

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING MARK WASSERMAN AND THE HOUSES FOR CHANGE PROGRAM

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Houses for Change is an innovative new campaign garnering support for the fight against homelessness. This new program is quickly becoming a popular way to help communities across the country support the less fortunate. The program's founder, Mark Wasserman, recently visited Capitol Hill to share his ideas with Members of Congress and their staff. I would like to recognize Mr. Wasserman's dedication and thank him for working to improve his community.

Looking for a way to help the homeless, Mark came up with the Houses for Change program. This innovative program allows children to use their imagination and creativity to support homeless people. The children decorate pre-ordered boxes so that they look like small homes, and then they take their homes around the community to collect loose change. On a selected date, the children and parents bring the boxes back to Houses for Change, and all of the proceeds go directly to a charity selected by the participants. Similar to the Jewish tradition of the tzedakah box, this unique method allows all of the money raised to go directly towards helping the homeless.

Mark's original idea was extremely successful in Palm Beach County, Florida. As a result, the program is now being launched nationwide. With the help of Family Promise, Houses for Change is quickly being adopted by schools, church congregations, and homeless organizations across the country. Additionally, organizations such as the YMCA and United Way are going to begin using this program to help youth get involved in this meaningful community service project. Due to his hard work and dedication, Mark's original idea is now a national effort to help the less fortunate members of our society.

Mr. Speaker, people like Mark Wasserman are a shining example of those selfless individuals who have committed their life to helping their communities become a better place. I am so proud that the Houses for Change program started in South Florida, and I hope that the program continues to thrive across the nation.

### BUFFALO SOLDIERS IN THE NATIONAL PARKS STUDY ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1022, "Buffalo

Soldiers in the National Parks Study Act." This bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to study alternatives for the commemoration and interpretation of the role of the Buffalo Soldiers in the early years of the national parks.

America's national parks are a treasure of nature's magnificent wonders—84 million acres of the most stunning landscapes anyone has ever seen. The story of the national parks is the story of people from every conceivable background who were willing to devote themselves to saving a portion of the land they loved. Among them were Buffalo Soldiers.

Our country began the arduous task of rebuilding itself after a brutal civil war. In this war former slaves fought in Union regiments to pursue the ultimate goal to end slavery. These Black soldiers were later used in 1866, when Congress created six segregated regiments that ultimately became four black regiments that later became known as the original Buffalo Soldiers. Because of prevailing attitudes following the Civil War, these soldiers could only serve west of the Mississippi River. Their main charge was to protect settlers as they moved west and to support building the infrastructure needed for new settlements to flourish.

Buffalo Soldiers conducted campaigns against American Indian tribes on a western frontier that extended from Montana in the northwest to Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona in the southwest. They engaged in several clashes against such great Indian Chiefs as Victorio, Geronimo, and Nana.

"Buffalo Soldiers" was the name given the black cavalrymen by the Plains Indians. Reason for the name is uncertain. One view is that the Indians saw a resemblance between the black man's hair and the mane of a buffalo. Another view is that when a buffalo was wounded or cornered, it fought ferociously, displaying unusual stamina and courage. This was the same fighting spirit Indians saw in combat with black cavalrymen. Since Indians held the buffalo in such high regard, it was felt that the name was not given in contempt.

Those Buffalo Soldiers not only fought in conflicts along the western frontier, but they were indispensable in the treacherous and desolate trails of the Wild West. They helped protect and build up our new country as it expanded west. They built roads. They protected new territories where they escorted settlers, cattle herds, and railroad crews, while battling Mexican revolutionaries, outlaws, rustlers and hostile Native American tribes. The Buffalo Soldiers were the protectors of the western frontier.

Buffalo Soldiers played a central role in protecting national parks—Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. They were, in fact, our national parks' first "guardians." These Soldiers kept the park free from poachers and from the ranchers whose grazing sheep destroyed the parks' natural habitats. They built roads, including the first wagon road into the Giant Forest of Sequoia.

At a time when most of the country would not recognize their humanity, these brave pa-

triot stood up to fight and protect a country that was just as much theirs as any other American. And I think it is fitting and symbolic that at a time when our Nation was rebuilding itself after being torn apart, it was former slaves and children of former slaves—Buffalo Soldiers—that rebuilt and protected our new and expanding country.

As our country progresses, there will continue to be sites of historic and cultural significance that need to be added to the national park system. Commemorating and interpreting the role of the Buffalo Soldiers in the early years of the national parks will ensure the historical contributions of the Buffalo Soldiers will always be remembered. Celebrating the role of Buffalo Soldiers serves to interpret, articulate, collect, display and preserve historical artifacts, documents, and other historical memorabilia relating to these brave men.

It is America's mandate to acknowledge and reflect America's diverse stories. The story of Buffalo Soldiers is an underrepresented cultural theme in our national parks. Commemorating Buffalo Soldiers in the history of the nation's national parks is a step in the right direction. It reflects our cultural heritage and ensures their stories are told for our children and grandchildren to enjoy throughout posterity.

At this time I would also like to take a moment to thank a special Legislative Fellow in my office, Byron McKie. He has been working diligently to enhance the opportunities of children through STEM education.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES I. THACKER

#### HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James I. Thacker, a dedicated public servant and brave member of the Pike County Sheriff's Department in Pikeville, Kentucky. His passing is a great loss and he will be deeply missed in Pike County.

For law enforcement officers and other first responders, a routine assignment can become dangerous at any moment. On Monday, January 23rd, James was serving papers at the end of his shift, when a vehicle crossed the center line on U.S. 460 and hit him head on. His comrades rushed to his aid, just the same as he had done so many times before for them.

James will always be remembered for his service to Pike County, both for his time as a Deputy Sheriff and his faithful years as a Constable. He served with compassion, loyalty and the utmost integrity. James' comrades highly respected him, and described him as someone who treated others as he wanted to be treated. He was an excellent officer and was always prepared to answer the call of duty.

James was a loving husband, a father of four, a grandfather and a former road foreman. His loss will be felt across the county

● 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.

and his legacy will carry on in the hearts and lives of those who love him.

Let us remember that everyday our law enforcement officers are putting their lives on the line and that a routine day is never routine. On behalf of my wife Cynthia and myself, I want to extend our deepest heartfelt sympathies to the Thacker family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a brave, public servant for the people of Pike County, Kentucky, the late James Thacker.

IN HONOR OF JOANNE B. "JOEY"  
LASNIK

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joanne B. "Joey" Lasnik, who passed away January 4, 2012. Lasnik was a longtime community activist, volunteer, leader, daughter, grandmother, and friend.

Lasnik was an active member of the Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women, the Monterey County Overall Economic Development Commission, the Monterey County Democratic Women's Club, a leader on the National and local level of the Girl Scouts, the Salinas branch of NAACP, and the American Association of University Women, she served on the committee for the Fort Ord Task Force, and the advisory Board of KHDC. In 1981 Joanne was the first woman ever to be named foreman of the Monterey County Grand Jury. Joey proudly served four terms on the Hartnell College Board of Trustees.

Joey always strived to enhance the status of women and seniors throughout her professional life as the Executive Director of the Volunteer Center for Salinas, Executive Director of the Alliance on Aging, a Board member of the Salinas Senior Center, and Executive Director of Meals on Wheels of Salinas Valley. She was instrumental in developing the vision to build a one-step state of the art Senior Center in Salinas. Joey had a talent for grant writing, passion for education, and beliefs in fairness and equality. She helped to train others to continue and expand on her work. She is considered an important mentor to many women.

Joanne had many tremendous accomplishments from her Bachelors in Education for the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Masters in Science from Purdue University, to all of her volunteer work, helping to organize women's shelters and partaking in numerous community groups. In addition, she was an accomplished needle-pointer, seamstress, and creative cook, but most of all she was a proud parent to Leslie, Jay, Mark, her daughter in law and beloved grandchildren as well as her "adopted" sons from Japan she hosted for over 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in mourning the passing of this dedi-

cated and loving woman. Her life was a gift to her community, a shining example to be emulated by those who she inspired to continue her work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on January 23, I missed rollcall votes Number 5 and 6. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 5, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3115), the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2011, and "yea" on rollcall vote 6, providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1141), the Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act.

A TRIBUTE TO ONOREVOLE  
ALESSANDRO PAGANO

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alessandro Pagano. Mr. Pagano, a member of the Italian National Parliament, has worked extensively to strengthen Italian American relations.

As a member of the Italian Parliament, Mr. Pagano works tirelessly to improve the fields of health, education, and budget. He has served as Regional Minister of Health, Regional Minister for Budget and Finance, Regional Councilor for Cultural Heritage, and Regional Minister for Education.

As the Regional Minister of Health, Mr. Pagano has served under various committees in an effort to improve both Italian healthcare systems and improve quality of life for the Italian people.

With his extensive educational background in both economics and banking, Mr. Pagano has impressively increased revenues without raising taxes and recovered financial resources of over one billion Euros per year, earning a positive rating with the international rating agency Fitch.

Mr. Pagano also has as history of teaching. He holds two degrees earned with honors in both banking and economics from the University of Messina, and has dedicated well over a decade of his life to teaching in higher education. He continues to serve as a member of the Scientific Committee of the weekly tax legislation, titled "The Taxes."

Under his position of Regional Minister for Education, Mr. Pagano has begun multi-million Euro programs to help keep Sicilian schools safe.

In his continued efforts to preserve cultural heritage, Mr. Pagano was appointed as Regional Minister for Cultural Heritage, and has begun projects to renovate and restore priceless buildings and cultural artifacts.

Mr. Pagano's long and impressive career showcases his commitment to a better society, his profession, and his community. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you, and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking Alessandro Pagano for his work and his continued service to both Italy and the United States of America.

REVENUE ESTIMATE

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on January 30, 2012, the Joint Committee on Taxation produced a revenue estimate for a bill that I introduced today. The Joint Committee estimates that my bill, which amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to disallow a deduction for amounts paid or incurred by a responsible party relating to a discharge of oil, would save hardworking American taxpayers an average of \$1.3 billion per year.

I revise and extend my remarks today to include that revenue estimate for the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION,

*Washington, DC, Jan 30, 2012.*

Hon. ALCEE L. HASTINGS,

*House of Representatives,*

*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. HASTINGS: This letter is in response to your request, dated January 26, 2012, for a revenue estimate of a proposal that would disallow the deductibility of amounts paid or incurred by a responsible party relating to the discharge of oil.

Your proposal would amend Internal Revenue Code (the "Code") section 162 by disallowing the ability to deduct expenses incurred as a consequence of the discharge of oil into navigable waters, other than an incident caused by an act of God or an act of war. For definitional purposes, any term used in the proposal that is also used in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 is to have the same meaning as in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. Based on our discussion with Ian Wolf McCormick of your staff, we have assumed that the tax base includes direct and indirect clean up costs, compensatory and punitive damages, associated legal fees, and other amounts associated with the discharge and paid by responsible parties. In addition, any casualty losses associated with the responsible party's own property incurred as a result of the oil spill are not included in the tax base nor are any of the responsible party's voluntary mitigation payments.

Your proposal would be effective for returns of tax the extended due date of which is after the date of enactment (regardless of whether any extension had been requested). For purposes of the revenue estimate, we have assumed a date of enactment of April 1, 2012.

As incidents resulting in the discharge of oil of sizeable proportions do not occur with a frequency that creates a pattern that can be modeled, this estimate is primarily based on known discharges of oil that have occurred as of this date.

Fiscal years, millions of dollars—

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012-16	2012-22
2,224	1,385	1,679	1,139	303	6,729	6,792

Note: Details do not add to totals due to rounding.

I hope this information is helpful to you. If we can be of further assistance in this matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

THOMAS A. BARTHOLD.

IN HONOR OF DR. RAMA KHALSA

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Dr. Rama Khalsa, who retired as the Director of Health Services of Santa Cruz County in the state of California. Not only was she a leader in the field of health services, but also in mental health. During her thirty-five years of service in the health care field, Rama was an advocate for reducing the costs and improving the quality of health services for low-income and uninsured residents of the county.

Her career began in 1976 as a Juvenile Court Psychologist in the San Bernardino County Probation Department, and then segued into mental health which has been her career. She has won numerous awards, participated in many research projects, has been awarded honors and doctorate degree, but is most proud of her accomplishments in the field of community access to mental health services.

She was a founder and first Chair of the Health Safety Net Clinic Coalition of Santa Cruz County, promoted the potential of Health Information Technology in the last decade, and was a key leader in the development of the local children's health coverage program for Santa Cruz, Monterey, and Merced Counties.

During my tenure in the California State Legislature we worked together on the revision of the California Mental Health Master Plan Act to upgrade services and make mental health treatment more accessible in our state.

Rama has been an active member of the Board of Directors of Central Coast Alliance for Health, served on various committees, and has given her time for the Health Services Agency, Health Improvement Partnership Council, Safety Net Clinic Coalition, Health Information Technology, and Santa Cruz Health Information Exchange.

After thirty-five years of public service, Rama hopes to spend more time painting, traveling, volunteering, enjoying classical and Celtic music and spending more time with her two children, Siri and Dayal, in her retirement. She also plans to continue with health advocacy, grant writing and policy work.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House and the entire mental health community in California as I commend Rama Khalsa for all she has done and all she will undoubtedly continue to do. I extend my most sincere thanks and warmest wishes for her success and much happiness in her retirement. We are all blessed by her public service.

CELEBRATING EDITH COLEMAN'S  
95TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Mrs. Mary Edith Brown Coleman on a momentous milestone, her 95th birthday, which will be on February 13, 2012. Edith will be celebrating this milestone with family and friends on Saturday, February 11, 2012. Throughout the past 72 years, Edith's presence in Northwest Indiana has allowed her the opportunity to touch the lives of countless people.

Edith Brown was born on February 13, 1917 in Muskogee, Oklahoma. She was one of four children born to Luther Albert Brown and Dora Rozolia Draper Brown. Having gone on to live in Kansas City, Kansas and Chicago, Illinois, Edith finally relocated to Gary, Indiana in 1940. Quite the accomplished student, Edith completed her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in education at Indiana University in Bloomington. From there, she decided to go into the teaching profession. As a teacher at Frederick Douglass Elementary School in Gary for over 27 years, Edith was able to enrich the lives of so many young people in the Gary community. For her commitment to the youth of Northwest Indiana, she is worthy of the highest praise.

Equally as impressive, Edith has always been seen as the foundation of her family. She and her husband, the late William Henry Coleman, were blessed with the births of two wonderful children: Norma Louise Coleman and Merle Jean Coleman. Edith's family, as well as those whose lives she has touched, admire her for devoting unselfish love, time, dedication, guidance, and spirit to her family, her students, and her friends.

As well as being dearly loved and respected by her family, her students, and her community, Edith is also well known for her involvement with her church, the First Church of God in Gary, and several other organizations. For years, Edith has been a distinguished member of the American Association of University Women, the Women's Association of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Society, the Red Hat Society, and the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority. Since her arrival in Northwest Indiana, Edith has always been known as a good-hearted woman who is always willing to help the people in her community. For her selflessness, she is to be commended and admired.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Edith Brown Coleman has always given her time and efforts selflessly to the youth and the community in Northwest Indiana throughout her illustrious life. She has taught every member of her family and extended family the true meaning of service to others. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in wishing Edith a very happy 95th birthday.

HONORING ST. COLUMBKILLE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by St. Columbille Elementary School, Dubuque, Iowa by being named a 2011 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School.

The program honors elementary, middle and high schools that are superior academically or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels.

St. Columbille Elementary is one of only seven schools out of 1,633 in Iowa and one of 304 schools out of 132,656 nationwide to achieve Blue Ribbon status this year. Less than 1 percent of schools nationwide were chosen for the award. This is a true credit to the staff and teachers who continually challenge students to want more and be better.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of St. Columbille Elementary School and its Principal, Barb Roling. Earning this award shows strength and persistence and I am proud to serve these fine students in Congress.

MR. PATRICK J. SOLANO

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick J. Solano, the 2012 Community Leadership Award recipient at Leadership Wilkes-Barre. Mr. Solano has a long history of dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and his country.

Pat Solano was a member of the United States Air Force during World War II. While in the military, he was lauded many times for his exemplary service, which included more than 20 combat missions. His military awards include a Group Presidential Citation, the Air Force Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the European Combat Theatre Medal with two bronze stars.

After retiring from military service, Pat Solano dedicated himself to serving the great commonwealth in which he was born. He held many positions in state government, including serving as senior counselor to Governor Tom Ridge and Governor Mark Schweiker. Even today, at age 85, Pat Solano continues to serve as a counselor and advisor to many of Pennsylvania's legislators.

In addition to his work as a philanthropist and his role as a decorated war veteran, family has always come first for Mr. Solano. He and his wife Marie have six daughters and 11 grandchildren. He and his family have lived for years in Hugesstown, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that Leadership Wilkes-Barre honors a man who has donated so much of his time and effort to furthering the success of the Commonwealth. I am certain that his efforts will not end here. The work of Patrick J. Solano has ensured the continued success of Pennsylvania, and it is my pleasure to acknowledge all of his efforts here today.

INTRODUCING THE NARROWING  
EXCEPTIONS FOR WITHHOLDING  
TAXES ACT

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Narrowing Exceptions for Withholding Taxes Act. This legislation will close a loophole in existing tax law that allows certain self-employed individuals to avoid paying their fair share of Medicare payroll taxes.

Medicare is financed in part by a payroll tax paid by employers and employees. The total tax is 2.9 percent split between workers and employers. Self-employed individuals pay the full 2.9 percent themselves.

Under current law, the S corporation structure allows certain self-employed individuals a way to avoid paying full Medicare taxes. Income received as compensation for services to that S corporation will be subject to the Medicare payroll tax, but any income classified as a distribution of profits will be exempt. This loophole in our tax law encourages income manipulation. These individuals pay themselves a nominal income for their services to the S corporation and classify most of their income as profits and dividends, to avoid paying the 2.9 percent payroll tax.

The House Democrats first tried to close this loophole in December 2009 with H.R. 4213, the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act. That bill passed the House, but did not pass the Senate. At the time, the Joint Committee on Taxation scored this provision as raising \$11.2 billion in revenue over ten years.

The IRS does not have the resources to audit all 4 million S corporations to ensure that there is no underreporting of income. The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, the Joint Committee on Taxation and the GAO have all highlighted the systematic underreporting of income. The GAO estimated that pass-through organizations underpaid \$15 billion in 2001, with a median payroll tax underpayment of \$20,127.

Teachers, firefighters, and nurses can't structure their income to avoid payroll taxes. This is a strategy for lawyers, lobbyists, and investment managers. This legislation would close this loophole by targeting the individuals most likely to take advantage of this loophole. These are professional service businesses built on the reputation and skill of three or fewer employees in the field of health, law, lobbying, engineering, architecture, accounting, investment advice or management, or brokerage services. Under this provision, all of the profits someone gets from an S-corporation they own would be subject to the payroll tax. These shareholders will no longer be able to underreport wage income to exclude the rest of their earnings from the payroll tax.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich took advantage of this loophole. When he filed his 2010 taxes, he reported earnings from his two S Corporations of just \$444,327 in income but \$2.4 million in profits and dividends. This nearly \$3 million was just earnings in the same year from the same two organizations. How-

ever, by choosing to report only \$444,327 as wage income, the Wall Street Journal estimated that Mr. Gingrich saved himself \$69,000 in Medicare payroll taxes. His \$2.4 million in profits and dividends was exempt from the 2.9 percent payroll taxes due to a flaw in our tax laws.

This legislation would put our workers on an even playing field. Self-employed individuals would no longer have the option to avoid the taxes with the creative use of a pass-through entity. Just like those individuals who work in an ordinary partnership or sole-proprietorship, or work for a larger institution, every taxpayer would pay his or her fair share toward the Medicare trust fund.

HONORING THE AMERICAN BU-  
REAU OF SHIPPING ON THEIR  
150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Bureau of Shipping for their 150 years at the forefront of setting the standard of excellence in marine and offshore classification in the United States and around the world.

From its world headquarters in Houston, Texas, the American Bureau of Shipping, or ABS, manages the third largest class society on the globe, with a classed fleet of over 10,000 commercial vessels, in more than 150 offices in 70 countries.

From the time it was first chartered in the State of New York in 1862 as the American Shipmasters' Association, ABS has been committed to the maritime industry and deeply involved in its technical development and the improvement of its safety standards.

Born out of a need for industry self-regulation, ABS published its first technical standards, Rules for Survey and Classing Wooden Vessels, in 1870. When the era of wooden ships gave way to iron, ABS established standards for these structures, and later for steel vessels.

ABS was officially recognized by the U.S. Government in the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, requiring that in work involving a classification organization, every governmental agency in the United States would turn to ABS.

ABS has continued its tradition of leading the classification and maritime safety industry through the 20th and 21st centuries by being the first society to publish rules for the construction and classing of offshore drilling units, submersibles, and aluminum vessels, as well as the first society to classify small-waterplane-area twin hull (or SWATH) vessels, floating production storage and offloading (or FPSOs) vessels.

I congratulate ABS, its Board of Directors, and its hard-working employees for their commitment to the Houston community and for 150 more years of success as the world leader in maritime classification and safety.

CONGRESS SALUTES AMERICAN  
HERO AND PURPLE HEART RE-  
CIPIENT CHARLES HENRY  
KLINGELHOEFER

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention to the Posthumous Purple Heart Ceremony of WW I Veteran Mr. Charles Henry Klingelhoefer born April 16, 1876 in Baltimore, Maryland, taking place in Brevard County, Florida. He is survived by his niece Ms. Diane Roberts Vess of Melbourne. More specifically, on February 6, 2012, the United States Coast Guard will honor the memory of the brave men who served on the United States Coast Guard Cutter *Tampa*. Mr. Klingelhoefer, one of five brothers, was assigned to the United States Coast Guard Cutter *Tampa*, and served as a Warrant Carpenter.

The Purple Heart was presented in honor of those who received fatal wounds in the sinking of the United States Coast Guard Cutter *Tampa* at 8:45 p.m. on September 26, 1918—the largest known loss of life by any U.S. naval combat unit during World War I. Under the command of Captain Charles Satterlee, the *Tampa* served as a convoy escort protecting ships carrying critical Allied war material in European waters. The officers and crew earned the praise of the commander of the United States Naval Forces based at Gibraltar for the ship's wartime operational effectiveness.

On that fateful evening, having just completed another successful escort mission from Gibraltar to the United Kingdom, the *Tampa* departed the convoy and proceeded toward the port of Milford Haven, Wales. A short time later, the shock of an explosion was felt by several of those remaining in the convoy. U.S. destroyers and British patrol craft conducted a three day search of the *Tampa's* last known position, but found only two unidentified bodies and a small amount of wreckage identified as belonging to the *Tampa*. German records suggest that the *Tampa* was sunk by U-Boat 91 because it had reported sinking an American warship fitting the *Tampa's* description at that time and date.

One hundred-fifteen people, including 111 Coast Guardsmen and four Navy men, perished that evening. The distinguished record of the officers and crew of the *Tampa* is most heartily commended and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

Mr. Charles Henry Klingelhoefer and the crew of the *Tampa* laid their lives on the altar of freedom for the benefit our nation and our way of life. On behalf of the United States Congress I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the sacrifices endured by Mr. Charles Henry Klingelhoefer and the crew of the United States Coast Guard Cutter *Tampa*.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen delay, I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 906 and 907 during the 1st session of the 112th Congress. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way on H.R. 1633: rollcall No. 906, Amendment by Mr. RUSH—“no”; rollcall No. 907, Amendment by Mrs. CHRISTENSEN—“no.”

HONORING THE ROCK BRIDGE  
HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Rock Bridge High School varsity cheerleaders on its state championship.

On October 1, 2011, the squad of 25 young women placed first in the 5A Super Large division at the Missouri Cheerleading Coaches Association's state competition. It was the first time the squad has won a state cheerleading championship. These young women and their coaches should be commended for all their hard work and dedication.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the tremendous effort of the Rock Bridge High School's varsity cheerleaders and congratulating them on a job well done!

HONORING GRAPEVINE SENIOR  
OFFICER WARREN ORR**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize retiring Grapevine Senior Officer Warren Orr for his 24 years of service as a police officer.

Senior Officer Orr began his law enforcement career with the Bonham, Texas Police Department. He served as a Bonham police officer from December 1987 to November 1994.

In November 1994, Senior Officer Orr joined the Grapevine Police Department where he continued his career until he retired in January 2012. During his tenure at the Grapevine Police Department, Senior Officer Orr served as a patrol officer, motorcycle officer and detective. In addition to his normal duties, Senior Officer Orr served as a hostage negotiator for many years and obtained a Master of Peace Officer certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education. While assigned as a motorcycle officer, Senior Officer Orr received extensive training in crash reconstruction and became one of only three hundred worldwide members of the International Network of Collision Reconstructionists.

Senior Officer Orr and his wife, Grapevine Police Department Senior Officer Darcey Sut-

ton, own a ranch in east Texas. Senior Officer Orr plans to spend his retirement raising cattle and shoeing horses, a trade he learned from his father and has passed on to his son, Bruce Orr. Bruce is a junior in the honors program at Tarleton State University.

I am very proud of the Grapevine Police Department, and I am honored to recognize Senior Officer Orr for his contribution to the community. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking Warren Orr for his service as a police officer.

IN COMMEMORATION OF  
CORPORAL KEVIN REINHARD**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Marine Corporal Kevin J. Reinhard of Colonia, New Jersey. On January 19, 2012, Corporal Reinhard was on a helicopter mission in the southern Afghanistan province of Helmand, Afghanistan, when his aircraft went down, killing the Corporal and five of his fellow Marines. He was 25 years old. Corporal Reinhard's valiant and heroic actions during his deployment in Afghanistan are truly worthy of this body's recognition.

Marine Corporal Kevin Reinhard is remembered as a loving son who was committed to his family and friends. A resident of the Colonia section of Woodbridge, New Jersey, Corporal Reinhard is a proud alumnus of St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen, New Jersey. He attended Ramapo College and later transferred to Middlesex County College in Edison, New Jersey where he majored in Criminal Science. In the spring of 2008, he admirably enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was stationed in Hawaii. He soon rose to the rank of Corporal and proudly served as a Crew Chief, flying on a Sikorsky Sea Stallion with HMEI 363, also known as the "Lucky Red Lions." In January 2012, Corporal Reinhard was serving his second deployment in Afghanistan when his helicopter crashed, tragically taking his life and the lives of five other Marines. Corporal Reinhard leaves behind his mother, Kathleen Rose, his father, James, sister, Kathleen Marie, as well as his paternal grandparents, James and Mary Ann Reinhard. He is pre-deceased by his maternal grandparents, John and Veronica Gerrity of Colonia. Corporal Reinhard was an outstanding individual who proudly embodied the motto of the United States Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in commemorating the life of Corporal Kevin J. Reinhard, an American hero who courageously served his country. His legacy has served as an inspiration to us all and he will truly be missed.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID LOESACK**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. LOESACK. Mr. Speaker, on January 25, 2012, I was not present for two recorded

votes because I was in my district highlighting the importance of manufacturing to rebuilding Iowa's economy and supporting good-paying Iowa jobs.

If I had been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 10 and "yea" on rollcall 11.

In addition, on the occasion of her resignation from the House of Representatives, I would also like to honor Congresswoman Giffords' service to our country and her constituents. I had the honor of sitting next to Congresswoman Giffords on the House Armed Services Committee. Her dedication to our troops and to her constituents will be missed.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

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 \$15,295,052,578,718.01. We've added \$10,493,647,403,423.73 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.

LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT  
ANNIVERSARY**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, this weekend we celebrated an important anniversary in our nation's history.

Three years ago, only nine days after taking the oath of office, President Barack Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law. It was the first bill he signed into law as President, solidifying this Administration's commitment to women's equality.

I met Lilly Ledbetter during a Judiciary Committee hearing in 2007. She told us then how after working at her company for more than twenty years, she learned of the long-standing pay discrimination against her based on gender. Unfortunately, this type of workplace discrimination occurs all too frequently across our country. Women still make just three-quarters of a man's salary for the same work. Fortunately, for women all across the country, Lilly Ledbetter found out about the discrimination carried out against her and took action.

As a result of her courage and strength, President Obama and the Democratic-led Congress passed this important piece of legislation that protects women and addresses a critical aspect of the wage gap in our country.

The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act closes numerous loopholes and clarifies that an employee is discriminated against each and every time she receives an unfair paycheck. It also makes modest, common-sense reforms that hold employers accountable for their actions.

But our fight is not over. We have a long way to go until women reach true wage equality, which is why we must support legislation like the Paycheck Fairness Act, which builds on previous efforts and continues to address wage disparities.

Lilly's story is proof that progress can be made on this front, and just as importantly, she is a testament to how one person can create a lasting legacy of change.

Today, we celebrate Lily Ledbetter's courage by commemorating the anniversary of this essential legislation becoming law, and by remembering that in America, one person can make a difference.

CONGRATULATING NDSU BISON ON  
WINNING 2011 FCS CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. RICK BERG**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. BERG. Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate the North Dakota State Bison on an incredible football season that led to winning the 2011 FCS championship.

More than 10,000 Bison fans cheered on NDSU in Frisco, Texas, where the Bison capped off a 14–1 season and defeated the Sam Houston Bearkats in the championship game 17–6 on January 7, 2012.

The Bison, Coach Craig Bohl and his staff worked hard this season, and their determination resulted in NDSU's 9th football championship, and the first at the Division I level.

These student athletes represent NDSU's commitment to both academic and athletic excellence. Their character and perseverance truly exemplify the North Dakota spirit, and they have made our state proud. These young men will be remembered for a lifetime. Their efforts brought our state closer together, and we celebrate their athletic and academic successes.

Congratulations to the Bison players, coaches, NDSU staff, and Bison fans everywhere on an excellent season. You've made North Dakota proud!

Thank you, and Go Bison!

HONORING THE ARTESIA-  
CERRITOS LIONS CLUB 65TH AN-  
NIVERSARY

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Artesia-Cerritos Lions Club for their 65th anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone that deserves our recognition and praise.

For 65 years, the Artesia-Cerritos Lions Club has maintained the reputation of being a keystone in local communities due to their steadfast response of donations and services to residents in need. The Lions Club has been at the forefront of health and safety, offering their services to local public safety fairs and Relay for Life events. They have also organized support efforts for the needy by arrang-

ing food and toy drives. In addition, the Lions Club has been vital in building the morale and closeness of the community by hosting the Miss Artesia Royal Court Contest, the Miss Cerritos Scholarship Contest, Flag Day events, and annual Easter Egg Hunts.

The Artesia-Cerritos Lions Club has provided life changing services and opportunities for youth of Artesia and Cerritos. The Lions Club has provided eyeglasses for children in the ABC Unified School District, sponsored the annual track meet for all of the elementary schools in the school district, and have hosted a student speaker contest for local high schools. In addition, The Lions Club has been a sponsor of the Cerritos High School Leos Club, a youth volunteer group, which has inspired young people to assume leadership roles by giving them a chance to learn, grow, and serve by participating in community service projects.

The Artesia-Cerritos Lions Club, driven by their motto "We Serve", has been a model for organizing and empowering volunteers in Artesia and Cerritos to serve their community. The contributions and achievements of the Lions Club members are far too many to count, but the enrichment and sense of community they have created is something to be acknowledged. For that reason, I would like to recognize the Artesia-Cerritos Lions Club for 65 years of honorable deeds and good work.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF THE CENTRAL  
VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION  
BOARD

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary. It is a great pleasure to recognize the Board's long standing dedication to flood protection projects and flood management in the Central Valley. As Board members, staff and agency partners gather to celebrate this milestone, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the key role the organization plays in protecting millions of Californians from a potentially devastating flood.

The Central Valley Flood Protection Board was created by the California Legislature in 1911. The Board's role is to serve as a liaison between the State of California, local residents, property owners, cities and counties, and the United States government. The Board works closely with the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that the Central Valley receives the highest level of flood protection possible, while addressing a number of financial, environmental, and engineering challenges.

Over the last century, the Board has maintained a wide variety of Central Valley flood protection systems and infrastructure along the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, and their tributaries. This encompasses 1,600 miles of levees, 107 million acres of land, and 1,300 miles of designated floodways. The Congressional District that I represent is home to the City of Sacramento, which sits at the confluence of the American and Sacramento

Rivers. It is without doubt that the Board's investment decisions have helped improve the safety for each of us that call Sacramento home.

In 2007, the California Legislature and the governor signed legislation that changed the name of the Central Valley Flood Protection and expanded the Board's responsibilities and authorities. The Board remains responsible to the citizens of California to ensure that the flood management system within the Central Valley meets the ever-mounting challenges of the 21st Century. This includes working with the Corps of Engineers on vegetation management and the California Department of Water Resources on a new Central Valley Flood Protection Plan.

The Board is led by Chair Benjamin Carter, who serves alongside Jane Dolan, Teri Rice, Francis "Butch" Hodgkins, Emma Suarez, John Brown and Michael Villines. The Board's Executive Officer is Jay Punia.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board and their continuous commitment to providing the Central Valley with ever-improving levels of flood protection. The Board has contributed immensely to the safety and vitality of California's Central Valley. As Board members and staff gather to celebrate their 100th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their outstanding work in providing flood protection for the residents of the Central Valley.

SISTERS OF LORETTO CELEBRATE  
200TH JUBILEE YEAR

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a truly American story of faith and service, a tradition that has served, educated, and upheld true values in my district of El Paso, Texas. During this Catholic Schools Week, I would like to congratulate the Sisters of Loretto celebrating their 200th Jubilee Year this April.

On April 25, 1812, three frontier women, Sisters Mary Rhodes, Nancy Havern and Christina Stuart, with the help of their Catholic pastor, the Rev. Charles Nerinckx, came together to found the Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross, on Hardin's Creek in central Kentucky, marking the beginning of a uniquely American community of faith and service. Motivated by faith and charity, they were soon joined by many others, taking as their purpose the instruction of girls and young women of every faith and economic means, even welcoming enslaved persons.

The Sisters of Loretto expanded the work of education westward, first by steamboat to Missouri and Louisiana, and then by wagon train to New Mexico, by mail-coach to Colorado, and by train to Texas, Arizona, and California, ultimately contributing to American education in more than 40 states. In the 20th century, they reached out to girls in Asia, South America, and Central America. Their members now serve throughout the United States, as well as in Europe, Guatemala, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Uganda, Ghana, and Pakistan.

In their 200 years of work, the Sisters of Loretto and their colleagues have founded

nearly 300 schools in the United States. The first Texas site of the Sisters of Loretto was established by Mother Praxedes in 1879 in El Paso County, and has educated thousands of El Paso and Juarez students through St. Joseph's Academy, Sacred Heart, St. Ignatius, Guardian Angel, Holy Family, Assumption, St. Mary's, St. Patrick's, Cathedral School, St. Joseph's School, and Loretto Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of the educators and administrators who continue this important legacy. Having reached nearly one million people, the Loretto Community of Sisters continues to educate and foster values of faith, justice, community, and respect in students at Loretto Academy, to teach adult education and GED classes, to work as chaplains at Nazareth Hall Nursing Center, and to run a homeless center for women at the Villa Maria Shelter.

---

MR. JOHN DELEO

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge John "Jack" DeLeo on his being named "UNICAN of the Year" by the Scranton Chapter of UNICO National.

Jack DeLeo was born in Scranton on December 8, 1947, to Angelo and Irene DeLeo. Jack graduated from West Scranton High School and entered the United States Army. He served his country in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968 with the 1st Battalion, 8th Artillery, 25th Infantry Division, rising to the rank of sergeant. Jack's business career began in sales in the pressure-sensitive labeling industry. After several years, Jack was elevated to general manager of Scranton Label, Inc., until 1992, and is now the company's vice president.

An active member of St. Lucy's Church, West Scranton, Jack is a member of the Holy Name Society and has served as its vice president since 1992. Jack is also active in many community activities and events in the region. He serves the City of Scranton as a member of the Board of Directors on the Parks and Recreation Authority, where he has worked diligently to clean and enhance the beauty and the awareness of Nay Aug Park. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross, Scranton Chapter, where he chairs the Blood Services Committee and several blood drives throughout the year. Jack serves on the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army in Scranton and the Tripps Park Girls Pony League, and he was an assistant coach from 2000 to 2004. Jack served as president of the Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County in 2002, and is now on its Board of Directors. He was the force in the creation of the Paul Bordi Memorial Scholarship Fund, which serves high school seniors throughout Lackawanna County.

He is an active member of the Scranton Chapter of UNICO National, the largest chapter in the country. He has been extremely active in chapter causes and chaired many fundraising events. He served as president in 2007-08 and presently serves as the chairman of the Board of Directors. Jack has al-

ways had a passion for the care and well-being of United States veterans. He helped create the UNICO Veteran's Assistance Community (UVAC) Fund. He is now chairman of this fund, which accepts donations from individuals and donates to area veterans wounded in recent years.

He and his wife, Patty, have been married for 21 years and are the proud parents of two daughters: Brittany, a sophomore at Scranton Prep, and Tia, a fifth-grade student at All Saints Academy in Scranton.

UNICO was founded on October 10, 1922, in Waterbury, Connecticut. A group of 15 men, led by Dr. Anthony P. Vastola, came together to create an Italian-American service organization to engage in charitable works, support higher education, and perform patriotic deeds. The name "UNICO" was selected as best representing the nature and the character of this fledgling organization. The name is the Italian word for "unique, one of a kind." The founders believed that UNICO would be the only one of its kind because it placed service to the community before and above fraternity. In later years, UNICO became an acronym that stands for "Unity, Neighborliness, Integrity, Charity, and Opportunity."

Mr. Speaker, Jack DeLeo espouses the values of community that Dr. Vastola dreamed of when he helped found UNICO. Mr. DeLeo's steadfast dedication to his Italian-American heritage, community, and country is what makes organizations like UNICO a pillar in our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and congratulating John "Jack" DeLeo for being named "UNICAN of the Year" by the Scranton Chapter of UNICO National.

---

RECOGNIZING THE TENAHA TIGERS FOR WINNING THE TEXAS 1A DIVISION II FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. LOUIE GOHMERT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with enormous pride that I recognize and congratulate the Tenaha Tigers on an amazing 2011 football season in which they captured the Texas State Class 1A Division II Football Championship. These ferocious Tenaha Tigers have reached the pinnacle of success in Texas football for the second time in the last 15 years, having achieved that great title back in 1998.

A series of victories in which the Tigers crushed their opponents led them into the playoffs, where they demonstrated just how powerful they were as a team, playing as one well-tuned machine. The final game saw the Tenaha Tigers ultimately defeat the Munday Moguls 52-28. Although both Munday and Tenaha showed why they were in the finals during the first half, the Tigers pulled ahead in the second half scoring 21 points with little response from the Moguls.

The Tigers strong offensive and defensive lines dominated other teams exhibiting the result of grueling strength and endurance programs that showed how driven the Tigers were individually to excel. Clearly a team does

not get to such a level of excellence without a coaching staff that knows its players, what they can accomplish and just how far they can be pushed.

The proof of their preparation and drive to be the best can be found in a number of statistics including the fact that the Tigers consistently maintained a 37.6 point lead over their opponents. Additionally, the defensive line often refused to allow its opposition to score a single touchdown.

There is no doubt that each of the individual players, coaches, and supporting personnel involved with the success of the Tigers will benefit from having witnessed the level of success that is achieved when each individual gives all they have while working together with such dedication and passion.

This tribute goes out to all of the athletic staff including Athletic Director/Head Football Coach Terry Ward and his Assistant Coaches Ian White, Mike Barber, Kevin Cates, Scott Tyner, Todd Bodden and Antonio Holmes.

The team members achieving this memorable accomplishment included T.J. Thomas, Reginald Davis, Demon Horton, Vincent Walton, Edgar Flores, Jacoby Ivy, Shaquille Mitchell, J.R. Hill, Octavius Griffith, Chavis Gregory, Keontas Davis, Damarcus Perry, Jaquarius Williams, Cobe Carraway, Seth Wyatt, Brady Tovar, Assuntay Cleaver, Jose Campos, Marquevis Reed, Alex Horton, JaKelvin Cooper, Izikel Flores, Damiem Reese, DeAaron Roland, Derek Jones, LaDarren Cooks, Edgar Pineda, Cody Richardson, Aaron Harris, Leon Aguilar, Donald Smith, Dustin Davis, and Tim Hafford.

No football team ever becomes a champion without unwavering support, and that is exactly what the Tigers had from the Tenaha Independent School District staff and the entire community. That is why congratulations go to all who contributed in any way to the success of the Tigers in for the 2011 season. May God continue to bless all of their efforts both in school and as they one day finish high school and use that same drive and determination to make this country even stronger. Congratulations go to the State Champion Tenaha Tigers, as their legacy is now recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

---

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SANDY ADAMS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Talon M. Falconer for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Talon has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

IN HONOR OF LISA MANTARRO  
MOORE

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lisa Mantarro Moore for being honored by the Ceres Chamber of Commerce with its Citizen of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award. Lisa, also a valued member of my staff, has long been a tireless advocate for the city of Ceres, California, and its surrounding communities, and I am honored to pay tribute to her achievement today.

A lifelong resident of Ceres, Lisa's public service career began when she was elected as a student body officer at Ceres High School. After graduating from the California State University, Stanislaus, Lisa started her career with the U.S. House of Representatives as an aide to Congressman Gary Condit. For the past twenty years, she has served the constituents of California's 18th Congressional District as a Field Representative and a District Director, and currently, as my Deputy Chief of Staff. Lisa's leadership and skill have truly made a difference in the lives of those she has helped.

Lisa has long been a leader in the Ceres community. From 2001 to 2005, Lisa served the city as a councilmember as well as Vice Mayor. She has also served as an officer on the Ceres Street Faire Committee for the past ten years. In addition, she worked to form the Ceres Youth Commission, helped lead campaigns for passage of school bonds in Measures J and U as well as the Measure H half-cent sales tax for public safety. Further, she serves on the board at the Ceres Whitmore Mansion and on the Sam Vaughn and Mae Hensley Junior High School Site Councils.

In addition to her leadership in Ceres, Lisa is also a strong advocate for women. She is a longtime member of Soroptimist International of Ceres, which serves to better the lives of women and girls both locally and around the world. She was also instrumental in the development of the Stanislaus County Family Justice Center and serves on its Board of Directors.

It is my great privilege to honor Lisa Mantarro Moore on being recognized as the Ceres Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. She is certainly most deserving of this high acknowledgement. Her dedication to the city of Ceres and her passion for public service has truly made a difference in bettering her community. It is a true pleasure to have her on my staff and as my personal friend. Please join me in recognizing her work and her lifelong achievements.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED  
SERVICE OF GENERAL PETER  
CHIARELLI

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor General Peter W. Chiarelli, who is retiring

today as Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, a position he has held with distinction since 2008. General Chiarelli's retirement is hard-earned and well-deserved, coming after 40 years of brave service to his country. He enlisted in 1972 as a 2nd lieutenant of armor, served two combat tours in Iraq, and eventually became the second-highest-ranking general at the Pentagon. We are indebted to the service of General Chiarelli, and I am proud to say that he is a native Washingtonian.

General Chiarelli was born in Seattle, Washington and graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science from Seattle University, where he was a Distinguished Military Graduate of Seattle University's Army ROTC program. He received his masters from the University of Washington, and also led several different units at Fort Lewis, in Washington state. In addition to his service at Fort Lewis, General Chiarelli served as commander of the First Calvary Division at Fort Hood, Texas, as Director of Operations, Readiness and Mobilization at U.S. Army Headquarters, and led the Multi-National Corps in Iraq.

Beyond simply acknowledging his service and expressing the gratitude of myself and my constituents, I would also like to acknowledge the General's longstanding advocacy on behalf of behavioral health issues in the Army. At a time when many of our young men and women are returning from service abroad suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and other issues related to their service, General Chiarelli has called attention to the obligation we have to provide these heroes with the care they need and deserve.

General Chiarelli, even in your retirement, myself, my colleagues, and my constituents remain inspired by your unwavering commitment to this nation, which will long serve as a shining example of the spirit of service and sacrifice that future generations will aspire to equal.

IN MEMORY OF LYMAN L.  
HUBBARD, SR.

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an American hero from Springfield, Illinois.

Lyman L. Hubbard, Sr. passed away on January 12, 2012 at the age of 85. One of the Tuskegee Airmen, Mr. Hubbard graduated as a command pilot from Tuskegee Army Air Base during World War II, and he dedicated his life to serving our great nation. Known as a strong leader, Mr. Hubbard flew in multiple combat tours in Southeast Asia and earned numerous U.S. and foreign military decorations. Upon retiring in 1970, Mr. Hubbard had flown nearly 7000 hours over a more than 20 year career in the Air Force.

Mr. Hubbard was also dedicated to the history of his community and his nation, as shown in 2005, when he saved from potential destruction one of the first African-American orphanages in the nation, the Lincoln Colored Home in Springfield.

I want to extend my condolences, and those of my colleagues in this House, to the family

and friends of Lyman Hubbard, Sr., a patriot and true hero who will be missed by all who knew him.

IN HONOR OF CONGRESSMAN  
GLENN THOMPSON IN RECOGNITION  
OF HIS DISTINGUISHED  
EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, last night, Congressman GLENN "GT" THOMPSON was honored by the Boy Scouts of America with the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. This award is the highest honor the Boy Scouts bestow, and is awarded to a deserving Eagle Scout for distinguished service in his profession and to his community for a period of at least 25 years after attaining the level of Eagle Scout.

A lifelong resident of North Central Pennsylvania, Congressman THOMPSON earned his Eagle Scout in May of 1977 from Boy Scout Troop 52 in Walker Township, Pennsylvania. Since then, Congressman THOMPSON has served his community as a volunteer fireman, member of the Bald Eagle Area School District Board of Education, and in 2008 was elected to serve his constituents as their voice in the U.S. House of Representatives.

I was proud to be with GLENN last night to help those closest to him honor his achievements. GLENN embodies the virtues of public service, duty to country and moral integrity that serve as the pillars of Scouting.

Therefore, today I wish to recognize Congressman GLENN THOMPSON and thank him for his service to his community and our country.

A TRIBUTE TO RAUF RAIF  
DENKTAŞ

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rauf Raif Denктаş, the Turkish Cypriot leader who formerly served as the Vice President of the Republic of Cyprus and President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Mr. Denктаş passed away on January 13, 2012.

Mr. Denктаş had a career of service to Turkish Cypriots that spanned six decades. As far back as 1958, he attended the United Nations General Assembly as a representative of Turkish Cypriots. In 1960, Cyprus won independence from Britain and an impassioned debate and conflict over the future of that island has continued to this day. Cyprus has been divided since 1974. Mr. Denктаş was elected President of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus in 1976 and was reelected in 1981. He was subsequently elected President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on four separate occasions between 1985 and 2000, and served through April 25, 2005. He was also a prolific writer and photographer, and his works have been publicly displayed.

Mr. Denктаş was a colorful, effective leader and spokesman for Turkish Cypriots. Despite



the tensions that have existed on the island of Cyprus for decades, the two sides have maintained a largely peaceful existence. Let us hope that a peaceful, prosperous, long-term solution can be found for the future of Cyprus.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO DISALLOW A DEDUCTION FOR AMOUNTS PAID OR INCURRED BY A RESPONSIBLE PARTY RELATING TO A DISCHARGE OF OIL

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today Exxon announced annual earnings of \$41.1 billion, a 35 percent increase from the previous year. Recently, ConocoPhillips announced \$12.4 billion profits for 2011. Chevron's earnings for the year also rose 41 percent to \$26.9 billion. These enormous figures indicate that these global corporations no longer need charity from the United States government. For this reason, I rise today to introduce a bill that has been needed at least since the Exxon Valdez spilled 750,000 barrels of oil into Prince William Sound. My bill closes a loophole that permits these big oil companies to pad their bottom lines with tax deductions for cleaning up their oil spills. While the high price of gasoline continues to burden American families, oil companies are raking in such huge profits. Why should the American taxpayer pay for what the oil companies are supposed to do anyway?

Through clever accounting, a big oil company can actually deduct from its tax liability the money it spends cleaning up after an oil spill as an "ordinary cost of doing business." These big oil companies used to pay their fair share of taxes on their massive profits. Corporate taxes used to account for 40 percent of Federal revenues, but that now has fallen to around 7 percent, with many companies paying no taxes at all. At the same time that families, as well as Federal, State and local governments, are tightening their budgets, we're letting big oil and gas companies profit from valuable tax revenue that they don't deserve.

The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that closing this loophole in the tax code will save the American taxpayer an average \$1.3 billion per year. With massive cuts to hundreds of essential programs and organizations dedicated to ensuring access to education, affordable health care, homeownership assistance, unemployment insurance, veterans benefits, loans for small businesses, food assistance to prevent hunger, support for farmers growing essential crops, and a middle class that is struggling more than ever, that billion dollars per year would ensure that these programs are not losing tax dollars because exceedingly wealthy companies are reaping the benefits. By eliminating a loophole that lets the largest oil and gas companies benefit from their own mistakes, this bill makes the tax code fair again for hardworking Americans and will put our country on track to develop a clean, sustainable, and sensible energy policy.

These tax dollars are not lost only when there's a rare catastrophic spill like the BP

Deepwater Horizon or Exxon Valdez. In fact, oil spills happen all the time and oil companies can just write off the costs. Right now, there's a Chevron gas rig blowout burning at 1400 degrees Fahrenheit off the coast of Nigeria that Chevron has been unable to extinguish for over a week. Two people are dead and there is a sheen in the water. There were also recent blowouts at the Macondo well in the Gulf, the Montara well in the Timor Sea, as well as major accidents and spills in Bohai Bay, China and off the coast of Brazil.

I believe the tax code should reflect our country's need to end our reliance on fossil fuels by discouraging blowouts and oil spills and providing incentives for responsible and efficient energy use, and sustainable, clean energy sources.

We can no longer afford a 20th century energy policy when the rest of the world is well into the 21st century. From the Keystone pipeline debate to subsidies for oil and gas companies, our antiquated energy policy is reflected in our outdated tax code containing many provisions that have long since outgrown their usefulness. My bill will put our country on the right track.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) defines an "ordinary business expense" as a cost that is both ordinary and necessary. Why are we allowing the cost of an oil spill to be treated as ordinary as purchasing a stapler or paying a phone bill? An oil spill should not be ordinary. From a fiscal standpoint, from a policy standpoint, and from a moral standpoint, even a small oil spill is an extraordinary and terrible mistake with far-reaching consequences. Oil and gas corporations should not be allowed to benefit from their own extraordinary mistakes at the expense of the American taxpayer.

I urge my colleagues to support a 21st century energy policy, and a sensible tax code by supporting this bill.

HONORING THE SAINT FRANCIS  
BORGIA HIGH SCHOOL  
CHEERLEADING SQUAD

### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Saint Francis Borgia High School cheerleading squad on its state championship.

On October 1, 2011, the squad took first place in the Class 4 division small at the Missouri Cheerleading Coaches Association's state competition. They competed against 16 other terrific teams, but with all their training and preparation, they were able to claim the number one spot. These young women and their coaches should be commended for all their hard work and dedication.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the tremendous effort of the Saint Francis Borgia High School's cheerleaders and congratulating them on a job well done.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANKIE MUSE FREEMAN, NATIONALLY-ACCLAIMED CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY, PUBLIC EDUCATION ADVOCATE, SOCIAL JUSTICE CHAMPION

### HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American—a nationally acclaimed civil rights attorney, public education advocate and a true champion of social justice . . . my dear friend and constituent, Frankie Muse Freeman.

Frankie Freeman has been a practicing attorney in state and federal courts for more than 60 years. After graduating Hampton Institute and Howard University Law School, she began her career serving the state of Missouri and the City of St. Louis. During this time she helped the NAACP in the case of Brewton v. St. Louis Board of Education, and later represented the NAACP in the landmark case, Davis v. the St. Louis Housing Authority, which ended racial discrimination in public housing.

In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson appointed Frankie Freeman as the first female member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

From 1967–1971, Frankie Muse Freeman served with distinction as the 14th National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. During this turbulent time period, she used her talents and skills as an attorney to enhance the Sorority's efforts to gain full civil rights for African-Americans. She spoke out often and effectively for social action and ensured that the Sorority continued to lead efforts to secure human rights for all people. She also used her tenure as National President to lead the Sorority in supporting the college education of a record breaking number of African-American students.

Last July, Ms. Freeman became the 96th recipient of the coveted Spingarn Medal, the highest honor bestowed on a citizen by the NAACP. In the official announcement issued by the NAACP Board of Directors Chairman Roslyn M. Brock, she noted, "Frankie Muse Freeman has dedicated her life's work to the civil rights movement. She broke down barriers as a member of the NAACP's brain trust during the 1950s and as the first woman to serve on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Her determination to end racial discrimination in American society for more than half a century serves as an inspiration to us all."

Mr. Speaker, Frankie Freeman has been a personal mentor of mine for almost 30 years. Her inspired advocacy laid the groundwork for the Federal Voting Rights Act, ended racial discrimination in public housing, and provided dedicated oversight of the St. Louis Public Schools and the voluntary desegregation plan. She is truly a national treasure and is most deserving of congressional recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring her remarkable service to the United States, the State of Missouri and the St. Louis community.

VOTING RIGHTS DISENFRANCHISE-  
MENT AND SUPPRESSION

## HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to voice my strong opposition to the legislative efforts across the nation aimed at suppressing voter turnout. Democracy is not a spectator sport. It is something we should encourage every American to engage in. A vibrant democracy is a healthy democracy, and back home in my district we take that lesson to heart. I come from Miami, one of the most vibrant cities in the world, and I intend to keep it that way. Unfortunately, some of my former colleagues in the state legislature feel differently and are doing their best to ensure that some people don't enjoy the same access to the polls this November as they did last November.

In Florida, we have enacted a series of changes to our voting laws, and I wanted to make this Chamber aware of them. I want you to hear personally, Mr. Speaker, the reasons why I feel that these new laws are not only uncalled for, but a detriment to American democracy. I feel that the letter the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, the Florida Conference of Black State Legislators, and the Florida State Conference of the NAACP submitted to Chris Herren of the Department of Justice on June 17, 2011 regarding the voting changes in Florida states my feelings clearly and succinctly. I'd like to read that letter for you now, Mr. Speaker:

JUNE 17, 2011.

COMMENT UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE VOTING  
RIGHTS ACT

Re: Section 5 Submission No. 2011-2187 (Submission by the State of Florida Regarding Omnibus Elections Law Bill, Laws of Florida 2011, Chapter 2011-40)

CHRIS HERREN,  
Chief, Voting Section, Civil Rights Division,  
Room 7254-NWB, U.S. Department of Justice,  
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Wash-  
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. HERREN:

## INTRODUCTION

The NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), the Florida Conference of Black State Legislators, and the Florida State Conference of the NAACP, urge the Attorney General to object to the pending Section 5 submission of the State of Florida's omnibus elections law bill, Laws of Florida, Chapter 2011-40 / HB 1355 (hereinafter "Chapter 2011-40"), which provides for, inter alia: (1) a reduction in the number of days for early voting from 14 days to 8 days; (2) a requirement that registered voters who have moved between counties cast provisional ballots rather than regular ballots; and (3) unprecedented restrictions on volunteer third-party voter registration efforts. The state has failed to meet its burden of showing either that Chapter 2011-40 will not have a retrogressive effect, or that its adoption was free of discriminatory purpose.

Each of the measures described above will have a retrogressive effect on minority voting rights. Moreover, Chapter 2011-40 was enacted despite strong and measured concerns presented by a majority of members of the Florida Conference of Black State Legislators about the bill, and the justifications proffered by the State do not help the State

satisfy its burden of showing the absence of discriminatory purpose.

## ANALYSIS

## I. BACKGROUND

The implementation of all proposed statewide voting changes in Florida is subject to the requirements of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 1973c(a). Because five counties in Florida are covered by Section 5 (Collier, Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough, and Monroe Counties), statewide voting changes in Florida are subject to Section 5's preclearance requirements. See *Lawyer v. Dep't of Justice*, 521 U.S. 567, 570 (1997) (Section 5 applies to statewide voting changes in Florida); see also *Lopez v. Monterey County*, 525 U.S. 266, 283-84 (1999) (statewide voting changes are subject to Section 5 review where a state is partially covered by Section 5).

Laws of Florida, Chapter 2011-40, the Omnibus Elections Law Bill that is the subject of this Section 5 submission, was signed into law by the Governor of Florida on May 19, 2011, and submitted for review to the Department of Justice pursuant to Section 5 on June 8, 2011. See Section 5 Submission No. 2011-2187.

## RETROGRESSIVE EFFECT

Section 5 prohibits voting changes that would result in "a retrogression in the position of racial minorities with respect to their effective exercise of the electoral franchise." *Beer v. United States*, 425 U.S. 130, 141 (1976). This Comment Letter focuses on the retrogressive effect of three provisions of Chapter 2011-40: (1) reductions in Florida's early voting period; (2) new provisional ballot requirements for registered voters who move across county lines; and (3) new restrictions with attendant penalties on third party organizations engaged in independent voter registration efforts. As documented below, each of these proposed voting changes will have a retrogressive effect.

## A. Early Voting

Section 39 of Chapter 2011-40 ("Section 39") amends Florida Statutes section 101.657(1) to reduce the number of early voting days from 14 to 8, and gives local supervisors of elections discretion over early voting hours, changing the hours that early voting sites must operate from a mandatory 8 hours per day (other than weekends), to a discretionary range of 6 to 12 hours per day. Thus, Section 39 not only essentially eliminates the first week of early voting in Florida, by decreasing the total number of days of early voting from the benchmark practice of 14 early voting days to only 8 days, it also makes possible a reduction in total hours of early voting from a mandatory 96 hours to a minimum of only 48 hours. Moreover, by providing for wide discretion in early voting hours, Section 39, as compared to the benchmark practice, will likely result in substantial inconsistency in early voting hours across the 5 covered counties, risking confusion amongst minority voters in these areas.

Significantly, African Americans make up a disproportionate percentage of early voters in Florida's covered counties. African Americans constitute only 12.15% of the voting age population in the five covered jurisdictions in Florida, but were 18.86% of early voters during the 2008 General Election, with over 41,000 African Americans voting early.

Additionally, Section 39 essentially eliminates the first week of early voting, which will have a clear retrogressive effect on minority voters in the covered counties. During the first week of early voting in the 2008 General Election, African Americans constituted an even higher percentage of early voters, 20.08% in the covered counties.

A total of over 17,000 African Americans voted during the first week of early voting in

the covered counties during the 2008 General Election. We note that the percentages vary from county to county, and, as the table above demonstrates, Hillsborough County featured the highest level of racial disproportionality among voters during the first week of early voting in the 2008 General Election, with African Americans constituting only 14.63% of the voting age population, but 27.70% of early voters.

The figures in our independent analysis are confirmed by at least one news report indicating that, during the 2008 general election, African Americans were 22% of voters during the first week of early voting in Florida statewide, despite being only 13% of the Florida electorate. Overall, nearly 54% of Florida's African-American voters in 2008 voted at early-voting sites. In other words, African Americans were significantly over-represented in the pool of early voters overall, and were much more likely than white voters to take advantage of the first week of early voting. Under Section 39, however, the first week of early voting would be eliminated, and the total number of mandatory early voting hours potentially reduced substantially, with inevitable retrogressive effects.

It is unsurprising that, as a group, African-American voters have taken advantage of the access currently afforded by the existing early voting period in Florida, given that, as this Department has noted, minorities in the Section 5-covered counties in Florida have lower rates of vehicle ownership and therefore benefit from the flexibility afforded by a wider range of early voting days. More recent Census data shows that 17.6% of African Americans in Florida's covered counties live in homes without a vehicle, as compared to only 4.8% of whites. These disparities in access to transportation mean that African American voters are more likely to encounter greater difficulties obtaining transportation on Election Day, such that an elimination of early voting days would substantially curtail existing levels of access to the polls with a resulting retrogressive effect on minority voters.

These concerns were confirmed by Leon Russell of the Florida State Conference of the NAACP. Mr. Russell stated the Florida NAACP's Get-Out-the-Vote efforts will likely "be impacted by" Section 39. He added that the benchmark practice of two weeks of early voting is essential because

[t]wo weeks provided folks with options and allowed them to coordinate voting with other reasons for being in the vicinity of an early voting location. Even though you may provide the same number of hours of operation, those hours don't automatically equate to the same opportunity. With a limited number of locations, time of day and transportation are important.

Joyce Russell, African-American Affairs Liaison for the Hillsborough County Government, echoed these concerns. She stated, "[t]he fact that [the proposed law is] going to shorten [early voting] is going to affect African-American voters" in Hillsborough County, where many African-American voters "work different hours of the day, so they can't always get into the regular voting hours. Many have non-traditional working hours." She noted that in Hillsborough County, "[w]e've seen African-American voter participation soar because of the early voting days." Ms. Russell stated that a longer early voting period "gives you more flexibility" for transportation, explaining that "Black churches have gotten involved" in helping African-American voters get to the polls, and that it is "easier to arrange church buses on a Saturday" than it is on Election Day.

State Senator Arthenia Joyner, whose district encompasses part of Hillsborough County, stated that “[e]arly voting has changed the landscape of voting” by making possible broader participation among minority voters,” and that the proposed reduction of early voting days would have a “dramatic impact” on Black voters in Hillsborough County. She noted that the total number of early voting hours in each County will be left to the discretion of each Supervisor of Elections, who could set the number of early voting hours as low as 48. Senator Joyner also stated that, even if the number of early voting hours remained the same, “compressing into 8 days will not do what we had before—we’re losing an entire weekend, including the Sunday before the election.”

State Representative Darryl Rousson, whose district also encompasses part of Hillsborough County, raised similar concerns, stating that, for his African-American constituents, “[c]utting back the number of [early voting] days erodes access and absolutely chips away at a person’s opportunities to vote.” He explained that despite statements to the contrary, Section 49 does not ensure that the same number of early voting hours will be “available, because local election officials will have discretion” to reduce the number of early voting hours significantly. Representative Rousson added that “Black leaders in my community,” such as pastors, will now have a harder time “gather[ing] up members” for Get-Out-the-Vote efforts. He further stated that, in his opinion, Section 39 is “aimed at minorities—black folks and Hispanics—whose job restrictions do not permit them to vote at normal hours.”

This Department has previously objected to changes to Florida’s absentee voting rules based on data showing that, in at least some covered jurisdictions, “minority voters disproportionately avail themselves of the absentee voting option because they often do not have accessible transportation to the polling place on election day and/or have jobs that do not permit time off to vote.” These same considerations should guide the Department’s Section 5 review here.

To put the significance of early voting into perspective, we note that, in the 2008 General Election, over 2.6 million votes were cast during Florida’s early in-person voting period, accounting for an estimated 31.25% of all ballots cast. Most significantly, the percentage of early voters was even higher in four of the five Section 5-covered counties; specifically, the percentage of voters who voted early in the Section 5-covered counties were as follows: Collier (36.85%); Hardee (43.75%); Henry (44.39%); Hillsborough (28.41%); Monroe (33.50%).

In recent elections, Florida has been beset by “hours-long lines” to vote on Election Day. Nowhere was this more true than in Hillsborough County, the largest Section 5-covered jurisdiction in Florida, where, during the 2008 General Election, “[h]undreds waited for more than four hours to vote,” and “where poll workers failed to give hundreds of voters the second page of their ballot. . . .” At the University of South Florida, which is ranked 14th among undergraduate institutions nationally in awarding degrees to African Americans, “students waited in lines for in excess of three-hours” during the 2008 General Election.” Senator Joyner noted that, in Hillsborough County, “we have long lines at the inner city polls on Election Day,” and that the lines at the polls were “long enough when early voting was 14 days, and they will be even longer now.”

Given these realities, early voting is a crucial means of participation for African-American voters in the covered counties. It

is therefore clear that a reduction in early voting days as proposed in Section 39 would have a retrogressive effect on minority voters.

#### *B. Provisional Ballot Requirements*

Section 26 of Chapter 2011–40 (Section 26) amends Florida Statutes section 101.045 to eliminate the right of registered voters in Florida who move from one Florida county to another to change their addresses at the time of voting. Under the benchmark practice, Florida permitted voters who have moved to update their address information in person at the polls at the time of voting by swearing an affirmation as to their new address. In such cases, the voters’ existing registrations are carefully cross-checked in a state database before the voters are given a regular ballot. Section 26 eliminates that right, so that voters who move among Florida’s 67 counties will be forced to cast provisional ballot. According to one estimate based on 2008 election figures, the result will be that nearly 34,000 additional Florida voters will be required to cast provisional ballots.

This law will have a clear retrogressive effect on minority voters in the 5 covered counties. For one, the impacted group of voters will be disproportionately comprised of minorities, who tend to move more frequently than do white Americans. According to a study by the Pew Research Center, 43% of African Americans and 48% of Latinos reported moving during the previous 5 years, as compared to only 27% of whites. African Americans and Latinos similarly report a higher likelihood of moving within the next 5 years: 59% for African Americans and 43% for Latinos, as compared to only 35% for whites.

These numbers are consistent with statistics from the Census Bureau showing that, in Florida’s covered counties, African Americans have lower rates of home ownership (41.62% living in owner-occupied homes) than do non-Hispanic whites (74.31%), and other data showing that non-homeowners move three to four times more frequently than do homeowners. We note that this Department has previously relied on statistics indicating that minorities have lower rates of home ownership in the Section 5-covered counties in arriving at a determination to object to voting changes in Florida.

Furthermore, Florida has the nation’s highest foreclosure rate, with three of the Section 5-covered counties in Florida continuing to experience foreclosure rates that are substantially higher than the national average. In our assessment, there are currently higher relative rates of mobility amongst minorities as compared to whites in the covered jurisdictions in Florida, and this trend is one that is likely to continue in the coming years.

Given these facts, the expected result of Section 26 is that more minority voters will be forced to cast provisional ballots, and at disproportionately higher rates. State Representative Rousson confirmed that this was the likely result for his minority constituents, explaining that, under Section 26, “people who change addresses—which often happens in minority low-income communities—[will] have[] to cast provisional ballots” more frequently. Ms. Russell, of the Hillsborough County Government, also explained that this change will “affect African Americans disproportionately.” She explained that “African Americans, like other minorities, are often working class people . . . and sometimes they have to move.” She noted that Section 26 is particularly problematic because African Americans in Hillsborough County “have higher rates of unemployment and being laid off,” and that,

“[w]ith the economy like it is, now people are having to move because of layoffs, or they lose their home or can’t pay their rent, through no fault of their own, but they are still eligible to vote.”

Thus, we anticipate that, if implemented, Section 26 would force a disproportionate number of African-American voters to a different process for casting a ballot during elections, which will be retrogressive because provisional ballots are counted less frequently than are normal ballots, particularly in the covered jurisdictions. During the 2010 general election, the number of provisional ballots counted statewide was 74.27%, but only 55.64% of provisional ballots were counted in Florida’s Section 5-covered counties, with particularly low numbers in Collier (58.71%) and Hillsborough (54.35%) Counties.

Statewide, the number of provisional ballots counted during the 2008 General Election was even worse, with fewer than half (only 48.59%) of all provisional ballots cast in Florida actually counted. Of particular worry is that there was substantial variation within the State with respect to the treatment of provisional ballots: for instance, during the 2008 General Election, 80% of provisional ballots were counted in majority-white Duval County, whereas only 60% were counted in Section 5-covered Hillsborough County. Numbers were even lower in Section 5-covered Collier County: 36.45%.

This suggests that the rules governing the counting of provisional ballots are not being implemented uniformly. Ms. Russell, of the Hillsborough County Government noted that, in her County, forcing voters to use provisional ballots can become “so confusing that people will get discouraged and stay home,” and that, even if voters do cast provisional ballots, “[w]e know that those provisional ballots are not always counted.” State Senator Joyner also noted that it “takes additional work by a voter” to make sure that a provisional ballot is counted, because voters will often have to return to the local election authority after Election Day in order to provide supporting documentation to ensure that their ballots are counted. In Senator Joyner’s view, this will have a retrogressive impact on minority voters in Hillsborough County, “whose incomes are limited, who don’t have transportation, who’ll have to make an additional trip to verify their information.”

In sum, given the disproportionately high rate of mobility and high foreclosure rate among minority communities within the 5 covered counties, Section 26 would result in more minority voters in the covered counties casting provisional ballots, which would in turn result in fewer ballots cast by minority voters being counted. The retrogressive effect of Section 26 would be particularly pronounced in Collier and Hillsborough Counties.

#### *C. Restrictions on Third Party Volunteer Voter Registration Efforts*

Section 4 of Chapter 2011–40 (“Section 4”) amends Florida Statutes section 97.0575 to require that any third party organization engaging in voter registration efforts submit any completed voter registration applications within 48 hours, or face penalties of \$50 per application per day late. Section 4 represents a substantial change from the benchmark practice, which permitted volunteers working for third party organizations engaged in voter registration drives to submit completed voter registration applications up to 10 days after receipt.

The 48 hour time period and the threat of substantial financial sanctions for failure to comply with this new restriction will severely hamper or completely deter voter registration efforts by volunteer third party organizations whose mission is to provide

voter registration opportunities to minority communities. Leon Russell, of the Florida State Conference of the NAACP, stated that Section 4 “would likely discourage participation in voter registration efforts.” Mr. Russell noted that the NAACP’s voter registration events take place in many different locations during various days of the week, but that volunteers from individual NAACP units frequently “may not be able to turn in documents until the unit meets” again, which could be several days after a planned registration event. The fact that these efforts are volunteer-based and uncompensated makes speedier transmittal of the forms especially onerous on the minority communities within the covered jurisdictions, many of which suffer from higher rates of socioeconomic disparities and higher poverty levels. Mr. Russell added, “[t]he threat of fines will also keep people from volunteering.”

Harold Weeks, President of the Collier County branch of the NAACP, which regularly conducts voter registration drives in Collier County, stated, in reference to the fines contemplated by Section 4, that he “wouldn’t want to subject anyone to those kind of consequences,” particularly “young people” who may mistakenly fail to turn paperwork in on time. He added, “[w]e don’t have much money to help pay somebody’s fines.”

Ms. Russell, of the Hillsborough County Government, observed that, in her County, “[t]here are a lot of African Americans, voting age individuals, who are not registered,” but that Section 4 is “going to intimidate a lot of African-American groups that would love to register people as first time voters.” She added,

You want to do your civic duty to register people, and now . . . it’s very difficult to do. . . . Most people will feel like it’s not worth the trouble. It’s really going to hamper African-American Greek organizations (fraternities and sororities) that work on voter registration efforts. . . . It makes it more difficult to do that.

State Senator Joyner also noted that the “48 hour cap will cripple voter registration efforts.” She stated that, “[i]n the Black churches there’s ongoing voter registration,” but under the proposed change, “you have to have someone every day” turn in registration forms, which is an onerous administrative burden on churches serving low-income communities. State Representative Rousson echoed these concerns, stating that “by making it 48 hours to get registration forms in, you’re stifling” voter registration.

This is no trivial matter for minority citizens in Florida, who have substantially lower voter registration rates than average. As of 2008, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that, in Florida, African Americans had a registration rate of 53.6%, Latinos a rate of 47.4%, and Asians a rate of 35.3%, as compared with an overall average registration rate in Florida of 62.4%, and an average for white Floridians of 69.2%. Voter registration drives are a crucial means of addressing these inequalities, as studies show that African-American and Latino voters are more than twice as likely to register in these drives.

The implementation of Section 4 would therefore have the effect of only worsening these registration disparities.

### III. DISCRIMINATORY PURPOSE

Assessing a jurisdiction’s motivation in enacting voting changes is a complex task requiring a “sensitive inquiry into such circumstantial and direct evidence as may be available.” The “important starting point” for assessing discriminatory intent under Arlington Heights is “the impact of the official action whether it ‘bears more heavily on one

race than another.’” Other considerations relevant to the purpose inquiry include, among other things, “the historical background of the [jurisdiction’s] decision”; “[t]he specific sequence of events leading up to the challenged decision”; “[d]epartures from the normal procedural sequence”; and “[t]he legislative or administrative history, especially . . . [any] contemporary statements by members of the decisionmaking body.” Numerous cases arising under Section 5 have employed this standard to help ferret out discriminatory intent in the Section 5 process.

As noted above, various features of Chapter 2011–40 will have retrogressive effects on minority voters in the 5 covered counties. These concerns were no secret as Chapter 2011–40 was debated. To the contrary, they were raised often by members of the public. And, without exception, every single member of the Florida Conference of Black State Legislators voted against this legislation.

It is noteworthy that these broad changes to long-standing voting laws—some of which have been in place for decades—are being proposed so recently after the last General Election, when African Americans in Florida turned out and exercised their political power in record numbers. One news report noted that the changes to early voting, and in particular the elimination of early voting on the Sunday before Election Day, “appear[] to be aimed directly at discouraging Florida’s black voters.” State Senator Joyner stated, “we view this as an effort to marginalize the votes of minorities in our County because we had tremendous turnout in recent elections.” State Representative Rousson added, “in my mind, and in the minds of the Black leaders in my community, there is no question about the motives behind this. This is absolutely voter suppression and subversion. The perception is that it is aimed directly at [the Black] population. My constituents feel under siege.”

Chapter 2011–40 was enacted in spite of these and other objections, but we note that the state’s proffered interests in enacting Chapter 2011–40 do not withstand even casual scrutiny. Although the State claims that these voting changes are necessary to prevent voter fraud, there is no evidence of a problem of voter fraud in Florida, as even the Florida Secretary of State has “acknowledged that there is little voter fraud in the state.” Nor is there any indication of how shortening the early voting period, requiring validly registered voters to cast provisional ballots, or imposing heavy fines on voter registration organizations would actually prevent fraud. Moreover, as this Department has acknowledged in response to a previous Section 5 submission by the State of Florida, “procedures used to eliminate voter fraud should not unnecessarily burden the rights of minority voters.” Finally, while legislators also claimed that these changes are necessary for the sake of reducing “cost,” an interest in administrative efficiency has not been recognized as a sufficient justification for voting procedures that otherwise violate the VRA.

### CONCLUSION

For the reasons identified above, we urge the Attorney General to interpose an objection to Chapter 2011–40, as the state has failed to meet its burden of showing that it will not have a retrogressive effect, nor that it was adopted free of discriminatory purpose. Indeed, the state’s submission contains no analysis whatsoever concerning the retrogressive effect of Chapter 2011–40 on minority voters, simply asserting without any substantiation that the proposed voting changes “will apply equally to all voters. . . .” That is not, however, sufficient to satisfy the

state’s burden to show the absence of retrogressive effect under Section 5 analysis. See *Beer*, 425 U.S. at 141. At a minimum, the Attorney General should issue a More Information Request (MIR) concerning the various issues raised in this letter as they affect minority voters in the five Florida Counties covered by Section 5.

Should you have any questions regarding the information presented in this Comment Letter, please contact Dale Ho at 212–965–2252.

Sincerely,

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.: John Payton, President & Director-Counsel; Kristen Clarke, Co-Director, Political Participation Group; Ryan Haygood, Co-Director, Political Participation Group; Dale Ho, Assistant Counsel; Natasha Korgaonkar, Assistant Counsel.

Florida Conference of Black State Legislators: Representative Mia Jones, Chair.

Florida State Conference NAACP: Adora Nweze, President.

Mr. Speaker, I don’t think I could lay out my objections to the new voting laws in Florida any more clearly. I thank the authors of the letter I just read for their fine work, I only wish it wasn’t necessary. Mr. Speaker, as we progress through this election season I would urge this Chamber and all of my colleagues to remember that every vote is important. Every American should be valued, and any effort to circumvent the right to vote, which some of us in this Chamber have fought so hard for, is a tragedy.

## THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING ACT OF 2012

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, over the last few months, we have seen one opinion survey after another showing that Congress is facing record low approval ratings, hovering around 12 percent.

It’s no coincidence that at the same time we’ve seen a surge in political activity from both the Tea Party and the Occupy Wall Street movements, expressing a shared frustration and distrust of Washington.

Underpinning America’s disapproval of Congress is a broken political system, ranging from anachronistic Senate procedure to the recent Citizens United ruling. The budget battles of this Congress extend and amplify this trend.

While there is no silver bullet to “fix” what’s ailing our Government, many experts and the public agree that we need comprehensive redistricting reform as a means to tone down the partisanship and make it possible to enact change. Under the current system, redrawing Congressional district boundaries every ten years continuously sends Congress down the path to partisan gridlock.

It’s the worst kept secret in Washington that our current redistricting process too often gives incumbent politicians more influence over picking their voters, than voters have in picking their politicians.

Both political parties have developed the redistricting process into an art form, punishing opponents and protecting incumbents. Just

last week, House Speaker JOHN BOEHNER told POLITICO that Republicans will hold the House for the next decade thanks to the once-in-a-decade redistricting process that has made the GOP's hold on the majority "iron-clad."

I don't know about you, but I don't think the American public wants elections to be pre-cooked, a decade at a time. Politicians should not be allowed to achieve through the redistricting process what they can't accomplish at the ballot box. And regardless of whether the Speaker is right or not, the optics are disheartening and more than enough to further depress voter turnout.

Outside the beltway, there is very little that separates the average person in their political beliefs. But when you have a redistricting system where incumbents don't feel accountable in general elections, but fear attack in the primary, politicians are forced further and further to the left or right, ultimately skewing the membership of Congress. This is a system that rewards ideological extremes, punishes those who have nuanced or moderate positions, and closes the door on compromise before anyone even gets to Washington.

Even though elections are just around the corner, only 22 states have approved final district maps, leaving voters uncertain about who their candidate will be and furthering the already substantial incumbent advantage. There is hope, however, in states that have adopted independent redistricting commissions. All but one of these 13 states have already finalized their Congressional districts, making up a majority of the national total, and representing a small fraction—two of the 11 states—that are duking it out in court.

Redistricting reform isn't a Democrat or Republican idea. Indeed, it's bipartisan as seen in California and Florida where in 2010, both states—California controlled by Democrats in both chambers, and Florida controlled by Republicans in both chambers—enacted bipartisan redistricting reform.

While reform is slowly taking hold, the process remains woefully inadequate and subject to political abuse. The temptation to place partisan objectives above the public interest is just too enticing.

To make Congress more representative, all districts in all states should follow the same balanced metrics and criteria for redistricting, instead of the corrupt system we have today that makes some states less fair and representative than others. That is why I have introduced legislation that would create the National Commission for Independent Redistricting.

The Commission would be composed of respected leaders with a proven commitment to public service and strengthening our future, such as ex-Presidents, retired Federal justices, previous congressional leaders, and electoral experts from academia. The Commission would oversee an independent, professional agency, tasked with establishing uniform criteria and congressional district lines for each State that respects the communities of interest, and geographic, ethnic, cultural, and historic boundaries, rather than just partisan affiliation.

The Commission would also inject greater transparency and accountability into the process by requiring robust public consultation and

commentary that must be taken into account, and a website where all maps, hearings, votes with concurring and dissenting opinions, and materials would be made public in a timely fashion.

Congress would then approve or disapprove of the proposal put forward by the Commission with a simple up-or-down vote, free from procedural gridlock.

Congress should enact this legislation now, well before the next census in 2020. With six elections and nearly a decade standing between current politicians and the next Census, now is the time to reform our redistricting process and act in a way that reflects broad public interests rather than narrow and immediate partisanship.

Meaningful political reform is seldom easy and it takes time. Instead of each state passing their own version of what might as well be called "The Incumbent Protection Act" every 10 years, I am hopeful that there will be careful consideration of this proposal as a way to make the House of Representatives fairer, more representative, and more effective for this new century.

RECOGNIZING ALEX LESSER, SAM DIXON, AND JOSH FIXLER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I have the good fortune of representing many bright and promising young people. When they speak selflessly about the need to help those less fortunate and recognize that the federal government has a responsibility to address this need, it renews my hope for a better future.

Yesterday was one such occasion. A young man, Alex Lesser, accompanied by Josh Fixler, Assistant Educator and Youth Director of the Temple B'Nai Shalom Congregation, came to my office on behalf of the Religious Action Center and the Union for Reform Judaism. Alex presented my office with a paper he and his friend, Sam Dixon, wrote jointly on the topic of economic justice and the importance of extending unemployment benefits. Alex's and Sam's eloquent words of reason deserve to be heard by my colleagues. I ask that they be submitted in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Hello, I am Alex Lesser, and I am Sam Dixon, here on behalf of the Religious Action Center and the Union for Reform Judaism. We come from Temple B'Nai Shalom in Fairfax Station, and we are here to talk to you about unemployment insurance. The economy is still recovering from the economic downturn of 2008. Since the recession started, a total of approximately 8.8 million jobs have been lost. Despite the fact that 2.7 million jobs have been recovered, 6.1 million workers have not gotten jobs back. The economy is still not in a good situation. The group that is struggling the most is the unemployed. And this group is not small: the national rate is still at 8.5%. Many of these people are food insecure. Being food insecure means a family or individual does not have the physical, economic, and social access to

safe and nutritious food and drink. This is an important problem that YOU can help fix.

As a country that is currently in an economic crisis, it is not only our duty—but our responsibility to ensure that all citizens, regardless of economic status, are not at an unfair disadvantage to one another. However, this does not always seem to be the case in this nation. We have unfortunately seen a significant increase in poverty and unemployment over the past few years, with 3.2 million impoverished Americans in 2009, and 3.3 million in 2010. With unemployment insurance, not only will these unemployed individuals be supported and sustained, but our country as a whole will also benefit. A recent estimate from the Congressional Budget Office concluded that for every \$1.00 that the government invests in unemployment benefits, approximately \$1.90 will be added to the U.S. Economy. It seems to me that not only is this an important step in combating poverty for Americans, but also a necessary step to get the nation's economy back on track.

We are here today because Judaism teaches us that this is a vitally important issue. God commands us in the book of Deuteronomy that "if there is a needy person among you . . . do not harden your heart and shut your hand against your kin. Rather, you must open your hand and lend whatever is sufficient" (Deuteronomy 15:7-11). It teaches us that providing for the needy is not just a matter of charity, but an obligation. Judaism also teaches that the highest form of *tzedakah*, the Jewish value of charity, is to help a person achieve self-sufficiency. Unemployment insurance is that exact type of support that the homeless need to help them get back on their feet. I think that we can all agree that poverty is one of the worst fates imaginable. It is one of the most terrible sufferings. The Union for Reform Judaism has consistently fought against attempts to weaken the social safety net. This is clearly a moral choice as well as a political one.

This past Friday night, we attended a presentation from the National Coalition for the Homeless, which struck a very resonant chord in our hearts, all because of one man's story. Steve, a native Washingtonian and former homeless man, told us about how he was involved with drugs from a very early age. As a result of this drug abuse, he lost several high-paying jobs and his home. Steve mentioned that when he was at his lowest point, someone offered to help him in his path to sobriety, and he finally got his life together. After getting back on his feet, he is now in danger of going back on the streets due to a debilitating and degenerative disorder. His story reminded us that this is an extremely important issue because he was a prime example of a good person whose bad decisions impacted the rest of his life, making it hard for him to avoid homelessness. This reminds us that even when it seems as though someone has hit rock-bottom, the right help can put them back on the path to success. Part of the reason that this resonates with me is that we want to make sure that if our friends and family, as well as those who we will never meet, will not fall too far if they fall through the cracks.

Clearly, this is an important and timely issue that must be addressed. Extending unemployment benefits and insurance will not only help struggling Americans survive this economic downturn, but will also help the economy grow. We urge Representative Moran to support legislation that would extend unemployment insurance for a year.

JIM BARNETTE

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, today I bid farewell and best wishes to Jim Barnette, the incomparable Energy and Commerce Committee General Counsel.

When I became Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, everyone told me I needed someone like Jim Barnette to serve as General Counsel. He served under three Chairmen before me and, though he was no longer in government service, his legacy of jurisdictional tenacity and seemingly limitless institutional knowledge remained.

Not content with a mere likeness, I informed Jim I was revoking his leave of absence and he was to report for duty promptly. Much to my delight, like any true public servant, he obliged.

As a veteran of the procedural, political, and policy battlefield, there was no one better suited to take the reins as General Counsel for the Committee when I began my tenure as Chairman at the outset of the 112th Congress.

Jim styles himself a country lawyer, but he brings a level of experience and wisdom to our Committee that is quite simply unmatched on Capitol Hill. He helped assemble and mentor the strongest team on Capitol Hill, building a backbone for our Committee staff that will stand the test of time.

He is a General Counsel in the fullest sense of the title: a faithful counselor to Members and staff and a forceful advocate for the issues before the Committee.

He has been a trusted partner, an expert negotiator, a skilled tactician, and a true friend. I wish Jim and his wife Chelo well, extending my sincere thanks for the year they set aside that allowed me to bring Jim back to the Committee. As we say at the Energy and Commerce Committee, Jim is the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE  
RETIREMENT OF MR. JACK CLINE**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a constituent of mine, Mr. Jack Cline, who retires from the Anniston Army Depot in April.

Jack Cline is a native of Anniston, Alabama. Upon his honorable discharge from the United States Navy in 1979, he came to work at Anniston Army Depot March 1981.

Jack began his career at the depot as an Electronics Worker in the Missile Guidance Branch, Directorate of Maintenance. He also worked in Directorate of Mission Plans and Operations as a Planner. In 1991, he became the Division Chief for Weapon Systems. In 1996, he became the Deputy Director for Production, and in 1999 served as the Division Chief for Tracked Systems. In 2001, he was promoted to Director of Production and Jack currently serves today as the Deputy to the Commander.

Among many educational and professional accomplishments, Mr. Cline attended Army Management Staff College in Fort Belvoir, VA; and the Depot and Arsenal Executive Leadership Program at UNC, Chapel Hill.

Married to the former Jeni Guthrie of Oxford, Alabama, Jack has one daughter Beth Williams, a teacher, married to Brad who serves as a Youth Minister. They have one granddaughter Savannah. Jack also has one step-son, Matthew, who is a Chemical Engineer. Jack and Jeni are active members of the Harvest Church of God in Anniston.

We congratulate Jack on his retirement today and thank him for his steadfast and dedicated service to our nation. On behalf of everyone at Anniston Army Depot, we wish him the best.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CARMELL  
F. ANDERSON FOR HER YEARS  
OF SERVICE**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Carmell F. Anderson on her retirement from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Carmell F. Anderson was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1944 and resided most of her life in Bay City, Michigan. She was a 1962 graduate of T. L. Handy High School, and after attending Delta College, and later Northern Michigan University, she earned her Bachelor and Master's degrees in secondary education. In 1984, Carmell earned her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in Adult Education and Labor Studies.

Along the way, Carmell taught driver's education and business classes for the Bay City Public Schools, worked at General Motors Saginaw Steering Gear, and the University of Missouri—Kansas City. In 1988, Carmell moved to Washington D.C. where she worked for the AFL—CIO—Human Resources Development, Inc. (H.R.D.I.) at the George Meany Center in Silver Spring, Maryland, followed by a position as Executive Assistant to Congressman Bob Traxler.

In 1991, she accepted a position as a researcher with the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington D.C. While working at the U.S. Department of Labor—Employment and Training Administration, Carmell and her husband, Jim Hoppenjan, volunteered during the first administration of the Clinton White House serving in the Correspondence Office, Personnel, and the NAFTA War Room. In 1994 she transferred to the Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship in Detroit, Michigan. Carmell retired from the U.S. Department of Labor in 2012 after 21 years' service.

Mr. Speaker I would like to congratulate Carmell F. Anderson on her retirement. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated public servant in the U.S. Department of Labor and I wish her well in her future endeavors.