the federal government.

Patricia Nicklow was born in Baltimore and attended Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Kenwood Senior High Schools in Essex. She is Level III certified in Acquisition Logistics with Level II certifications in both Program Management and Business Financial Management from the Defense Acquisition University.

Over the course of her 37-year career with the federal government, Mrs. Nicklow has developed an extensive background in acquisitions and logistics. She spent 13 years with the General Service Administration throughout the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. She then served 23 years at the Naval Sea Systems Command, including her final nine years at PEO Carriers. During this time, she became the In-Service Logistician for Mine Sweepers and Hunters before finally coming to Aircraft Carriers to work in new construction, mid-life Refueling and Complex Overhauls, and supporting the Navy's in-service Aircraft Carriers.

Mrs. Nicklow's current duties include ensuring that in-service Aircraft Carriers are logistically supported so that sailors are

trained properly to perform and maintain their equipment.

Her well-deserved plans post retirement include more traveling, spending time with family, partaking in health classes, and bowling. Mrs. Nicklow currently lives with her husband and mother.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mrs. Nicklow. Her long and dedicated service to the United States of America is an inspiration to all of us. It is with great pride that I congratulate Mrs. Nicklow on her retirement and wish her the best of luck in the future.

HONORING BRADLEY DONAGHY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Bradley Donaghy. Bradley is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

IN HONOR OF THE 2011 FERNANDO AWARD RECIPIENT GARY THOMAS

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Gary Thomas—businessman, civic activist and a very good friend to my wife, Janice, and me—as he is recognized this Friday as the 53rd recipient of the annual Fernando Award.

The Fernando Award is the highest award in California's San Fernando Valley that recognizes exceptional volunteer efforts. It often has been called the Academy Award of Volunteerism in the San Fernando Valley and is one of the top awards for civic accomplishments in the United States.

Gary is well-deserving of this honor.

Gary's community service and volunteerism has spanned more than 37 years and has involved Chambers of Commerce, organizations that have political impact in the San Fernando Valley, anti-gang programs, youth development organizations, leadership and business programs, and nonprofit organizations.

Gary is responsible for creating many innovative fundraising programs for Valley nonprofits and has helped raise more than \$5 million for the nearly 30 nonprofit organizations for which he has served in leadership positions.

He has served on the Boys & Girls Club of the West for the past 13 years and is currently Chairman of the Board for the fifth year. Gary has served in leadership positions with the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley, United Chambers of the San Fernando Valley; the Valley Business Corps, and the Wellness Community for the Valley and Ventura.

Gary also has been active with the San Fernando Valley Business Advisory Commission and the San Fernando Valley Charitable Foundation.

Although Gary is being recognized for his activities in the San Fernando Valley, I know firsthand that he has also been active in many nonprofit and business activities in Ventura County as well.

A successful businessman, Gary is Senior Vice President and Creative Director for Aaron, Thomas & Associates in Chatsworth, a company that specializes in creative consulting, graphic design, printing, and direct mail services to the political sector and the general corporate market throughout the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join Janice and me in congratulating Gary Thomas for the honor of being the 2011 Fernando Award Recipient and in thanking him for making his community a better place for all to live, work, and thrive.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIAM E. INGRAM, JR.

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of a truly great soldier and North Carolinian, Lieutenant General William E. Ingram, Jr. In a recent Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on November 10th, 2011, Lieutenant General Ingram was confirmed as Director of the Army National Guard and on Monday, November 28th, 2011 he officially assumed the duties of the position. Also on November 28th, 2011, Lieutenant General Ingram received his new star from Army General Ray Odierno, chief of staff of the Army, and Air Force General Craig McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

For nearly four decades Lieutenant General Ingram has served our nation as an officer in the Army National Guard. He has commanded at all levels from platoon to battalion, overseas, and was especially effective as the Adjutant General of North Carolina for over nine years. I have no doubt in his ability to accomplish the wide-ranging requirements placed on the shoulders of the Director of the Army National Guard. He will perform his duties well, with honor and enthusiasm.

Lieutenant General Ingram was born and raised in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and was a longtime resident of Williamston, North Carolina. I am proud to say both are located in the First Congressional District, which I have the honor of representing. His wife, Lil, has also been a tremendous asset to National Guard families and the citizens of North Carolina. She has worked tirelessly as an advocate for North Carolina National Guard families to help them cope with the deployment of family

members through several children's programs, the Family Readiness Program, and even as a co-author of a book for children of Wounded Warriors.

Lieutenant General Ingram is a source of great pride for eastern North Carolina. I have witnessed the progression of his career over the years and I am very proud to see his dedication, sacrifices, and contributions recognized with this appointment and promotion. I offer my sincere appreciation for his service to the United States of America and the great state of North Carolina. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Lieutenant General William E. Ingram, Jr. on receiving his recent promotion to the rank of lieutenant general and his appointment as Director of the Army National Guard.

HONORING JENNIE STULTZ

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, Jennie Stultz, mayor of Gastonia, NC, has a motto—"city pride." I couldn't have described her any better myself.

Jennie is retiring in a few weeks, after 12 years as mayor of Gastonia. Her impact on the city will be long-lasting and her leadership greatly missed.

Jennie did that which is most important as a mayor and a native of Gastonia—she put the good of her city first. Partisan politics always took a backseat to making sure that everyone had a seat at the table when making the decisions that moved Gastonia forward.

And move forward it did. Jennie was committed to economic and residential development, and made decisions that brought businesses and residents to Gastonia. She credits the redevelopment of downtown Gastonia as one of her greatest accomplishments—an accomplishment of which she should be very proud.

Under Jennie's tenure, Gastonia was twice named an All-America City, an award that commends the innovation and civic engagement of the city.

Even after all of this, Jennie's best quality is being able to laugh at herself. She takes her job seriously—no doubt about it—but she doesn't take herself seriously. As an elected official at any level, and especially in our current political climate, that's definitely an asset.

Anyone who has ever worked with Jennie will tell you that she's a joy to be around. I have greatly enjoyed both the professional and personal relationship that we've shared throughout the years, and know that our friendship is a lasting one.

Gastonia has never had a bigger cheerleader than Mayor Jennie Stultz. There is no doubt that she loves the people and the place, and they love her back. She will be missed, but even though she won't be mayor, we all look forward to the continued contributions that Jennie will make to Gastonia, NC.

HONORING SAMUEL PATRICK STOWERS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel Patrick Stowers. Samuel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

RECOGNIZING SAMANTHA GRAY OF SPRINGFIELD, VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Samantha Gray, a 2011 Critical Language Scholarship Program Recipient. Samantha has been identified by her educators for her academic excellence, leadership potential and exemplary citizenship to participate in the Critical Language Scholarship Program in Kyoto, Japan.

This Critical Language Scholarship Program allows students to participate in daily educational activities in Kyoto, Japan, as well as the surrounding areas. The program provides participants with the opportunity to build relationships with young leaders from all over the world with an intense focus in the Japanese language, one of the thirteen "critical needs" foreign languages determined by the Department of State for summer 2012. At the end of the program, participants receive a certificate of completion.

Samantha is a student at the University of Georgia. It is inspiring to see young people who are interested in international educational and developmental experiences such as these.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable achievement by Samantha Gray and wishing her continued success in her further pursuits.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF RODNEY CARROLL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to honor the life of Rodney

Carroll, a community activist from my district. Rodney was a very active member of his community, a loving husband and father.

Rodney's work with the Department of Youth and Community Development will live on forever in the city of New York. As Vice-Chair of the Community Action Board he had a sincere enthusiasm for this position. He was a very determined person and would do everything he could to achieve his goal of making sure the youth and their families would have community organizations that were effective to their needs. His work with Social Service Employee Union Local 371, DC 37 as a staff representative and organizer also will never be forgotten. He continuously fought for workers rights in the community. Rodney was the definition of a true Harlemit. The future of New York City's youth has vastly improved because of the work this man has accomplished.

Rodney believed in our youngsters and their work. They are most fortunate to have had someone like him stand up for what's right and get them the resources that they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the life of this very honorable man. Let's encourage others to continue helping communities the way Rodney Carroll did. Our body must continue to recognize community leaders like him because they are the one's who have a direct impact on the lives of the children in our communities. The youth in this country are better off because of people like Rodney.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RONALD J. DEL MAURO

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Ronald J. Del Mauro, Chief Executive Officer of Barnabas Health, for his forty-five years of service. His continued efforts to revitalize and further develop the organization and its services will be recognized at his retirement ceremony on December 8, 2011. Mr. Del Mauro's tremendous efforts to assist the constituents of New Jersey is worthy of this body's recognition.

Ronald Del Mauro began his career with Saint Barnabas Medical Center in 1967 and served as Vice President for Human Resources and Director of Personnel for fourteen years. In 1985, he was elected President and Chief Executive Officer of Saint Barnabas Medical Center, the position he currently maintains to this day. In 1983, Mr. Del Mauro was named Senior Vice President for Human Resources for the Saint Barnabas Corporation. His appointment also included General Manager and Chief Operating Officer of Livingston Services Corporation, the for-profit affiliate of Barnabas Health. In 1986, he was named President and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation. Mr. Del Mauro was later elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Medical Center in 1993. Concurrently, he served a three year term as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Clara Maass Medical Center, a Barnabas Health System affiliate. Under Mr. Del Mauro's direction, Barnabas Health remains the largest health care system in New Jersey and employs 18,200 nurses,

physicians and residents. Mr. Del Mauro is responsible for Barnabas Health services and facilities retaining their nationally recognized status. Barnabas Health continues to provide treatment and services for more than two million patients each year under Mr. Del Mauro's direction.

Mr. Del Mauro has also been actively involved in many professional organizations and health associations which include the New Jersey Hospital Association, for which he is the former Chairman, and the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce. He also serves as member of the New Jersey Essential Health Services Commission, Chairman of the Infrastructure Advisory Committee of the New Jersey Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force and Management Trustee of Local 68 International Union of Operating Engineers' Pension Fund. Mr. Del Mauro is a graduate of Seton Hall University and has also served as an Adjunct Professor at the Graduate School of Public Administration from 1983 to 1985.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in thanking Mr. Ronald Del Mauro for his forty-five years of dedication to the Barnabas Health community. His outstanding efforts have assisted countless individuals throughout the Barnabas Health and New Jersey communities.

HONORING ALEX MITCHELL
GOFORTH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alex Mitchell Goforth. Alex is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

IN HONOR OF PHILIP SAMUEL
HELLER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise to honor the life of my friend Philip Samuel Heller, who passed away on November 19 at the age of 81. Phil was not only a good friend of mine and my late husband's, but a friend to many families in Sacramento.

Phil was born on November 16, 1930, in Brooklyn, New York, the son of Sidney and Aida Heller. For the better part of four decades, Phil managed Sirlin Photographers in Sacramento and photographed many Sacramento area families. Phil's career in photography began when he worked at Bethlehem Steel in Redding, Pennsylvania, where he was an engineer and photographer. He obtained his degree in engineering at Lehigh University in Bethlehem and his early career took him to Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, where he was a flight engineer instructor. Besides photography, one of Phil's passions was radio controlled model airplanes, which he enjoyed building, flying, and showing off.

Phil is survived by his wife, Cathie, his children Jeff, Mark, and Rana, along with his many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying honor to Philip Heller. He leaves behind the lasting legacy of a loving father and a photographer whose work hangs in the homes and offices of countless people. I hope that his wife Cathie and his family will find comfort in the fact that Phil provided so much love and kindness to those of us who had the honor to share in his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 861, due to family health issues, I was unable to make the vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL
JOSHUA CORRAL

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Lance Corporal Joshua Corral. Josh was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, California.

He was only 19 years old when he was killed in combat on November 18 while defending our Nation in Afghanistan.

Josh attended San Ramon Valley High. He enjoyed playing baseball and soccer, and he was known by everyone as "Chachi." Through letters, flags, a candlelight vigil, and many other actions, Danville has come together as a community to offer comfort to his family and show gratitude for his service and ultimate sacrifice. This great outpouring of support is a testament to Josh's character and heroism. Josh may not be here, but he will not be forgotten.

Josh is survived by his parents, Arnie and Denise, as well as his brothers Zachary, Jordan and Christian.

Josh is a hero who put aside all else out of devotion to his country. I ask my colleagues to

join me in honoring the memory of Josh Corral and in sending our thoughts and prayers to his beloved family and friends.

HONORING JAMES CHANDLER
ADAMS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Chandler Adams. James is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

RECOGNIZING PATRICK ROSTOCK
OF MANASSAS, VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Patrick Rostock, a 2011 Critical Language Scholarship Program Recipient. Patrick has been identified by his educators for his academic excellence, leadership potential, and exemplary citizenship to participate in the Critical Language Scholarship Program in Shanghai, China.

This Critical Language Scholarship Program allows students to participate in daily educational activities in Shanghai, China, as well as the surrounding areas. The program provides participants with the opportunity to build relationships with young leaders from all over the world with an intense focus in the Chinese language, one of the thirteen "critical needs" foreign languages determined by the Department of State, for summer 2012. At the end of the program, participants receive a certificate of completion.

Patrick is a student at James Madison University. It is inspiring to see young people who are interested in international educational and developmental experiences such as these.

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

CONGRATULATING THE IDAHO
NATIONAL LABORATORY

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, when someone thinks of Idaho, they usually think of the things the state is most well known for, like potatoes, Boise State football, world-class hunting and fishing, or any other of the numerous outdoor attractions popular in the State. One thing Idaho is not yet well known for is its contributions to deep space exploration, yet that is the reason I come to the floor today.

I rise today to pay tribute to the dedicated men and women of the Idaho National Laboratory, INL, who have made significant contributions to NASA's Mars Science Laboratory mission. This mission has sent a large mobile laboratory—a planetary rover named Curiosity—into space, and is now headed to the surface of Mars. One of the greatest challenges for deep space exploration has always been providing a reliable source of electricity to power scientific instruments and provide heat to keep them from freezing in the harsh conditions of space. NASA used solar power for its earlier voyages to Mars, but because of its limitations, NASA decided to utilize nuclear powered batteries to provide the needed heat and power for the mission. The best place to assemble and test these batteries was Idaho.

Why Idaho? Well, Idaho has a long history of leadership and innovation in the nuclear power arena. After World War II, Idaho was chosen as the new home of the Nuclear Reactor Testing Station, where for the first time it was demonstrated that nuclear power could be used to generate usable forms of electricity. In the 60 years since, over 50 nuclear reactors have been designed and tested in Idaho, leading to the development of extensive capabilities and expertise. This expertise handling nuclear materials made Idaho an ideal location when NASA needed to develop the next space battery that would power its new planetary rover.

The Mars Science Laboratory mission has the potential to be the most productive Mars surface mission in history. That is due, in part to its nuclear heat and power source. The rover Curiosity, which is the size of a small car, is carrying the most advanced payload of scientific gear ever used on Mars' surface. The nuclear powered rover can go farther, travel to more places and power and heat a larger and more capable scientific payload than a solar powered vehicle would in the same environment. Curiosity will travel to locations on Mars that have been off-limits before and collect samples and perform analysis on a far larger scale than previously imagined. This is all possible because of Curiosity's unique nuclear-powered batteries.

A dedicated team of INL scientists and engineers began assembling and testing these batteries in the summer of 2008. After extensive testing to ensure the batteries would perform as expected during the launch and subsequent travel through space, and then again when the rover began its mission on Mars, the team of INL employees felt confident the batteries would do what they needed to do. Many of these people sacrificed significant time away from families to ensure every aspect of

the batteries would work as planned, a service that this country should be grateful for. But in the end, I'm sure the individuals who put thousands of hours into this project have considered it a privilege and an honor to be involved.

Last Saturday, when Curiosity lifted off from its launch pad at the Kennedy Space Center to begin its nearly nine month voyage to Mars, it may have seemed odd to see a large group of people in Idaho celebrating while they watched the event unfold on a big screen. But for this dedicated team of INL employees, it was a moment they had been anxiously awaiting for years. They can be proud of the fact that whatever new discoveries are made as a result of this new state-of-the-art rover would not be possible without their contributions. And for that, I extend heart-felt congratulations.

IN HONOR OF MR. HAL BRUNO

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Mr. Hal Bruno and his longtime dedication to political journalism and fire fighters across the nation. As a former Political Director and analyst for ABC News, Mr. Bruno's legacy is one that deserves to be recognized to the fullest degree.

Mr. Bruno's journalism career spanned five decades, and he was greatly involved in many high-profile cases including the Cuban Revolution, Watergate, Chappaquiddick, and 9/11. His breadth of knowledge and myriad of resources will remain as testaments to his tenacity as a political analyst.

Equally important in his life was the service he provided as a volunteer firefighter, and later as a Chairman Emeritus for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. In recognition of his service, the Congressional Fire Services Institute selected him as its "Fire Service Person of the Year" in 1995. His passion for fire fighting began in the 1940s, Mr. Bruno's dedication to fighting fires continued until his passing, as he always had an emergency scanner and a bunker gear, helmet, and boots in his car ready to assist in an emergency.

Commended not only for his analysis and service to his community, but also his moderation of the 1992 Vice Presidential debate, Mr. Bruno made certain to maintain a fair environment despite a highly political atmosphere. The debate only reiterated Mr. Bruno's determination to provide the people with fair and balanced information to decide for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, Hal Bruno's incessant dedication to provide assistance to members of the fire fighting community and their families in addition to informing the American public about events of import in Washington, DC is more than commendable. I take this time to remember the services this great man provided our nation. Hal Bruno will be greatly missed. He has left a legacy that will positively impact the fire service for generations in our country.

HONORING TERRANCE WAYNE
CARVER, III

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Terrance Wayne Carver, III. Terrance is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HONORING THE SERVICE OF GLENDALE
HEIGHTS VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
DONNA BECERRA

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant from my Congressional District, Donna Becerra of the Village of Glendale Heights. After an extraordinary career of 34 years of service, Donna is stepping down from her position as Village Administrator.

Over the years, Donna has proven herself as a vital asset to the Village of Glendale Heights. Since her first position as a secretary in the Community Development Department, she has tirelessly served from within the Department in a number of leadership positions. Her steadfast commitment, diverse experience, and vibrant interest in the history and welfare of the Glendale Heights community have caused her to excel in every capacity.

In addition to Village Administrator, Donna has also served as Records Supervisor, Assistant Building Commissioner, Staff Planner, and Director of Community Development. She has pursued significant additional training and education, and is an active member in a number of Village committees.

In 2005, as a member of the Glendale Heights Historic Committee, Donna was recognized with the Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award for her extensive research and documentation for a History of the Village of Glendale Heights brochure.

Donna leaves a powerful legacy in her passionate and conscientious approach to serving the community of Glendale Heights and her robust preservation of its history. She is truly a public servant and a model citizen.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing this special occasion as we celebrate Donna Becerra's faithful service to the Village of Glendale Heights and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING PEGGY BAGGETT ON HER RETIREMENT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peggy J. Baggett, who will retire as the Executive Director of the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) on November 30, 2011. During her more than 30 years of service with the Commission for the Arts, Ms. Baggett directed the organization in an honest and innovative fashion, ensuring that all needs were met with the utmost attention.

After receiving her Master's degree in Arts Administration, Ms. Baggett joined the Virginia Commission for the Arts in 1976 as their Regional Coordinator. Her long list of responsibilities included: publicizing the programs and services of the Commission; providing assistance to arts organizations in applying for funds; evaluating activities funding by the Commission; coordinating the statewide Artists-in-Schools program; and consulting with non-profit arts organizations on a wide range of management problems.

In 1980, after only four years at the organization, Ms. Baggett was appointed as the Executive Director by Governor John Dalton. Her capacity to handle complex and long-term projects has been exceptionally impressive. Ms. Baggett's accountability oversaw the investment of state and federal resources in the arts and built a multi-tiered review system that is regarded as effective, fair, and consistent by leaders in the arts across the state. She has effectively worked with key legislators on both sides of the aisle on issues of importance to arts and culture while working in the administrations of three Republican Governors and five Democratic Governors. Ms. Baggett is nationally hailed as an expert on state resources, keeping the administrative costs of the agency low while focusing on providing the best possible service to the people of Virginia.

Peggy Baggett's long list of accomplishments includes numerous recognitions and awards. On January 8, 2011, she was awarded the Leadership in the Arts Award by the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA) "for her dedication and inspiring leadership in the arts of Virginia for over three decades and eight governors." Additionally, she garnered the Anne Brownson Award for Service to the Museum Profession from the Virginia Association of Museums in 2002, Award of Distinction from the Folk Art Society of Virginia in 2001, the Gary Young Award for Leadership in the State Arts Agency field from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies in 1999 and, in 1992, was named an Outstanding Woman of Virginia by the James Madison University Woman Faculty.

Along with her work at the Virginia Commission for the Arts, Peggy's clear dedication to the arts extends far beyond her regular working hours. From 1981 to 2009, she was on the Board of Directors of the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, which provides arts programs from Virginia to New York. During that time, she sat on the Board of Directors for the Richmond-First Club, serving as their President

from 1995 to 1996, and was also on the Board of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies from 1989 to 1995. From 1983 to 1985, she served on the Board for the Virginia Women's Cultural History Project. She has been also been a member of the Board and Chair of the Advisory Board for the Center for Arts Administration at the University of Wisconsin several times.

Ms. Baggett has continually and generously lent her skill and expertise to others by volunteering as an Advisory Panelist for numerous National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) programs during her career. Additionally, she has worked as an Advisory Panelist and expert for other arts institutions across the country. Her recent accomplishments are a reflection of her work at the VCA. Ms. Baggett's planning, oversight, and coordination surrounding the 2008 Governor's Awards for the Arts, the first Virginia Heritage Awards in 2009, and for MINDS WIDE OPEN: Virginia Celebrates Women in the Arts, the Commonwealth's largest collaboration in history in the arts and cultural community, were exemplary. Her industrious oversight and coordination of the distribution of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for the arts in Virginia was well-executed and effective. Throughout her career at the VCA, Ms. Baggett has continued to promote the growth of the arts and cultural districts in localities across the state through conferences and training.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Peggy J. Baggett upon her retirement from the Virginia Commission for the Arts as their Executive Director. She has brought joy to countless individuals through her support and development of the arts in Virginia. I sincerely thank her for her service, and wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING RITA GELDERT ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF VISTA

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorable public service of Rita Geldert as she retires from City Manager of the City of Vista, California.

Mrs. Geldert was appointed as Vista's City Manager in 1997, after serving three years as Assistant City Manager. Under her tenure, Mrs. Geldert has helped spur economic expansion within the City and has helped to promote businesses and job growth within the community. Her tireless work to improve and strengthen infrastructure has not gone unnoticed. Mrs. Geldert has overseen countless projects that have had a great impact on the City and the surrounding area, ranging from the development of Vista Village to the new Civic Center.

Over the past 36 years, Mrs. Geldert has worked tirelessly in the field of public service. She has been active in the city management profession, serving on the Board of Trustees of the California City Management Foundation Board of Trustees while also being a member of multiple organizations relating to her position. Prior to her time spent as City Manager

and Assistant City Manager of Vista, she was the Director of Finance and Administration for the City of Dana Point, Management Services Officer for the City of Merced, and Personal Officer for the City of Vacaville. These positions exemplify Mrs. Geldert's dedication to not only the community she currently serves, but to the State of California and its citizens.

It is an honor to recognize Mrs. Geldert on the occasion of her retirement from over three decades of contributions to California communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to please join me in recognizing Mrs. Rita Geldert's dedicated service to the City of Vista and the state of California.

HONORING ASHER B. DURAND, GEORGE INNESS, AND THE HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL OF PAINTERS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the decision by the Architect of the Capitol to publicly display two important paintings in the Capitol Visitors Center. "The Discovery of the Hudson River" and "Entrance into Monterey," both by Albert Bierstadt, will welcome so many to the Capitol complex as they learn about the history and processes of our country. These works are part of the Hudson River School of Painters, and celebrate the beauty and diversity of the United States.

Coincidentally, two painters in the School have ties to my district in New Jersey. Asher Brown Durand was born, and later died, on a farm in my district. Although he began his career in engraving, Durand's legacy is in landscape painting, as one of the first artists of the Hudson River School of Painters. Durand's influence can be seen in another painter in the School, George Inness. Inness lived in Newark, a town I call home. Inness' distinct style combines the Hudson River School traditions with techniques he learned during travels in Western Europe.

Inness and Durand, like many of their fellow painters, traveled extensively abroad. Upon Durand's return to the United States, he took regular trips to paint the scenery of the Hudson River, the Adirondacks, and the White Mountains.

Durand's style was highly detailed, a hallmark of the School. One of Durand's most famous pieces, "Kindred Spirits," is often cited as one of the epitome of the School's values. This work cemented Durand's place at the forefront of the movement caused by the School.

Durand, as part of the first generation in the Hudson River School, is important because of his influence on later painters in the school, and on art in general. Durand helped form what is today known as the National Academy Museum and School, and served as president of the Academy for several years.

As the School's reputation increased, many of the School's painters traveled extensively to study, thus introducing these men to the culture of the grand capitals of Europe. This motivated many of the artists and other business leaders to found the Metropolitan Museum of

Art in New York City in 1870. Some of these Hudson River School painters later served as trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and were members of the executive committee.

On this very floor many years ago, Congress was moved to create several national parks, like Yellowstone and Yosemite, after viewing the School's magnificent landscape paintings. Eventually, these same paintings were used to encourage Congress to form the National Park Service in 1916.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues, and the American people, can agree with me when I acknowledge and appreciate the achievements of Asher Durand, George Inness, and the Hudson River School of Painters.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300-132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,054,163,621,371.29. We've added \$10,252,758,446,077.01 to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I attended the funeral of a fallen soldier from my district and missed the following roll-call Votes: Nos. 860, 861, and 862 on November 29, 2011.

If present, I would have voted:

Rollcall Vote No. 860—H.R. 3012, Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act, "nay;"

Rollcall Vote No. 861—H.R. 2192, National Guard and Reservist Debt Relief Extension Act, "aye;" and

Rollcall Vote No. 862—H.R. 1801, Risk-Based Security Screening for Members of the Armed Forces Act, "aye."

A TRIBUTE TO MR. ANDREA BOCELLI

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join many around the world in celebrating the accomplishments, talents, and music of Andrea Bocelli. Our Nation's Capital will play host to the Italian tenor on Friday, December 2nd when he takes the stage at the Verizon Center.

Born on September 22, 1958 in Pisa, Toscana, Italy, it wasn't until Mr. Bocelli was

34 when he was discovered for his incredible talents. In short time, with the support of legend Luciano Pavarotti, Mr. Bocelli won many competitions, festivals, and a record deal. His many talents include musician, songwriter, record producer, and multi-instrumentalist playing keyboards, flute, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, harp, harmonica, guitar, drums, and melodic.

The best selling solo artist in the history of classical music, Mr. Bocelli has recorded thirteen solo albums and eight operas, selling over 70 million copies across the globe. He has sung for presidents, popes, queens and millions of fans.

Throughout his career, Mr. Bocelli has served as a cultural ambassador for the Italian people. He continues to represent and promote the talents of Italy. Among his many accolades, he was honored with the status of "Grand Officer of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic" from past President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi. Here in the United States his honors include a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in appreciation of Mr. Andrea Bocelli, and thank him for his contribution to music, the arts, and popular culture.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, November 29, 2011, due to inclement weather in Chicago, Illinois that prevented my travel, I was unable to cast my votes for rollcall Nos. 860, 861, and 862. I was originally booked on United Flight 5327 from Moline at 9:24 a.m. (CST), connecting to United Flight 610 leaving O'Hare at 11:04 a.m. (CST) and arriving in DCA at 1:53 p.m. (EST). However, I could not make these flights due to my original flight from Moline not getting into ORD until 2:43 p.m., and subsequently having 3 connecting flights being cancelled, forcing me to get on the 6:30 p.m. (CST) United 509, arriving in DCA at 10:20 p.m. (EST).

Had I been present, my votes would have been as follows:

For rollcall No. 860, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes, I would have voted "yea." This legislation would not increase the total yearly admission numbers, but it would increase the United States' competitiveness and contribute to growing our economy.

For rollcall No. 861, to exempt for an additional 4-year period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days, I would have voted "yea." The brave men and women of our reserve components and National Guard, and their families, make incredible sacrifices so that we can be free.

Many are called to duty unexpectedly which can hinder financial planning and place a burden on their families. This exemption should be extended to allow our citizen-warriors time to readjust when they return home.

For rollcall No. 862, which directs the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration [TSA]) to develop and implement a plan for expedited security screening services for uniformed Armed Forces members, and their families, traveling on official orders while in uniform through an airport, I would have voted "yea." Again, we owe the brave men and women of our armed forces a tremendous debt of gratitude. Finding a faster way for them to complete the security screening process while they are in uniform and traveling on official orders is common sense.

It is an honor to serve the people of the 17th Congressional District of Illinois.

ON THE BIRTH OF ANGELO ZOLTAN SCHWARTZ

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Lawrence Schwartz and his wife Allison on the birth of their new baby boy, Angelo Zoltan Schwartz, who was born on Monday, November 28, 2011, in Falls Church, Virginia.

I am so excited for this new blessing to the Schwartz family and wish them all the best. I want to also congratulate Angelo's grandparents Debra and Barry Shulman of Fayetteville, New York, and Joanne and Lawrence Schwartz, III of Anaheim Hills, California, on this wonderful new addition to their family.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD "HAL" BRUNO, JR.

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life of a truly outstanding individual, Mr. Harold "Hal" Bruno, Jr., who passed away on November 8th, 2011 at the age of 83. A native of Chicago, Hal Bruno began his long career there as a reporter during the 1950s. From 1960 to 1978, Mr. Bruno worked for Newsweek magazine, and in 1978, he moved to ABC news where he remained until 1999. As Political Director and Director of Election Coverage at ABC News, Hal Bruno was widely known for his political savvy and his journalistic integrity. His career as a journalist spanned five decades and earned him many accolades. He was dedicated to politics and a pioneer in political journalism, so it is fitting that he passed away on an election night.

However, Hal Bruno had another passion in addition to journalism: to the brave men and women of our country's fire service. He was called to serve his neighbors as a volunteer firefighter for much of his career, and through that work as a firefighter, Mr. Bruno gained a keen interest in fire safety policies. He became a leading expert in the politics and policy of fire safety and for years contributed a

column on the subject to Firehouse magazine. He also composed numerous articles on the subject in other publications and on the internet, and helped bring attention to these important issues to Americans across the country.

Hal's passion and tenaciousness made him a highly effective advocate for firefighters and fire safety. A charter member of the National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation, he served as the organization's Chairman from 1999 until his retirement in 2008. In this position, he helped to develop fire safety programs and to create a safer environment for firefighters. He was also the Director of the Chevy Chase Fire Department in Maryland. It was truly an honor for me to work closely with Hal as we sought ways that the federal government could assist our local fire departments even before the tragic events of September 11th, 2001. Together, we developed the Assistance To Firefighters Grant (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs to help these local departments buy the equipment and hire the personnel they needed to keep their communities safe and secure. Thanks in large part to Hal's insightful input and tireless advocacy, these programs have been wildly successful, and are crucial to ensuring that our communities have the resources they need.

Homeland security starts at home, so no matter what our budget environment is like, we must continue to support firefighters and other first responders, who sacrifice so much to keep us safe. This will undoubtedly be one of Hal's great legacies, and I will continue to fight to preserve it in the future.

With Hal Bruno's passing, our nation has lost a great hero. Mr. Bruno is survived by his wife Meg, his sister Barbara, his sons Harold and Dan, and his four grandchildren. The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with passionate individuals like Hal Bruno. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Hal's family and friends, our first responders, and me in commemorating and celebrating the life of Mr. Hal Bruno.

RECOGNIZING HARLEEN JASSAL
OF CLIFTON, VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Harleen Jassal, a 2011 Critical Language Scholarship Program Recipient. Harleen has been identified by her educators for her academic excellence, leadership potential and exemplary citizenship to participate in the Critical Language Scholarship Program in Chandigarh, India.

This Critical Language Scholarship Program allows students to participate in daily educational activities in Chandigarh, India, as well as the surrounding areas. The program allows participants to make friends with young leaders from all over the world with an intensive focus on the Punjabi language, one of the thirteen critical need foreign languages determined by the Department of State, for summer 2012. At the end of the program, participants receive a certificate of completion.

Harleen is a student at the George Mason University. It is inspiring to see young people

who are interested in educational and developmental experiences such as these.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable achievement by Harleen Jassal and wishing her continued success in her further pursuits.

CONSOLIDATED AND FURTHER
CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS
ACT 2012, H.R. 2112

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act 2012 (H.R. 2112). This legislation combines three fiscal year 2012 appropriations measures: Agriculture; Commerce-Justice-Science; and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development. H.R. 2112 also includes a short-term continuing resolution that will fund the remainder of the federal government through December 16.

H.R. 2112 represents the final House-Senate conference agreement on three of this year's twelve appropriations bills. While I strongly oppose many of the cuts to critical priorities included in H.R. 2112, the final package is—on the whole—far better than the proposals from Tea Party Republicans in the House.

Fiscal year 2012 appropriations for the Agriculture, Rural Development and Food and Drug Administration are significantly improved from the House-passed bill. The Women, Infants and Children program receives \$6.6 billion, an increase of \$570 million over the House bill and \$36 million above the Senate. As a result, 700,000 low-income children and pregnant women in America will not lose the basic nutrition they desperately need and deserve. The conference agreement provides \$1 billion for food safety inspections, which will protect America's food supply by preventing the elimination of USDA meat inspectors. Food safety in our country is further strengthened by the \$2.5 billion included for the Food and Drug Administration. This \$334 million increase over the House level will allow the FDA to continue implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act. Funding was also restored for international food aid programs that fulfill America's moral obligation to assist millions of men, women and children around the world who are struggling with famine.

However, I am deeply disappointed that a handful of special interest groups succeeded in blocking important improvements to school nutrition standards that were recommended by the USDA. As a result, it will be harder for school districts to increase the use of whole grains, reduce the sodium content of school lunches and end the ridiculous practice of categorizing pizza as a vegetable. Every student in every American school knows pizza is not a vegetable. With this bill, Congress is failing our students and parents by allowing corporate interests to trump common sense. With this bill, we are missing an opportunity to substantially improve the health of America's children. This is a wrong that must be made right.

My Republican colleagues also won a victory for Wall Street criminals by demanding

cuts to the entity responsible for enforcing financial laws. H.R. 2112 includes \$100 million less for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) than requested by President Obama to carry out the financial reforms passed by Congress. Reckless behavior in America's financial sector has destroyed millions of jobs and trillions of dollars in education and retirement savings. It is unconscionable that House Republicans would undermine the ability of federal regulators to protect American families from a repeat of the 2008 crisis that nearly triggered a second Great Depression. Unfortunately, Congressional Republicans refused to yield. The result is a bill that leaves our country exposed to a repeat of this crisis.

Fiscal year 2012 Appropriations for Commerce-Science-Justice will enhance U.S. global competitiveness by making critical investments in science and technology. Overall, H.R. 2112 includes \$490 million more for these priorities than the bill proposed by the House Republicans. As a result, the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration receive funding to conduct research that spurs innovation and drives future economic growth. In addition, the legislation provides \$128 million for the Manufacturing Extension and Partnership Program, which helps American companies maintain good paying American jobs and compete with manufacturers in China, India, and other leading economies. And H.R. 2112 reverses the House Republican's massive cuts to firefighters, state and local law enforcement agencies, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. For example, the Commerce-Justice-Science bill passed by House Republicans eliminated funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program that helps Minnesota keep police officers on our streets. This bill provides \$198.5 million for COPS.

Fiscal year 2012 appropriations for Transportation, Housing and Urban Development fall short of what is needed to strengthen America's economy and stabilize our communities. Yet, the conference agreement does succeed in maintaining current levels of investment in most areas. For example, H.R. 2112 includes \$39.8 billion for the federal-aid highway program, \$12.1 billion more than the House draft bill and a level consistent with the annual funding assumed in the surface transportation extension act. The agreement also includes \$10.5 billion for transit programs, \$2.5 billion more than the House draft bill. This translates into \$93.1 million for construction of the Central Corridor Light Rail line. While replacing the massive cuts to transit proposed by House Republicans is an achievement, the final agreement falls \$5 million short of the federal commitment to the Central Corridor project. This shortfall is a major concern and something that must be addressed in the upcoming fiscal year 2013 process. Another concern is the complete elimination of funding for high-speed rail. Ideological opposition to rail investments from House Republicans will slow work on the planned Chicago-to-Twin Cities high-speed-rail route that will depart from St. Paul's Union Depot. However, the conference agreement did include \$1.4 billion for Amtrak capital and operating grants and removed onerous House language that would have eliminated Amtrak service on 26 short-distance routes, affecting 15 states and more than 9 million passengers.

Regarding federal housing programs, House Republicans proposed devastating cuts that would have done serious harm to low-income families in Minnesota. Fortunately, this conference agreement rejected the most damaging Republican cuts. Section 8 tenant-based vouchers receive \$18.9 billion, above the original level included in either the House or Senate bills. H.R. 2112 also maintains funding for homeless veterans, the McKinney-Vento homeless assistance grant program and housing counseling services. Still, the legislation fails to meet the growing needs for safe, affordable shelter in our communities. For example, cuts to the Community Development Block Grant program will undermine the efforts of Minnesota cities to respond to the effects of high unemployment and the collapse in the real estate market.

H.R. 2112 is the result of extended negotiations and represents a genuine compromise between competing priorities. I believe that many of the provisions in this legislation should be revisited and many of funding levels should be restored in the next appropriations cycle. Still, I plan to support this legislation today with my vote to ensure the critical resources in H.R. 2112 reach Minnesota communities without further delay.

HONORING MICHELLE MOORE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dallas County public defender Michelle Moore, who has worked on and off the clock to free the innocent from prison and helped them to adjust to life on the outside once they're released. I wish to congratulate Ms. Moore for her service to my community as she is leaving her position to open the first public defender's office in Burnet County.

Ms. Moore has helped free 11 men from prison, appeared on a television documentary called Dallas DNA and helped change state laws to compensate exonerees and prevent wrongful convictions. As an attorney, she requests DNA testing and has worked with the district attorney's office to investigate cases. She has also represented inmates whose guilt was confirmed by DNA testing.

Moore works with the Innocence Project of Texas, the Wesleyan Innocence Project and the University of Texas at Arlington Innocence Network and the Center for Actual Innocence. Michelle Moore has practiced law for 17 years and is licensed to practice in Texas and Arkansas. She has served as an assistant Dallas County public defender for the past 13 years, where she currently works as the DNA attorney for the office. Moore taught for six years in the Criminal Clinic at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Yes if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice; say that I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter. I won't have the fine and luxurious things of life to leave behind. But I just want to leave a committed life behind." Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Michelle Moore

for her determination and hard work to these causes. Our country is a better one because of Michelle Moore.

PROCLAIMING THE STATE OF NEVADA RECOGNIZE HELEN J. STEWART AS THE "FIRST LADY OF LAS VEGAS", AND HONOR HER STATUE WHICH WILL BE RAISED AT THE OLD LAS VEGAS MORMON FORT STATE HISTORIC PARK ON DECEMBER 3, 2011 IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

HON. MARK E. AMODEI

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Helen J. Stewart as "First Lady of Las Vegas", and honor her statue which will be raised at the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park on December 3, 2011 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Helen, with her husband Archibald, three children and one on the way, arrived in the Las Vegas Valley in 1882 and resided on the land located around the abandoned Mormon Fort situated near what today is the intersection of Las Vegas Boulevard North and Washington Avenue. Later left with four children and another on the way after the death of her husband in 1884, she became a rancher and business woman and presided over the operations of the ranch. She began buying land and became the largest landowner in Lincoln County. She later sold her land to the railroad in 1902 and hence forth the city of Las Vegas developed.

As the new town expanded, Helen became active in the community serving in many leadership roles such as one of the founders of Christ Episcopal Church, charter member of the Mesquite Club, president of the Las Vegas branch of the Nevada Historical Society, supporter of women's suffrage, first woman elected to the school board on the Republican ticket, and as a friend to the Paiute Indians who worked on her ranch, sold ten acres of land to the federal government to be used as an Indian school and semi-reservation which remains tribal land today.

On July 26, 2010 the Historical Commission of the Las Vegas Centennial awarded the "Friends of the Fort" \$99,000 for the Helen J. Stewart statue to be sculpted by Benjamin Victor of Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Both the State of Nevada and I recognize the statue of Helen J. Stewart to be a fitting recognition of the many "firsts" that this exceptional Nevadan lady forever known as the "First Lady of Las Vegas" accomplished in her lifetime.

URGING FDA TO ACT PROMPTLY TO APPROVE ARTIFICIAL PANCREAS TECHNOLOGIES

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, diabetes is a common, and growing, disease in

Indiana. According to 2009 CDC data, approximately 451,000 Hoosiers—9% of the state's population—had diagnosed diabetes. Adults who are overweight and not physically active are at risk for developing diabetes. Among adults with diabetes in Indiana, 88.1% are overweight and 42.5% reported physical inactivity.

In addition to the human toll diabetes places on people in Indiana, the financial burden diabetes places on the health system in Indiana is staggering—in 2007, the direct and indirect cost of diabetes in Indiana was approximately \$3.09 billion.

Americans with diabetes, particularly young children with diabetes, desperately need better tools to manage their disease and thereby prevent many of its life-threatening and costly complications. Some of these breakthrough tools and technologies are already available.

For example, Low-Glucose Suspend systems—devices that automatically suspend insulin delivery when blood sugar levels are dangerously low—have been approved in more than 40 countries around the world. But not here in the United States.

In fact, the FDA only this year—almost four years after these devices were approved for use in Europe, issued draft guidance on what studies manufacturers would need to conduct in order to win approval for Low-Glucose Suspend systems in the United States.

To make matters worse, according to the Nation's leading clinical organizations specializing in diabetes care, the guidance proposed by FDA in June 2011 for Low-Glucose Suspend systems created many unnecessary obstacles to the evaluation of those systems.

Thankfully, the FDA recently took an overdue step to clarify that ill-conceived guidance. However, there is significant concern within the diabetes community that forthcoming guidance—which the FDA has committed publicly to publishing by December 1st—on even more revolutionary technology—the artificial pancreas—will either be delayed or suffered from many of the same problems which plagued the FDA's Low-Glucose Suspend system guidance.

The development of the artificial pancreas is critically important to many of my constituents, which is why I signed a broad, bipartisan letter in support of prompt and appropriate guidance on the artificial pancreas earlier this year. Any delay will slow an innovation that has the potential to dramatically improve the lives of those with diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the thousands of Hoosiers, and millions of other Americans with diabetes, I urge the FDA to issue this draft guidance no later than December 1, if not sooner, so that artificial pancreas technologies can be tested in an outpatient setting and be made available to those who need it in the near future. This is literally a matter of life and death.

I also would like to insert a copy of my letter to FDA Commissioner Hamburg in this subject in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, November 29, 2011.

Hon. MARGARET HAMBURG, M.D.,
Commissioner, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Silver Springs, MD.

DEAR COMMISSIONER HAMBURG: I am writing to urge the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to expedite the development of the artificial pancreas for the treatment of type 1 diabetes. Specifically, I urge FDA to

immediately issue clear and unambiguous guidance so that outpatient artificial pancreas studies can proceed as soon as possible.

Nearly 26 million Americans have diabetes, and one in three American children born today will develop the disease. Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure and adult-onset blindness. Moreover, diabetes increases the risk of heart attack deaths by two to four times, and causes more than 80,000 amputations each year. People with diabetes are also at risk for seizures, comas and sudden death. Americans with diabetes, particularly young children with diabetes, desperately need better tools to manage their disease and thereby prevent many of its life-threatening and costly complications.

Some of these breakthrough tools and technologies are already available in other parts of the world. Low-Glucose Suspend systems—devices that automatically suspend insulin delivery when blood sugar levels are dangerously low—have been approved in more than 40 countries around the world but not here in the United States. In fact, the FDA only this year—almost four years after these devices were approved for use in Europe, issued draft guidance on what studies manufacturers would need to conduct in order to win approval for Low-Glucose Suspend systems in the United States. To make matters worse, according to the Nation's leading clinical organizations specializing in diabetes care, the guidance proposed by FDA in June 2011 for Low-Glucose Suspend systems created many unnecessary obstacles to the evaluation of those systems. For example, I understand that this guidance requires multiple clinical trials (inpatient and outpatient) involving a large number of subjects to show statistically significant differences in preventing hypoglycemia. This is an excessive hurdle when all that is required is data showing safety and effectiveness (in other words equivalent glycemic control) not that the Low-Glucose Suspend system is BETTER than other techniques.

Nighttime is a particularly dangerous time for individuals with diabetes because their blood sugar level can drop while they are sleeping, potentially leading to seizures, coma or death. I have heard heart wrenching stories from parents forced to wake their diabetic children in the middle of the night to check their blood sugar levels and, if necessary, administer insulin. Access to Low-Glucose Suspend systems, and ultimately to artificial pancreas technology, is desperately needed to help manage this disease and effectiveness, would be unconscionable.

We are at a critical point in the development of the artificial pancreas. Timely approval of this technology will help improve health outcomes for the millions of Americans afflicted with type I diabetes; and potentially save hundreds billions of dollars annually in health care costs. I urge your timely consideration of this matter and respectfully request a prompt response.

Sincerely,

DAN BURTON,
Member of Congress.

RECOGNIZING LEA GOLD OF
BURKE, VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lea Gold, a 2011 Critical Language Scholarship Program Recipient. Lea

has been identified by her educators for her academic excellence, leadership potential and exemplary citizenship to participate in the Critical Language Scholarship Program Jeonju, South Korea.

This Critical Language Scholarship Program allows students to participate in daily educational activities in Jeonju, South Korea, as well as the surrounding areas. The program allows participants to make friends with young leaders from all over the world with an intensive focus in the Korean language, one of the thirteen critical need foreign languages determined by the Department of State, for summer 2012. At the end of the program, participants receive a certificate of completion.

Lea is a student at the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill. It is inspiring to see young people who are interested in educational and developmental experiences such as these.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable achievement by Lea Gold and wishing her continued success in her further pursuits.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
JOHN H. WATSON, JR. ON HIS
RETIREMENT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to pay tribute to Judge John H. Watson, Jr. as he retires from his position as Municipal Court Judge for the City of East Orange. It is my distinct pleasure to add my congratulations to that of his family, friends and associates as they celebrate in honor of a man who has been involved in every aspect of law for over 30 years. For all the leadership he has shown and the contributions he has made over the years, Judge Watson is a worthy recipient of the accolades he will receive on November 18, 2011.

I consider it a privilege to have been involved with Judge Watson's early foray into public service. In addition to serving on the bench, Judge Watson has maintained a successful private practice where he has used his legal expertise to guide numerous clients through a variety of legal matters. He has been a mentor to new attorneys and has provided internship opportunities to youngsters interested in pursuing law degrees. Fortunately, for the community at large, Judge Watson has always been a fair and thoughtful individual. He is a Vietnam War veteran who obviously has a strong sense of loyalty to his country.

A graduate of Rutgers University Law School, Judge Watson held a number of positions before branching out on his own. He is a member of several Bar Associations and has been an active participant in the Rutgers-Newark Law School Alumni Association. A doting husband and father, Judge Watson is also a loving grandfather, a loyal friend and a trusted confidant.

Mr. Speaker, I know my fellow members of the House of Representatives agree that Judge Watson has been an integral part of the East Orange Court system. His retirement is the culmination of a stellar career and we wish

him well in this new and exciting phase of his life.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Native American Heritage Month and to celebrate the rich heritage of Native Americans in Washington state, which is home to 29 federally recognized tribes. These tribes have emphasized the importance of further empowering tribal governments to be able to serve their members in a variety of areas, including: housing, social programs, courts, natural resource management, education, and health care. Over the years I have worked hard to address these issues by supporting tribal governments and the positive work they do for their communities, and I will continue to do so in my capacity as the Vice-Chair of the Native American Caucus.

Northwest Coast tribes have a rich history and continue to share that with their surrounding community. Earlier this fall, a carver from the Lummi Indian Reservation traveled across the country with his 20 foot healing pole bound for the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland. This summer I stopped by the Tulalip Tribe's new Hibulb Museum. The museum—one of ten tribal museums throughout Washington state—teaches visitors about the traditions and history of the Tulalip tribe through art that is emblematic of the region's tribal history and coastal environment, such as cedar totem poles and ceremonial masks.

In Washington state, education offered by the tribes and other related institutions plays an integral role in maintaining traditions, fighting unemployment, and raising awareness about tribal issues. Educational programs include ten tribal primary and secondary schools, a number of Northwest Indian Colleges and other tribal colleges, as well as American Indian Studies and native language programs offered at the Evergreen State College, Washington State University, and the University of Washington's Department of American Indian Studies.

Despite achievements in education and other fields, Native American communities still suffer from greater health disparities, including high rates of diabetes, tuberculosis, and alcoholism. To improve the quality of the health care system for tribes, I supported the Indian Health Care Improvement Act that was passed into law as a part of the Affordable Care Act, and I will continue to work to protect that law. With 23 tribal clinics in Washington state alone, there is already an existing health care infrastructure in Native American communities, and as we work to improve the quality of our own health care system we should continue advocating for better, and self-governed, health care for tribes.

As we look to improve health care, education, and the economy in Indian Country, I will strongly support self-governance as a way to achieve these goals. To that end, I have co-sponsored H.R. 2444, the Department of the

Interior Tribal Self-Governance Act, as well as related legislation to restore the integrity of government-to-government relationships and promote opportunities for tribal self-determination. I believe that we should support tribal governments to find ways to best serve their communities and protect their heritage.

CONGRATULATING FRENCH ROAD
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate French Road Elementary School in Brighton, New York for recently earning its designation as a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School. The United States Department of Education grants this prestigious award to schools demonstrating a high level of academic excellence or where the achievement gap is shrinking. Secretary Arne Duncan describes National Blue Ribbon Schools as those, "committed to accelerating student achievement and preparing students for success in college and careers."

As one of only 315 schools across the nation to earn this honor, French Road Elementary School embodies the standard of excellence this award celebrates and is an example for others to emulate.

While nothing should diminish the hard work and talents of French Road Elementary School's individual teachers and students, Superintendent Dr. Kevin McGowan accurately stated that this honor reflects, "the support of an incredible school community."

Community is a central component of French Road Elementary School. Its students are not only encouraged to succeed academically but to be constructive members of their communities. In an era where school bullying is far too prevalent, French Road students start their day by reciting the school's Purple Hand Pledge. It reads, "I will not use my hands or my words for hurting myself or others." It is a simple message that should be emphasized more throughout school communities around the country.

Articulating the school's underlying values, this pledge has helped to foster the strong sense of community found among these third, fourth and fifth graders.

For instance, when entering French Road's courtyard you will find students working side by side in the school's community garden to grow healthy, pesticide-free vegetables for each other's enjoyment and to supplement the cafeteria menu.

However, their sense of community extends beyond their school yard, classmates and immediate neighbors. Over the past 30 years, French Road students have raised \$1,265,000 through the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart Event, to benefit children across the country with cardiac abnormalities. During the 2010 to 2011 school year, these young philanthropists raised \$75,489.29; \$20,000 more than any other school nationwide. They have been the event's number one fundraiser for the past 12 years.

The administrators, teachers, parents and students of French Road Elementary School form a truly remarkable community deserving

of this Blue Ribbon recognition. Its students move on with the necessary foundation to accomplish many great things, as well as the desire to leave their communities better than they found them.

Mr. Speaker, I could not be more proud to recognize this school in the United States House of Representatives and hope to help others follow in its footsteps.

REMEMBERING HAL BRUNO

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor Hal Bruno, who recently passed on November 8th. Hal Bruno will be remembered as a man of service to his country. Having served as an Army intelligence officer, a volunteer firefighter and the director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), he put service to others first and foremost. For over 60 years Hal was an active member of the fire service community, whether it was on the ground as a first responder, in the halls of Congress working to improve resources for families of fallen firefighters, or on the public stage advocating for ways to improve fire safety to reduce line of duty deaths and injuries.

Appointed as chairman of the NFFF in 1999, he received numerous awards and recognition for his dedication and commitment. This fall, he was awarded the National Fire & Emergency Services Hall of Legends, Legacies and Leaders Award. In 2008, the Congressional Fire Services Institute selected him as the recipient of the CFSI / Motorola Mason Lankford Fire Service Leadership Award and in 1999 he received the "President's Award" from the International Association of Fire Chiefs. He was also named "Fire Service Person of the Year" by the Congressional Fire Services Institute in 1995.

Hal also had a prestigious career as the longtime ABC News Political Director. Known for his journalistic integrity and pioneering spirit, he represented the reason the news media is sometimes referred to as the 'fourth branch of government.'

As a Co-Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I know Hal Bruno will be greatly missed by the fire service community and by the many others he touched.

EDEN PRAIRIE EAGLES WIN 7TH
STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, in my hometown of Eden Prairie, we take high school football seriously, which is why I am so honored to congratulate the Eden Prairie Boys Football Team on winning their seventh Minnesota State Championship title on Friday evening.

The Eden Prairie Eagles faced their conference rivals, the Wayzata Trojans, at the Metrodome in Minneapolis. It was a game that

was dominated not by either side's offensive line, but by both team's disciplined defense as both sides found it difficult to rack up points throughout a majority of the game.

Late in the fourth quarter, with Eden Prairie up 6-3, the Eagles scored the game's only touchdown. At fourth and fourteen, the Eagles used a reverse flea flicker to make a 25 yard gain, bringing them within five yards of a touchdown. With three minutes left in the game, running back Andrew Larson fought his way into the end zone.

To all the student athletes on the Eden Prairie football team, and to Coach Grant and his coaching staff, I want to say "job well done."

2011 EMISSARIES OF MEMPHIS
MUSIC

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, Tennessee is the home to country music and the blues. Music is in the very fiber of our being, and we are proud to continually showcase the thousands of singers, songwriters, performers, producers, and music industry professionals that call Tennessee "home." I rise today to honor eight such professionals whose talents have made Memphis' musical heritage the soundtrack of America.

Barbara Blue, Dani, Lil Rounds, Dawn Hopkins, Valerie June, Amy LaVere, Sheri Jones Moffett, and JoJo Jefferies were named recently as the 2011 Emissaries of Memphis Music. Honored for their contributions to the culture of music that is uniquely Tennesseean and uniquely American, these eight women are deserving of praise. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the Emissaries of Memphis Music and thank all of those who add their distinct notes to the musical history of Tennessee.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 860, due to family health issues, I was unable to make the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

A TRIBUTE TO BERNARD "C.B."
KIMMINS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true hero, Bernard "C.B." Kimmins. For over 44 years, Mr. Kimmins has been a committed volunteer, leader, and teacher throughout Philadelphia. He is a man of great courage and a true friend of mine.

Born in Atlantic City, New Jersey on February 13, 1944, Mr. Kimmins lived most of his

life in Philadelphia wherein he graduated from Cardinal Dougherty H.S., St. Joseph's University and Temple University, Graduate School.

Under the leadership of Zachary Clayton, Mr. Kimmins began his volunteer commitment in 1967 as a gang control worker in Philadelphia. Following that he served at the House of Umojah under Sister Falaka Fattah, mother of U.S. Congressman CHAKA FATTAH. Mr. Kimmins has been addressing youth groups with a message of respect for law enforcement, parents, clergy, teachers, adults, and fellow young people. Under the direction of Dr. Herman Wrice and Dr. Constance Clayton, Superintendent of Philadelphia Schools, Mr. Kimmins taught for over 30 years on the subjects of anti drugs, anti violence, anti guns, anti bullying, and tolerance.

Mr. Kimmins became a skilled anti crime activist and community organizer. He also studied under Dr. Russell Ackoff of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. Currently, Mr. Kimmins is a full time volunteer, and Executive Director, for Mantua Against Drugs.

Mr. Kimmins is the proud recipient of numerous awards including honors from Time Magazine, the MLK Center, and the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to these accolades, Mr. Kimmins' greatest accomplishment has been the many lives he has positively impacted.

Mr. Kimmins' long and impressive career showcases his commitment and service to his community. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking Bernard Kimmins for his work and congratulate him on a job well done.

HONORING THE HONORABLE
FRANK C. DAMRELL, JR.

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr., as he retires from the United States District Court,

Eastern District of California. A federal judge since 1997, Judge Damrell has served on the bench with distinction and integrity. As his family, colleagues, and community leaders all gather to honor his remarkable career, I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Judge Damrell's service to the federal judiciary and his unwavering commitment to increasing civic involvement amongst our nation's youth.

A native of California's Central Valley and graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, and Yale Law School, Judge Damrell enjoyed an exceptional law career in both the private and public sectors prior to his 1997 appointment to the federal bench by President William Jefferson Clinton. He has been an active member of the federal judiciary and served on the 9th Circuit Education Committee, the Federal Judicial Branch Committee of the United States Judicial Conference, the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, and a number of other important committees and commissions.

Since being appointed to the United States District Court of the Eastern District of California, Judge Damrell has remained steadfast in his advocacy for civic education. In May of 2002, he led a national summit in our nation's capital that brought together all major civic education organizations, to restore civic engagement in public schools. These organizations led a nation-wide effort to encourage public schools to educate students about each of our civic duties, responsibilities, and privileges. To help advance this crucial mission, Judge Damrell founded Operation Protect and Defend, a program that has connected high school students to the Constitution and helped them explore the responsibilities of citizenship.

Beyond encouraging students to learn about their civic responsibilities, Judge Damrell has been a strong proponent of higher education and served on the boards of various universities. He was a member of the Board of Regents of Santa Clara University, Board of Overseers for University of San Francisco, and the Board of Trustees for University of California, Merced. Judge Damrell has spoken in front of a wide variety of organizations to promote civic education and given insightful

commencement addresses at the Santa Clara University School of Law and McGeorge School of Law.

Mr. Speaker, as Judge Damrell, his wife Ludy, their children Frank, Lia, Anne, and James, their grandchildren, friends, and colleagues celebrate his retirement, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking and recognizing him for his many years of service. Judge Damrell has contributed immensely to the federal bench and our community.

RECOGNIZING SIMRUN BAL OF
SPRINGFIELD, VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Simrun Bal, a 2011 Critical Language Scholarship Program Recipient. Simrun has been identified by her educators for her academic excellence, leadership potential and exemplary citizenship to participate in the Critical Language Scholarship Program in Chandigarh, India.

This Critical Language Scholarship Program allows students to participate in daily educational activities in Chandigarh, India, as well as the surrounding areas. The program allows participants to make friends with young leaders from all over the world with an intensive focus on the Punjabi language, one of the thirteen critical need foreign languages determined by the Department of State, for summer 2012. At the end of the program, participants receive a certificate of completion.

Simrun is a student at the University of Richmond. It is inspiring to see young people who are interested in educational and developmental experiences such as these.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable achievement by Simrun Bal and wishing her continued success in her further pursuits.

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, December 1, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
DECEMBER 2

10 a.m.
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine combating anti-Semitism in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe region, focusing on taking stock of the situation today, including initiatives designed to target violent and other manifestations on anti-Semitism in the fifty-six North American and European countries that comprise the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).
2203, Rayburn Building

DECEMBER 6

10 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Contracting Oversight Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine whistleblower protections for government contractors.
SD-342

Judiciary
Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine access to the court, focusing on televising the Supreme Court.
SD-226

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine continued oversight of the implementation of the "Wall Street Reform Act".
SD-538

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine contaminated drywall, focusing on examining the current health, housing and product safety issues facing homeowners.
SR-253

Finance
To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Ways and Means to examine tax reform and the tax treatment of financial products.
HVC-210

2:30 p.m.
Judiciary
Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Express Scripts/Medco merger.
SD-226

DECEMBER 7

9:30 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Homeland Security to examine homegrown terrorism, focusing on the threat to military communities inside the United States.
HVC-210

10 a.m.
Finance
To hold hearings to examine drug shortages, focusing on why they happen and what they mean.
SD-215

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine reauthorizing the EB-5 Regional Center Program, focusing on promoting job creation and economic development in American communities.
SD-226

2 p.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine enhanced supervision, focusing on a new regime for regulating large, complex financial institutions.
SD-538

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine turning the investigation on the science of forensics.
SR-253

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Paul J. Watford, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.
SD-226

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
Disaster Recovery and Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee
To hold joint hearings to examine earthquakes to terrorist attacks, focusing on if the national capital region is prepared for the next disaster.
SD-342

DECEMBER 8

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Water and Power Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine opportunities and challenges to address domestic and global water supply issues.
SD-366

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

DECEMBER 13

9 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine MF Global bankruptcy.
SH-216