

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND RETIREMENT SECURITY ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1173) to repeal the CLASS program:

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I rise today in firm opposition to this legislation that would repeal the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Act, the CLASS Act.

As part of the Affordable Care Act, the CLASS Act is our nation's first real attempt to provide voluntary, fiscally-responsible, long-term care for the more than 70 percent of Americans who will need such support at some point in their lifetimes.

As the Representative to thousands of seniors in Florida's 20th district, I know too well how hard our families strive to plan and pay for the long term care services that most of them so desperately need.

By repealing the CLASS Act, this Congress abandons millions of middle class seniors, Americans with disabilities, and all families struggling to provide long term care for loved ones.

Of course, we are willing to admit that this program isn't perfect. But that is no excuse for the Republicans' "repeal and abandon" approach to legislation—and our nation's seniors.

Rather than pull the rug out from under our seniors and loved ones—I urge my colleagues to work to fix this vital program.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOAN AND GEORGE KESSEL

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Joan and George Kessel, two outstanding members of the South Florida community who have dedicated their lives to advancing the security of Israel, promoting Jewish values, and protecting the welfare of Jewish people across the globe.

Joan and George Kessel embody the spirit of adventure. They may spend a great deal of time in South Florida, but they truly are citizens of the world. While they have traveled the globe far and wide, it is their trips to Israel that have touched them most profoundly. During their many stays in Israel, Joan and George have learned firsthand the challenges faced by the Israeli people in a hostile, volatile region. These are the experiences they carry with them back to South Florida.

At home, the Kessels are known for their willingness to take on leadership roles in any endeavor that advances the security of Israel and strengthens the bond between our two nations. They generously support a wide range of Jewish organizations, yet their dedication to these causes extends far beyond philanthropy. By opening their home to visiting Israeli soldiers and dignitaries, they have fostered the kind of cultural exchange between Americans and Israelis that is the bedrock of the deep friendship between our two nations.

On January 8, 2012, Joan and George Kessel were honored by Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) for their work on behalf of a safer and more secure Israel. I can think of no two individuals more deserving of this honor. I am humbled by their generosity and commitment, grateful for their friendship, and look forward to their continued leadership in the pro-Israel community for years to come.

HONORING MAYOR GERALD A. CALABRESE

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend and mentor, Mayor Gerald A. Calabrese of Cliffside Park, in honor of his 87th birthday. Mayor Calabrese is the longest-serving mayor in the state of New Jersey, having begun his 49th year in office in January.

After first being elected to the Cliffside Park Borough Council in 1955, Gerry was elected mayor in 1959, and has served continuously as the Borough's chief executive since his reelection in 1965. During Gerry's time as mayor, Cliffside Park has enjoyed unprecedented growth, largely thanks to his leadership. He is well-known for gaining many federal, state, and county grants to help his community. Highlights from his tenure include the building of Cliffside Park's current Borough Hall, the public library, and a senior citizen housing development, which was one of the first of its kind in New Jersey to be built using federal grants.

Moreover, Gerry has proven his strong leadership by finding other innovative ways to improve his community while saving the taxpayers money. Under his guidance, Cliffside Park is about to embark on a major redevelopment program by building a joint DPW facility with neighboring Fairview. Cliffside Park and Fairview are the first communities in the state to combine their DPW facilities. Not only was a new facility desperately needed, but by vacating the property the DPW currently sits on, the town made valuable land available for development which will now go on the tax rolls.

In addition to his public service in Cliffside Park, Gerry served in the Navy and is a member of the American Legion Post 126 as well

as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the AmVets. He is also a former professional basketball player, having played for the Syracuse Nationals during the 1951 and 1952 seasons. Gerry was inducted into St. John's Athletic Hall of Fame for his years on the basketball team.

Mayor Gerald A. Calabrese is the pinnacle of integrity and effectiveness. It is no wonder that he received two standing ovations during his swearing-in ceremony in January of this year and has been called a "second father" and "iconic public servant" by so many respected public officials. Mayor Calabrese has been a role model for me, as he has been for so many others in New Jersey whom Gerry has helped during their careers.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the birthday of my constituent and dear friend, Mayor Gerald A. Calabrese. I join with the grateful residents of Cliffside Park in thanking him for his innumerable contributions to our community.

HONORING EVA MARIE BALDWIN WILBUR

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Ms. Eva Marie Baldwin Wilbur on the occasion of her 95th birthday.

Eva Marie Baldwin was born February 19, 1917, the first of eight children to Earl and Frances Baldwin, in Middletown Township, Susquehanna County. Eva attended Rush Schools in Susquehanna County, where her father, Earl, drove the school wagon.

On August 10, 1935, Eva married Clayton Wilbur in Stevensville.

For forty-one years, Eva worked as a tax collector for Pike Township. She is an active parishioner of Rushville Church, and is a member of the Bradford County Republican Women. Even at the age of 95, Eva remains a part of her community, still hosting a Friday night card game for family and friends.

Eva is the proud mother of three children: Shirley, Edna, and Arlyn, grandmother of four, great-grandmother of six, and great-great-grandmother of three.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Ms. Eva Marie Baldwin Wilbur, on the occasion of her 95th birthday, and ask my colleagues to join me in praising her commitment to country, community, and family.

RECOGNIZING MELANIE DRESSEL

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Melanie Dressel, President and

• 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.

C.E.O. of the Tacoma, Washington-based Columbia Bank, for being named a Community Banker of the Year by American Banker magazine.

Melanie joined Columbia Bank in 1993 and ten years later was named its Chief Executive Officer. Under Melanie's leadership, Columbia Bank acquired five other banks, increasing the bank's assets by fifty percent. These actions have helped Dressel transform Columbia Bank into a regional power.

Despite the bank's growth, Melanie has remained close to traditional community banking practices. Columbia Bank is committed to giving individuals and businesses in the Pacific Northwest a safe, secure, and customer-focused banking option.

Throughout her tenure, Columbia Bank has consistently been honored as one of the region's best places to work. The bank is regularly featured on the Puget Sound Business Journal's "Washington's Best Workplaces" list and listed as "One of Washington's 100 Best Companies to Work For" by Seattle Magazine. Even during challenging economic times, it is encouraging to see Columbia Bank going the extra mile to ensure employee satisfaction.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Melanie Dressel. Her dedication to community banking has helped grow Columbia Bank to provide exemplary service its customers, employees, and our community.

RECOGNIZING SUSAN STECHNIJ

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the work of Susan Stechnij in the Palm Beach area of Florida. Susan is one of the landlords at the Everglades Inn, a member of the Homeless and Housing Alliance of Palm Beach County. She shares my passion for helping the homeless in the community and in the fight to prevent and end homelessness.

Recently, Susan was honored with an award to denote her special contribution to the homeless people of West Palm Beach. The Lord's Place, a nonprofit organization focused on ending the cycle of homelessness in the area, honored Susan with the Unsung Heroine Award. She was awarded this honor for helping a dying homeless man find relief in the last few weeks of his life. Due to her hard work, the man was able to live comfortably in an apartment rather than facing the difficult conditions that the homeless are faced with on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, Susan deserves to be recognized for her heroic efforts. People like Susan serve an important role in communities across the state of Florida and the country. Her compassion and selflessness in helping those less fortunate is commendable, and I am proud to recognize her as a Hastings' Hero.

IN RECOGNITION OF NICK AND TRACY BROWN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Nick Brown and Mrs. Tracy Brown for their immeasurable contributions to their community and the subsequent honor they have received during Prevention First's "Fly Me to the Moon" Gala on February 4, 2012. The Browns are valuable members of my district and assets to their communities and country. Their actions are truly worthy of this body's recognition.

Mrs. Tracy Brown has admirably served on numerous boards for various organizations throughout Monmouth County, New Jersey. She is a hardworking member of the Monmouth Medical Center Foundation Board and has dedicated countless hours to the Ranney School Annual Fund committee. Mrs. Brown has also co-chaired the Count Basie Gala, Prevention First Gala and the Visiting Nurses Association Show House Gala. Tracy is a member of the Prevention First Executive Committee and remains an integral part of its Board. Together, Tracy and Prevention First's continued efforts have had a resounding effect in preventing alcohol and other drug usage in young adults throughout the local community.

Nick Brown's generosity as a philanthropist and valued member of the community is evident through his service. Mr. Brown is the Managing Director and head of Financial Product Brokerage, North and South America, at GFI Group. He is a partner of Jersey Partners, serves as a director of the Financial Markets Association and was formerly a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's Foreign Exchange Steering Committee. In addition to his professional endeavors, Nick currently serves on the boards of the Center to Prevent Youth Violence and the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank, New Jersey. He also served as a high profile board member for the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence for 12 years. Nick remains an active board member of HELP USA, a charitable organization dedicated to providing quality housing and on-site supportive services to guide individuals towards independence and self-sufficiency. Together, the Browns have been blessed with five beautiful children, Kristina age 24, Kelli age 22, Peter age 12, Laney age 6, and Lexi age 5.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Nick and Tracy Brown for receiving the honors bestowed by Prevention First. Mr. & Mrs. Brown's unending generosity and charitable activities have undoubtedly touched many lives and have helped countless people throughout New Jersey.

IN SUPPORT OF FAIR TRIALS AND ACCESS TO COUNSEL FOR THOSE WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Ensuring Mental Competence in Immigra-

tion Proceedings Act. My legislation will make immigration proceedings more fair and humane for individuals with mental disabilities, and help prevent wrongful deportations and indefinite detentions. Specifically, this bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to ensure that immigration judges will have the authority to stop proceedings or appoint counsel when an individual is not competent enough to represent him or herself due to a mental disability.

The status quo isn't working. Judges who in good faith have terminated deportation cases because of a person's inability to participate based on mental disability have had their decisions overturned. Consequently, these cases end up in an ongoing loop that keeps these individuals in costly, inhumane detention or results in their unfair deportation.

Examples of immigrants and U.S. citizens with mental disabilities who have been unjustly detained or deported include:

An immigrant from Mexico with severe cognitive disabilities who was declared incompetent by an immigration judge in which he was unrepresented by counsel. His case was put on hold and the Department of Homeland Security allowed him to linger in detention for four and a half years, at a cost to taxpayers of about \$300,000;

A 50-year old legal permanent resident with schizophrenia who had lived in New York more than 30 years was ordered by a New York court to serve 90 days in a mental institution for trespassing. Instead, he was transferred to a detention facility in Texas, where he received no medication for weeks. He then faced a proceeding without counsel, and was deported to the Dominican Republic so quickly that his family did not know what had happened to him until he was gone;

A citizen who had bipolar disorder and developmental disabilities was deported to Mexico, and subsequently to Honduras and Guatemala. It took four months to return him to the United States. ICE officials claim that he signed a statement indicating he was a Mexican national—he was not.

All of these events could have been avoided if immigration judges had the tools they need to properly adjudicate cases involving individuals with mental disabilities, and if these individuals had access to counsel. We cannot allow citizens and immigrants to be wrongly deported or remain in indefinite detention simply because they have a mental disability. By granting judges the ability to discontinue proceedings when an individual is mentally incompetent or to appoint counsel so that the individual receives a fair adjudication, this bill will reduce the costs of long detentions and delayed proceedings and make our immigration system more just.

The National Association of Immigration Judges has asked Congress for reform. Over fifty organizations including Human Rights Watch, the National Disability Rights Network, the American Civil Liberties Union and the American Immigration Lawyers Association endorse the Ensuring Mental Competence in Immigration Proceedings Act. This legislation is the right thing to do for mentally incompetent detainees, for our courts, and for taxpayers. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF PORT EVERGLADES DIRECTOR
PHILLIP C. ALLEN

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions and celebrate the seven years of service that Phillip C. Allen has given to the South Florida community as Director of the Port Everglades. Under his leadership and guidance, Port Everglades has become an economic powerhouse for South Florida.

Mr. Allen's commitment to creating jobs and fostering economic opportunity in our community is evident in his accomplishments. He helped craft a 20-year master plan for development of the port, and facilitated three critical expansions that are expected to create 7,000 new jobs in South Florida and 135,000 jobs statewide. Under his leadership, the port has grown substantially to accommodate our growing tourism industry, which has brought some of the world's largest cruise ships to Florida. Even more impressive is his plan to dredge the port in advance of the widening of the Panama Canal, which sets the stage for South Florida to serve as a bustling center for international commerce upon its completion in 2014.

Given his many contributions to our local economy, it should come as no surprise that on November 4, 2011, Mr. Allen was named South Florida Business Leader of the Year. I can think of no person more deserving of this honor than Mr. Allen, a leader who understands that building state-of-the-art infrastructure is imperative if we wish to give our businesses a competitive advance in the global marketplace. I commend Mr. Allen for his years of hard work and dedication, and pledge to him my continued support for the development and expansion of the Port Everglades in the years to come.

HONORING JACK DELEO

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Mr. Jack DeLeo, as he is recognized by UNICO National, Scranton Chapter, as "UNICAN of the Year."

Upon receiving this award, Mr. DeLeo has served as president of the Scranton Chapter and is currently sitting Chairman of the Board for the organization. Mr. DeLeo has exemplified the motto of UNICO, 'Service Above Self,' and has long put the needs of his community first.

Mr. DeLeo served his country with courage and dignity during the Vietnam War as a soldier in the U.S. Army. Mr. DeLeo has, more recently, dedicated himself to worthy associations including the Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

At home, Mr. DeLeo is an active parishioner of St. Lucy's Church. He previously served as president of the Lackawanna County Columbus Day Association and currently sits on its Board of Directors.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Mr. Jack DeLeo, and ask my colleagues to join me in praising his commitment to his community and our Nation.

COMMENDATION OF DR. CHAD
AUDI

HON. HANSEN CLARKE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Chad Audi, CEO and President of the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries (DRMM) in Detroit, Michigan. February 2012 marks Dr. Audi's 15th year serving Wayne County through his work at the DRMM.

Dr. Audi began working in the DRMM's finance department in 1997 and rose to become the Vice President of Finance and Administration. Later, he was appointed to the position of Chief Operating Officer. In 2005, Dr. Audi was selected to serve as the CEO/President of the DRMM.

Dr. Audi is a well-respected member of the community who has formed strategic partnerships with outside organizations, agencies, and individuals and found creative and cost-effective ways to serve DRMM's clients in a friendly, spiritually supportive environment.

The DRMM is the country's largest rescue mission and is committed to sharing the gospel of the love of Jesus Christ. The DRMM provides hope to the disadvantaged, abused, and homeless people in Wayne County.

Under the leadership of Dr. Audi, the DRMM serves one million meals to the homeless and hungry annually. The DRMM provides over 1,600 community members a day with shelter, food, substance abuse treatment, case management, transitional jobs, and spiritual mentoring.

The DRMM has also opened the Cornerstone Bistro in Highland Park, Michigan. The Cornerstone Bistro is a sit-down restaurant and "cornerstone" of a culinary apprenticeship program run by the DRMM and Wayne County Community College. This program helps DRMM clients receive on-the-job training and a culinary arts associate degree.

I commend Dr. Audi's tireless work improving the quality and range of services available to those in need in our community.

It is with great honor that I recognize Dr. Audi and his work at the DRMM creating a brighter future for Wayne County residents.

HONORING BROOK HILL SCHOOL'S
ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, the Brook Hill School is a vibrant non-denominational Christian school which opened its doors in the fall of 1997. A three-fold mission permeates every aspect of Brook Hill's existence: (1) to provide excellence in college preparatory education, (2) to affirm the gifts and challenge the potential of each student, and (3) to encourage students to honor God through Christ-like character.

It is with enormous pride that I recognize and congratulate the Brook Hill School in Bullard, Texas, on its incredible athletic achievements during recent school years in which they achieved several state championship titles. This past fall of 2011, the Brook Hill Guard reached the pinnacle of success by winning the Division III State Football Championship, after being state finalists two years in a row in 2009 and 2010.

The Brook Hill Guard also captured the state championship title in Baseball during 2010–2011, as well as the state championship title in Boys' Golf that school year. As if that were not impressive enough, Kirby Vinson won the individual State Champion title in the Girls Track & Field discus. Also, Austin Langemeier won the individual State Championship title in both the Boys Track & Field 800 Meter Run and the 1600 Meter Run.

The superb 2010–2011 school year was preceded in 2009–2010 by the Brook Hill Boys achieving the incredible feat of advancing to the State final championship game in baseball, basketball, soccer, and football. That was topped off with the Girls' Golf team winning the State Championship outright that same year. It also must be noted that Courtney Thomas shown brightly by winning the State Champion title in the Shot Put event of Boys' Track & Field.

These achievements could not have been possible without the tireless preparation of each individual team member, and the commitment of the coaches to proper preparation themselves followed by the intense training, inspiring, and directing of the very talented players under their supervision. Such vast excellence in athletics in all of those sports at all levels requires the kind of community and school-wide support that Brook Hill students, parents, and community backers provided.

A key lesson that has obviously been instilled in the Brook Hill students is that uncompromising dedication and hard work ultimately yield great success.

Again, congratulations go out to the Brook Hill School students, coaching staff, faculty, and the entire community of support in and around Bullard, Texas, as their legacy is now recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that will endure as long as there is a United States of America. Their excellence in so many areas and pursuits make it my great honor to be their servant in the United States House of Representatives.

HONEST BUDGET ACT OF 2012

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, Americans deserve a genuine and predictable government that shoots straight. As Thomas Jefferson wrote, "The whole art of government consists in the art of being honest." How can the people hold their representative accountable when Congress and their President distort the basic facts?

Many of my colleagues and I are dismayed by the dysfunction in the process. We've seen firsthand the insider tricks and schemes used to distort the budget and hide new spending. We've learned that these loopholes are deeply

engrained in the rules of Congress, and that both Republicans and Democrats are guilty of exploiting them.

The American people have a right to expect accountability, honesty, and transparency from their government. But every year, Washington relies on a series of budget gimmicks and accounting tricks to conceal or enable deficit spending. With our nation's gross debt over \$15 trillion—as large as our entire economy—Washington must drop the budget games and commit to honest budget practices.

We—as the freshman class—were sent to DC to do things differently and to assist on honest and transparent government.

That's why earlier this week, I, along with 28 of my colleagues, introduced the Honest Budget Act of 2012—an important step to change the way Washington works and instill integrity to the budget process.

This legislation is designed to root out the budget gimmicks most commonly used by politicians to hide the truth, confuse the public, and run up the national debt.

Last year, Senator JEFF SESSIONS from Alabama introduced in the Senate similar legislation to strengthen the Senate's rules against budget trickery. Numerous conservative groups have endorsed Sessions' bill, including the Heritage Foundation, Americans for Tax Reform, and Citizens Against Government Waste.

The House legislation expands this bill with similar rules in the House of Representatives to addresses nine specific budget gimmicks that, since 2005, have cost taxpayers more than \$350 billion and have consistently added to the burgeoning national debt. For example, the legislation makes it more difficult to pass appropriation bills without first approving a budget. No longer will the Senate be allowed to operate without a budget as it has for more than 1000 days. It tightens rules about using "emergency designations" and "disaster designations" to justify off-budget spending. It reveals both the real cost and the real commitment on what the federal government is spending. The bill prevents Congress from relying on phony rescissions, or claiming savings unless the savings are real and genuine. Money that was never going to be spent cannot later be claimed as "savings". That's common sense.

A budget is a plan for the nation's future and an annual financial report to the stockholders of the company—in this case, the American people. We deserve the truth. Mr. Speaker, given what I have witnessed over the last year, the only way to guarantee the truth is to specifically root out and end the gimmicks that so often obscure it.

We are all keenly aware that the number one issue facing America today is jobs. We must continue to do all that we can here in Washington to create an environment that fosters job growth, and we will continue to do that. But we cannot overlook the fact that Washington spends money it does not have. Certainly, this reckless spending spree has contributed greatly towards our downward economy.

The American people deserve a budget system that is accountable, predictable, and real. Regardless of party, Congress and the Administration have not always been up-front with their numbers. It is important that we instill in-

tegrity back to our budget. The President is expected to present Congress with his budget for Fiscal Year 2013. We have a responsibility to our constituents to ensure that the final budget is accurate and any savings included are real savings.

In many respects, the Honest Budget Act of 2012 embodies the spirit of transparency and accountability that unites my freshman class. The bill is a rallying point for those who truly want to put an end to the tricks, gimmicks and empty promises, and for all who believe that the American people deserve a government that they can trust. I look forward to work with my colleagues to see this become reality.

RECOGNIZING WENDY FREITAG

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Wendy Freitag for being named a Champion of Change in recognition of her work to prepare Washington communities for unexpected events and developing innovative and creative approaches to emergency preparedness and response.

As the External Affairs Manager for the Washington State Military Department's Emergency Management Division, Wendy Freitag oversees statewide emergency management outreach programs. These programs focus on disaster preparedness public education, private-public partnerships and public information programs. She encourages all residents of Washington State to take preparedness steps in their households and communities before a disaster strikes.

Wendy and her team continue to work on designs for outreach campaigns and programs to empower individuals and organizations to proactively prepare for disasters. They know that in order to effectively respond and recover from disasters, work must be done at the community level. Her team uses a combination of reason and emotion to engage and inspire all community members to become more disaster resilient.

Wendy has tremendous experience in the public and private sectors developing innovative solutions for preparedness. Prior to joining the Emergency Management Division, Wendy worked for a decade on physical security, national crisis management and business continuity projects and teams at Microsoft and the former Washington Mutual Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives please join me in recognizing the dedication of Wendy Freitag to helping all Washington residents be better prepared for disasters.

HONORING SURROGATE MICHAEL R. DRESSLER

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, County

Surrogate Michael Raymond Dressler, for his dedicated leadership and service to our community as the recently re-elected Judge of the Surrogate's Court of Bergen County. Surrogate Dressler has committed himself to a life of public service and I am pleased to recognize him as he continues his distinguished career.

Surrogate Dressler was first elected to be the Bergen County Surrogate Court Judge in 1996. Since then, the public has demonstrated their resounding approval for his work, re-electing him in 2001, 2006, and yet again in 2011. While in office, Judge Dressler has demonstrated his talent for combining innovative community service with reasoned fiscal responsibility. Among many other first's, he created the first Guardianship Monitoring Program in Bergen County, which utilizes volunteers to monitor the work of Court appointed guardians, ensuring they care for the frail and elderly as promised.

Surrogate Dressler also organized the creation of the Surrogate Court's Satellite Office Program in which the services of the Surrogate Court are brought directly to municipalities such as Fort Lee, Ridgewood, Wallington, Norwood and Park Ridge. Surrogate Court employees offer services such as probating of wills and administering estates to those who cannot make the trip to the Surrogate Court in Hackensack. These innovative programs are operated and maintained at no additional taxpayer cost.

Also, as a lifetime advocate for education, Judge Dressler spends a great deal of time promoting awareness of the probate process, the necessity of a Will and other documents, through his speaking tours, addressing numerous civic groups and service organizations. His publication of a comprehensive booklet entitled "How to Probate a Will in Bergen County," is available to all Bergen County residents in English, Spanish, and Korean. These initiatives are just a few of many examples that reflect how his hard work extends well beyond the walls of his office.

As Surrogate, Michael Dressler was elected by his peers and served as President of the Constitutional Officers of New Jersey. He presently serves as a member of the New Jersey Highlands Council. He was honored as the YMCA of Greater Bergen County's Person of the Year in 2009.

Mike Dressler was first elected to public office as Councilman of Cresskill in 1974. In 1983, the people of Cresskill elected him to serve as their Mayor, a position he held until 1991. That same year he was the youngest person ever appointed to the position of Counsel to the County of Bergen—New Jersey's most populous county. His extraordinary dedication to public service serves as an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate my dear friend, Surrogate Michael Raymond Dressler, on another re-election. I join with the grateful residents of Bergen County in thanking him for his innumerable contributions to our community. I am confident that his leadership and dedication to service will continue to improve the lives of countless New Jerseyans.

RECOGNIZING PROSTATE CANCER
AWARENESS OBSERVANCE DAY

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Prostate Cancer Awareness Observance Day, as recognized by the Brown Byrd Prostate Cancer Foundation in my district and numerous organizations and municipalities.

Affecting 1 in 6 men, prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer and the second cause of cancer-related deaths among males. A new case occurs every 2.7 minutes, and is the cause of death of an afflicted individual every 19 minutes. Though for reasons yet to be discovered, prostate cancer is especially prevalent within the African American community, which makes awareness of this disease especially important within communities like my Borough of Brooklyn, New York.

Despite these disparaging statistics, many forms of prostate cancer are readily treatable, and with increased early detection and treatment, current trends can be reversed. Education regarding prostate cancer and early detection strategies is crucial to saving lives and preserving our families; 200,000 men will be diagnosed and over 75,000 men will die from prostate cancer annually. At any age, deaths due to prostate cancer devastate families through loss of income, partnership, and support.

In recognition of this disease and the large number of families and communities it afflicts, I stand with those today that recognize February 2, 2012, as a day to remember those who lost the battle against prostate cancer, and to pray for the families and friends that have dealt with such a tragedy. As a community, we also remember those living with prostate cancer, celebrate the lives of survivors, and thank all the prostate cancer organizations and medical professionals throughout the entire country who aid in victories against this insidious disease.

One such organization I would like to recognize today is the Brown Byrd Prostate Cancer Foundation. Started by two young individuals in my own district, Kevin Byrd and Blossom Brown to honor their grandfathers who were both lost to prostate cancer, the foundation has done a good deal of work within New York and nationally to bring attention to Prostate Cancer and methods to combat its continued threat to the wellbeing of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and may we all offer up our prayers today to every individual that has been affected by prostate cancer.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH
FLORIDA

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significant achievements that

the University of South Florida (USF) has made in the fields of innovation and technology.

In 2010, USF furthered their dedication to these fields by founding the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). Today, the NAI works to recognize inventors, enhance the visibility of university innovation, educate and mentor innovative students, and translate research and inventions of its members that may benefit society.

With this type of commitment to innovation, it is no surprise that a recent report issued by the Intellectual Property Owners Association listed USF, along with 12 other American Universities, among the top 300 organizations to receive patents from the United States Patent and Trademark Office in 2010.

I am also proud that as USF continues to be a national leader in the field of innovation, the entire Tampa Bay area will significantly benefit. Researchers and inventors from USF will continue to work together with business and industry leaders in their respective fields to put their ideas and prototypes into action. These interactions will lead to a direct and positive impact on our local communities—communities desperately in need of high quality jobs and business opportunities.

I've always said that one of America's greatest strengths is the innovation of its citizens. Without innovation, this nation would not be what it is today. Unfortunately, many of these innovators in the past have not received the recognition for their achievements that they rightfully deserve.

That is why it is my honor to recognize and support the achievements of USF for their commitment to innovation and research.

With that, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of the University of South Florida.

HONORING LARRY VEILLEUX OF
LEWISTON, MAINE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Laurent "Larry" Veilleux, a man who devoted his life to his family and to his community.

A veteran of World War II, Larry's lifelong commitment to public service was only beginning when he returned home from the war. After completing his assignment in the U.S. Navy, Larry worked to obtain an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice and to enroll himself in the FBI Academy. The Lewiston Police department was fortunate enough to draw on Larry's courage and dedication to his community. By the time he retired as a Deputy Police Chief, he was a local fixture and beloved within the community.

Larry never stopped giving back to his friends, colleagues and neighbors. He found time to be an active member of the Retired Police Chief Association, the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion, the Lion's Club, and the Augusta Calumet Club. He was a former member of St. Joseph's Church and was most recently a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Auburn. Larry valued his roots in the community and was particu-

larly proud of his induction into the Lewiston-Auburn Sports Hall of Fame as a member of the 1942 Lewiston High School State Champion Hockey team.

It is truly remarkable that one man could have such a positive impact on the lives of so many people. Larry is survived by his wife, three children, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Larry was born November 21, 1923 and passed on January 30, 2012. He was 88 years old.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Larry for his public service and allow me to extend my deepest condolences to Larry's family.

HONORING THE BROWARD COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANTI-BUL-
LYING INITIATIVE

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Broward County Sheriff's Office Anti-Bullying Initiative, the efforts of which have undoubtedly helped make South Florida a safer and more tolerant community.

Bullying of young gay Americans has reached epidemic proportions in this country. In fact, more than 80 percent of LGBT students report suffering harassment, humiliation, and even violence at the hands of their peers in school. Even more tragic are the cases of children who take their own lives after being led to believe there is no hope for acceptance in their community. Despite these overwhelming statistics, many schools have shown an unwillingness or inability to openly address anti-gay bullying.

I commend the Broward County Sheriff's office and their many partners throughout South Florida for setting themselves apart by establishing an Anti-Bullying Initiative to address this issue head-on. Together, law enforcement officials and community leaders are acting on a shared belief that in America, no child should be afraid to go to school because he or she is different. On January 30, 2012, the Anti-Bullying initiative hosted an event at the Coral Springs Center for the Performing Arts, where they screened the film *Bullied* and discussed the impact of anti-gay bullying on our nation's youth. This event is one of many undertaken by the Broward County Sheriff's office to give students, teachers, and administrators the tools they need to effectively address bullying based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The opportunity for every child to receive a quality public education is a cornerstone of our nation. To achieve their potential, our children need schools that provide safe, accepting, and abuse-free environments. I am honored to recognize the people of Broward County, whose efforts to stop bullying are helping ensure our schools are places where everyone, regardless of their sexual identity, has a safe place to learn and grow.

IN CELEBRATION OF EASTHAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL'S SUCCESS IN THE "WE THE PEOPLE" COMPETITION

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and celebrate the victory of the Easthampton High School's AP United States History class in the statewide "We the People" academic competition held recently at Harvard University. The team skillfully answered a series of eighteen difficult questions relating to American government on their way to prevailing over a number of highly qualified competitors across Massachusetts. The team has now earned the distinction of representing the Commonwealth in the National Finals in April of this year.

Easthampton High School's team was led by teacher Kelley Brown, who has gone above and beyond the call as an academic instructor to be a skillful coach for her class in this competition. The outstanding knowledge of United States History displayed by her class is a testament to the value of quality teachers in the Massachusetts public school system. The victorious students included Taylor Dadmun, Tristan Koopman, Brianna LaRose, Zachary Lewis, Bayleigh Murphy, Michael Palaschak, Thomas Palaschak, Willow Ross, Felicia Therrien and Olivia Tones.

I am tremendously proud of Easthampton High School's academic achievements. Strong civic education is the foundation of our representative democracy and these students have exemplified the finest qualities of informed citizenship. I wish them the best of luck in the 25th Annual National "We the People" competition here in Washington DC this April.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment over President Obama's decision to block the Keystone XL Pipeline by rejecting an application to build and operate the oil pipeline across the U.S. and Canada border.

This is a major decision, and I think every American should be aware of the consequences. The Keystone Pipeline represents an opportunity to both increase supply of much-needed natural resources in our country and create tens-of-thousands of American jobs. Because the project crosses the U.S. border, a permit is required from President Obama's State Department.

Without that permit, we will not see the potential benefits—in terms of stabilized energy supplies or new jobs—that would result from the Pipeline.

The Keystone Pipeline project would have the capacity to deliver up to 900,000 barrels of

crude oil per day and would include more than 1,700 miles of pipeline. Estimates from TransCanada, the company that applied to construct the pipeline, projects more than 100,000 jobs could be created over the life of the project, including an estimated 20,000 immediate American jobs in construction and manufacturing.

Mr. Speaker, our energy policy is vitally important to our national security and our economic security. Oil accounts for 37 percent of U.S. energy demand, with 71 percent directed to fuels used in transportation. That is equally true of the mother who drives her children to school as it is of the business owner who operates a fleet of delivery vehicles. When the price of gasoline increases, Americans are hurt—and the price of gasoline increased 81 cents per gallon in 2011 alone.

That is why I support our "all of the above" approach to energy, which includes opening up new areas for American energy exploration, transitioning to renewable and alternative energy, and using more clean and reliable nuclear power.

In his State of the Union address, the President stated that "this country needs an all-out, all of the above strategy that develops every available source of American energy—a strategy that's cleaner, cheaper, and full of new jobs." In my opinion, his decision on the Keystone Pipeline is inconsistent with that statement.

I believe the Keystone Pipeline project has the potential to strengthen America's economy, reduce our dependence on oil from potentially hostile regions of the world, and create jobs. I voted in favor of the North American-Made Energy Security Act (H.R. 1938), legislation directing the President to issue a final order granting or denying the Keystone Pipeline permit by November 1, 2011.

Additionally, Congress passed H.R. 3765, the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-78) that was enacted into law on December 23, 2011. This Act, signed by the President, required the State Department to grant a permit within 60 days unless the President determined that the pipeline would not serve the national interest. I also voted in favor of this legislation.

Unfortunately, President Obama announced on January 17, 2011 that the administration will block the pipeline by denying the application permit. It has been more than three years since the application to build the Keystone XL pipeline was originally filed. The President had an opportunity to help create American jobs and reduce America's reliance on unstable foreign sources of oil, and he rejected it. The State Department announced that it did not have sufficient time to obtain the information necessary to determine if the project would serve the national interest. In truth, this project has been studied for many years. I ask, how does reducing reliance on Middle East oil while creating thousands of jobs not serve the national interest?

The door is now open for Canadian oil to go to China. Canada's Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, announced his "profound disappointment with the news." The Prime Minister expressed that he had hoped the project would continue, given the significant contribution it would make to the United States and Canada. While the Chinese government has ensured

its future supply of oil and other energy resources, the United States has rejected a new source of energy that was laid at our doorstep. Mr. Speaker, I ask, how does the fact that China will receive this energy supply not serve our national interest?

Mr. Speaker, I consider President Obama's decision a grave mistake and on behalf of the American people who want secure oil and new manufacturing jobs, I hope that Congress will continue to push him to reconsider this error in judgment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. ROSS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the University of South Florida (USF). USF has become an academic powerhouse not only in the State of Florida, but nationally as well. Boasting an enrollment of approximately thirty-seven thousand graduate and undergraduate students, USF has attracted top quality students from all over the world, making it a true model of diversity. And more students will be coming.

USF states that it offers more than two hundred programs for its students to choose from and has a library system with two and a half million volumes and six facilities. In 2010, according to the Intellectual Property Owners Association, USF ranked ninth world-wide among fourteen universities ranked among three-hundred organizations that earned the most patents in 2010. In addition to its top flight academic programs, USF has emerged as an athletic powerhouse. Its student-athletes compete at the highest levels of collegiate athletics, with some continuing their playing careers professionally. In fact, USF alum Jason Pierre-Paul, a Pro Bowl defensive end with the New York Giants, will be playing for a Super Bowl championship this Sunday.

Aside from the accomplishments I have just stated, the National Academy of Inventors notes that it was founded at USF in 2010. According to the Academy, it encourages intellectual property innovation and development, which contributes greatly to societal advancement. History has shown us that creative minds, such as the ones at USF, are often responsible for breakthroughs that change how we live. From Thomas Edison's light bulb to the Wright brothers' airplane, we need to continue cultivating today's young minds to be as bold as their predecessors. I am proud to say that USF's National Academy of Inventors is leading this charge.

The National Academy of Inventors will soon be holding a conference in Tampa in the USF Research Park from February 16-17th. I salute the achievements of the Academy to date, and look forward to what the future holds for these innovators. As a whole, USF continues to produce tremendous results. It can no longer be said that USF is emerging, rather it has arrived and it will continue to make Floridians proud. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing USF's exceptional achievements.

HONORING THE NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF INVENTORS**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Academy of Inventors, which was founded at the University of South Florida in Tampa in 2010. Working in collaboration with the university, the mission of the National Academy of Inventors is to recognize and encourage inventors, add to the visibility of innovation and technology stemming from the university, and to educate and encourage innovative students to create and patent inventions that are beneficial to all of society.

I am certainly proud of the research under way in my backyard at the University of South Florida. More importantly, their efforts are training our nation's future researchers and innovators to keep the United States on the cutting edge, particularly in the health field. In fact, USF was among 14 universities listed in the top 300 organizations worldwide to receive patents from the United States Patent and Trade Office in 2010.

Though USF houses the National Academy of Inventors, universities and nonprofit research institutions throughout the nation and world are also invited to form local chapters, and inventors affiliated with the academic community supporting the local chapter, who have had a patent issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, are eligible to join. Thus far, 29 local chapters have formed.

I truly applaud the work of the National Academy of Inventors for encouraging teachers, faculty, and students to push their research efforts and find new and better technology and solutions. I look forward to watching them continue to expand and set a national climate favorable to the research and entrepreneurship community.

ON REINTRODUCING THE WILDLIFE
VETERINARIANS EMPLOYMENT
AND TRAINING ACT (WILDLIFE
VET ACT)**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Wildlife Veterinarians Employment and Training Act (Wildlife VET Act). This legislation will develop affordable and well qualified opportunities for individuals who are seeking to become wildlife veterinarians, spur job growth, and promote robust public health policy.

Wildlife veterinarians are the primary source of essential health care for and management of wild animals in their natural habitat and in captivity. Not only do they preserve natural resources and animal lives, but they help protect human health by preventing, detecting, and responding to exotic and dangerous diseases.

With the intensification of globalization and climate change, along with a growing interface between humans, livestock, and wildlife, the threat posed by emerging infectious diseases to humans and wildlife keeps increasing. Con-

trolling pandemic and large-scale outbreaks of disease has become more problematic.

Furthermore, wildlife veterinarians have the resources and expertise necessary to help respond to environmental disasters and address short-term and long-term impacts on wildlife and their habitats. Wildlife veterinarians have proven to be essential to the rescue and rehabilitation efforts in the Gulf of Mexico region following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that began on April 20, 2010.

In spite of these threats to both wildlife and public health, the United States faces a shortage of positions for wildlife veterinarians. In addition, veterinarian graduates owe an average of \$130,000 in student loans, and salaries for wildlife professionals are relatively low compared to companion animal medicine. Lower salaries, combined with high educational debt and the small number of positions available, discourage students from becoming wildlife veterinarians. The number of practical trainings and formal educational programs specializing in wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine are also insufficient.

My bill will directly address these issues which dissuade veterinarians from practicing wildlife medicine. It will contribute to the national job creation effort by funding new positions for wildlife veterinarians and will ensure that veterinary students find jobs upon graduation. The bill will also limit the amount of educational debt for students while providing incentives to study and practice wildlife veterinary medicine through the establishment of scholarships and loan repayment programs. Lastly, my legislation will advance education by helping schools develop pilot curricula specializing in wildlife veterinary medicine and by expanding the number of practical training programs available to students.

Mr. Speaker, we have reached a point in our history when we cannot ignore the importance of protecting America's wildlife. Wild animals are a very important part of our commonly held natural resources and contribute to maintaining a balanced ecosystem. With an increasing number of endangered species, the introduction of invasive non-native species, and more infectious disease threats, wildlife veterinarians must be placed at the core of our efforts and be given the resources and recognition necessary to protect both animal and human lives.

I urge my colleagues to extend a helping hand to America's veterinarians by supporting this important piece of legislation.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF ELLEN BERNSTEIN, NA-
TIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE LA-
DIES AUXILIARY AND JEWISH
WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Elaine Bernstein, National President of the Ladies Auxiliary Department of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV), on the occasion of her official visit to the dedicated members of the Department of Florida Ladies Auxiliary. The gathering

of these dedicated advocates for our nation's veterans is truly a cause for celebration.

Jewish Americans have a long, rich history of service in our armed forces. Over half a million Jewish Americans fought for the United States in World War II, and 11,000 of them perished while fighting for this country. Jewish Americans have served in Korea, Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, and countless other missions around the globe. They are among the brave young men and women who served in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks, and who are serving in Afghanistan as we speak. For the past 83 years, JWV's mission has been to support for these heroes, strengthen the American values of liberty and equality, and to combat bigotry and anti-Semitism.

Elaine Bernstein has played a vital role in advancing JWV's mission across the country. She began her career of volunteerism at the tender age of four, when she became a mascot for her local Auxiliary junior division. After a lifetime of dedicated service, Elaine was elected President of JWV in August of 2011. I am humbled to welcome this accomplished leader to Florida's 19th district, which I am proud to say is home to one of our nation's largest chapters of the Jewish War Veterans of America.

It is a privilege to represent members of the Department of Florida Ladies Auxiliary, who share the belief that in America, no veteran should become a forgotten hero. Because of their work with the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, our people will continue to honor the contributions of the Jewish American men and women who for centuries have not only shaped our national culture, but defended our people in times of great challenge.

BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, over 3 million cases of child abuse are reported every year in the United States; some reports involve multiple children. These children are 11 times more likely to be arrested for criminal behavior as juveniles, and they are 2.7 times more likely to be arrested for violent and criminal charges as an adult. One-third of these same children are likely to grow up to abuse or neglect their own children. Child abuse is an ugly reality in the fabric of our society, and abuse against children is among the most heinous crimes committed in our nation. I'd like to honor a group of individuals who are dedicated to establishing security for these children, while demonstrating a new standard of sacrificial giving.

Bikers Against Child Abuse, BACA was founded by John Paul Lily, a clinical sociologist. Mr. Lily wanted to bring an abused eight year old boy out of his shell and succeeded by bringing him into his circle of motorcycle friends. This group of unconventional child advocates allowed for this young boy to experience a second chance at an unhindered childhood. Soon, Mr. Lily was inspired to organize a ride to visit mistreated children and to welcome them into the biker "family." This inaugural ride had 27 riders, but word spread

quickly and the movement evolved. Today, this group is in full operation across the country and has chapters in 5 other countries.

Local chapters work largely through other child advocacy organizations to launch their "missions," which help children break the chains of abuse by moving beyond the limits of fear from past mistreatment.

A typical "mission" for these children's rights advocates begins with a dispatch from an established organization, with the pre-screened verification in the BACA system. The first meeting is similar to the inaugural model in which local chapter members will ride over to welcome the child into the "family." These knights on shiny motorcycles become a much needed lifeline for these frightened children. There are two members of the group that are assigned to the child as consistent sources of stability. These pioneering bikers then become visible in any area that the child may need them ranging from day-to-day errands to court appearances. These children no longer have to live in fear of their abuser because they are empowered through the newly formed camaraderie with their family at BACA.

The organization's creed is a great testament to the outstanding make up of these individuals. In this creed, they denounce the need for popularity or position, they refuse the right to be right, praised, or recognized. Instead they, "won't give up, shut up, let up, until they have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and showed up for all wounded children. They must go until they drop, ride until they give out, and work till He stops me." These men and women are crusaders that provide attention to a much needed and too often forgotten cause. I commend the selfless action of this organization and celebrate the life changing difference that they've made in the lives of children.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE VIRGIL
PITTMAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice with many across South Alabama who are mourning the loss of a remarkable jurist who left an indelible mark on our community. Judge Virgil Pittman recently passed away at the age of 95.

Born in 1916 in Coffee County in Southeast Alabama where he picked cotton as a young man, the future state and federal judge spent his life devoted to fairness for all.

Before he began his legal journey, Judge Pittman graduated from Enterprise High School, the University of Alabama and the University of Alabama Law School. Upon completion of his studies, he served as a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. After three years with the Bureau, he answered his nation's call to service in World War II, donning the uniform of a United States Navy Lieutenant Junior Grade.

Returning stateside after the war, Judge Pittman practiced law in Gadsden, Alabama, for six years before assuming the post of Judge of Alabama's Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, a position he held for 16 years. In 1966,

Judge Pittman exchanged his State Circuit judgeship robe for one on the federal bench after he was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson. His career as a federal judge encompassed service in the Middle and Southern Districts of Alabama, spanning 40 years.

In 1971, Judge Pittman became the chief judge of the federal court in Mobile. He was never one to shy away from taking tough positions that he believed were right. This made him unpopular with those who opposed his strong stance against Mobile's then citywide commission form of government. Judge Pittman believed the old system was unfair to non whites and those without political influence. He stood his ground and in the end prevailed.

There were times when Judge Pittman's rulings drew criticism from local politicians and the press, but his determination never wavered. The Mobile Press-Register recently editorialized that Pittman brought many changes to the city, noting he "changed Mobile for the better and forever."

If Judge Pittman was an outspoken advocate for civil rights and equal justice for our community he was also a man solely devoted to public service. In all, he sat on the bench for 55 years, taking great pride in his vocation and seeking little reward other than the knowledge that he did what was right.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I would like to extend my condolences to his wife, Lily Lea, their children, Karen, Lee, Joe, Walter, and Lea, and their many grandchildren and friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA FOR THEIR
COMMITMENT TO INNOVATION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important contribution United States educational institutions have made to innovation and discovery and to congratulate the 13 American universities who were on the list of the top 300 organizations to receive patents from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in 2010.

I am honored to represent one of these universities, the University of South Florida, USF, whose researchers and students were awarded 83 patents that year. Founded in 1956, USF is currently comprised of four member institutions, located in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee, and Lakeland, FL. One of Florida's leading academic institutions, USF is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in the top tier of research universities, a distinction attained by only 2.2 percent of all universities.

The patents awarded to USF in 2010 cover a wide range of disciplines and could potentially lead to better health care, new fuel cell technologies, improved air purification systems and even future amusement park rides. USF also distinguishes itself as the second most efficient university in research expenditures per patent. This means that USF effectively uses their limited research funding in the development of new patentable products. The University's focus on quality research is a major

component in the growth of new industries in the Tampa Bay area and I am glad that their important work is being recognized.

USF has shown a commitment to encouraging innovation not only on their campus, but also throughout the academic community and, in 2010, founded the National Academy of Inventors, NAI. Upon founding, 131 members joined as Charter Members and since then 24 affiliate chapters have been founded at higher learning institutions around the world, with over 500 individual members. The researchers at our colleges and universities often do not receive the attention they deserve and this non-profit organization works to recognize researchers at universities and their affiliated institutions who translate their findings into inventions that may benefit society.

Since the establishment of our Nation, the United States has recognized the important role that innovation plays in growth and development. Our Nation's Founders were wise enough to include protection for intellectual property rights in Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution and every day new advances are being made throughout the country that may one day improve our quality of life, spur economic growth, and lead to new technologies. We must continue to support institutions like USF that promote and encourage advances in research, especially when it leads to the awarding of new patents.

I am privileged to represent the students, teachers, and faculty at USF and extend my congratulations to the University's current and future patent holders. I ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing their achievements and wish USF continued success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES BELL
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize one of my constituents from Chicago, James Bell, as he retires from The Boeing Company after 40 years of service to Boeing and its heritage companies. James is retiring as corporate president and chief financial officer of Chicago-based Boeing, the world's largest aerospace company and America's biggest manufacturing exporter. He is the highest-ranking African-American employee in the company's nearly 100 years of history. His legacy at Boeing transcends race and reflects a record of accomplishment, service, and leadership that came during a time of significant change. During Bell's career, Boeing expanded from being primarily a commercial airplane manufacturer to a company with a diverse portfolio of commercial, military, and civil products and businesses. Boeing's workforce, which includes over 170,000 employees, also has become more diverse, and James helped to make it so. James played a critical role in shaping this diverse workforce, sharing his life experiences, modeling outstanding leadership and mentoring others to become the leaders of tomorrow.

James Bell grew up in south central Los Angeles, the youngest of four children of Clyde

Bell, a postman, and Mamie, a county government clerk. During Bell's junior year at Jefferson High School in 1965, the Watts neighborhood erupted in rioting. Though sympathetic to the frustration and despair that sparked the rioting, James reacted to the sad destruction by committing himself to self improvement. He realized that education was the path to future success. In his senior year at Jefferson, Bell was elected student body president in part due to his interest in helping the school retain students and convincing them of the value of education. James studied hard and earned a partial scholarship to California State University at Los Angeles, where he majored in accounting.

James has come a long way since his childhood, but he has stayed close to his roots and to his extended, close-knit family. In his first management job, he learned that he would be supervising several women, all of whom were older than him, so he reached out to his mother for advice. "Always respect them as you would me, and you'll be all right," she counseled him. Following that advice served him well. Bell began his career as a staff accountant with Rockwell in 1972, after earning his bachelor's degree in accounting. He rose steadily, serving in positions of increasing responsibility including manager of accounting and, later, director of business management of the Space Station Electric Power System before becoming vice president in 1996, when Boeing acquired Rockwell's aerospace business. As vice president of contracts and pricing for Boeing Space and Communications, Bell oversaw policy direction, acquisition reform, new business opportunities and program performance, and he also served in business management roles for the International Space Station program.

James was named chief financial officer of Boeing in 2003, a position he held until his retirement. In addition to his CFO duties, he served as chief executive officer of the company for several months in 2005 following the resignation of Boeing's top leader. As the chief financial officer, James was responsible for overall financial management of the company, including oversight of business performance, financial reporting and transparency, and multiple corporate functions including for example Controller, Treasury, Investor Relations, Planning and Contracts and Pricing. Under James' watchful eye and steady hand, Boeing's annual revenues have grown to nearly \$70 billion. While his leadership will be missed, James will remain active in Chicago, serving on the board of directors of J. P. Morgan, Dow Chemical Company, and The Chicago Urban League.

I am honored to celebrate the achievements of Mr. Bell and am hopeful for a prosperous and active retirement.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 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 \$15,330,778,119,850.60. We've added \$10,529,372,944,556.32 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, February 1, I inadvertently missed the vote on rollcall 20 (H.R. 3567, the Welfare Integrity Now for Children and Families Act). If I had been present I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 20, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATING THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Humane Society of Southern Arizona, which provides services in my district, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) for their efforts to help save the lives of shelter animals in the Tucson area. The ASPCA has awarded a \$10,000 grant to The Humane Society of Southern Arizona to support their hard work and innovation in finding homes for animals.

The Humane Society of Southern Arizona is one of 56 animal rescue organizations nationwide that are receiving grant funding for the ASPCA's "Mega Match-a-thon" event, which will take place this spring. The ASPCA is granting nearly half a million dollars to support a host of large-scale adoption events nationwide in an effort to save more lives of shelter animals.

Over its 145 year history, it has been a priority of the ASPCA to help create a nation of humane communities; places where homeless animals are not killed simply because of the lack of space or resources. The Humane Society of Southern Arizona shares this commitment to the humane treatment of animals and stands as an example for communities and shelters nationwide.

On behalf of the citizens and animals of Arizona, I am proud to congratulate both The Humane Society of Southern Arizona and the ASPCA for their continued commitment to protecting animals.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND RETIREMENT SECURITY ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1173) to repeal the CLASS program:

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1173. While my Republican colleagues see H.R. 1173 as a solution to the Department of Health and Human Services' letter to Congress about the CLASS Act, I strongly contend that repeal is not the answer. According to the Department's announcement, there is no viable way forward to implement the CLASS Act at this time but families impacted by accidents and illnesses are also without a viable way forward to meet long-term care needs. The cost of long-term care can be extremely taxing. In 2010, the private-pay rate for a semiprivate room in a nursing home averaged \$205 per day, or about \$75,000 per year. In comparison, the median total household income for elderly Social Security beneficiaries in 2008 was \$20,000 per year. The CLASS Act was established as part of the Affordable Care Act in response to the growing number of citizens with long-term health care needs and the repeal of this act would only impose enormous financial, emotional and physical burdens on these citizens. This is an issue that affects every American family. No one regardless of class, race or creed is exempt from a potential accident or illness requiring long-term care. It is estimated that 15 million Americans will need some kind of long-term care by 2020, but fewer than three percent have a long-term care policy. We should not abandon this effort, rather Congress should come together to find a sustainable solution to address this challenge.

CASE KEENUM—QUARTERBACK

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there are entire professions devoted to analyzing football statistics. Yards after catch, passer rating, and value over replacement are just a few of the endless minutia studied at a scholar-like level. But at the end of the day, the only statistic that matters is winning. Today I am proud to pay tribute to one of the greatest winners in college football history, record-breaking quarterback Case Keenum from the University of Houston Cougars.

Case was born in Abilene, TX, with football in his blood. His father played for and would later go on to coach McMurry University in Abilene. Abilene is in the heart of west Texas—where football—especially high school football—is regarded by some as almost a religion. I attended Abilene Christian University and witnessed the local high school teams play hard on the gridiron during "Friday Night Lights."

Case Keenum won 31 games starting for Wylie High School, including the 2004 Class 3A Division 1 State Championship, Wylie's first and only time to win it all. He also earned varsity letters in baseball and track. After listening to other schools, he chose to attend the University of Houston.

Case was entangled in a competition for the starting position in 2007 after redshirting his freshman year. Keenum shared time and played in all 13 games that year, starting in 7. He won the starting position by the end of the season. It was his team now and he took the opportunity and ran. The 2008 season, Case's first full year as a starter, was a monumental one. He became the second quarterback in school history to pass for over 5,000 yards. The team beat two nationally ranked opponents and won its first bowl game in over 25 years. Case's star was on the rise and the University of Houston was back in the national conversation.

After all the success in 2008, the lights would be brighter on Case and the Cougars in 2009 than ever before, and they rose to the occasion. They defeated the then-#5 ranked Oklahoma State Cowboys, which propelled the team in the AP rankings for the first time in over 20 years, and also upset Texas Tech and Mississippi State. They finished 10-4 and as Conference USA Western Division Co-Champions. Case had another impressive year, finishing with over 5,800 yards of total offense and 48 touchdowns.

2010 was to be the year that Case broke numerous NCAA Division 1 passing records and put the Houston Cougars into the Bowl Championship Series picture. The team was nationally ranked in several preseason polls and Case was awarded the Conference USA Preseason Player of the Year. However, just three games into the season, Keenum tore his ACL. His season was done, and the team finished at 5-7. This was not the end that Case or Coach Kevin Sumlin and the Cougars envisioned.

Case was awarded a rare 6th year of eligibility for the 2011 season, allowing him to return to Houston and complete his college journey on his terms. No one could have predicted how successful Case and the team would be. The team once again started the season nationally ranked and would go on to finish 12-0 in the regular season. This was the first time in the 66-year history of the program that the team finished the regular season undefeated and untied. They closed out the year with a victory over the Penn State Nittany Lions in the TicketCity Bowl and a ranking of 18th in the AP Poll. The Houston Cougars led the nation with 8,387 yards of

total offense while Case also led the nation with an impressive 5,631 yards of total passing.

Case's career numbers are staggering. He holds nearly every NCAA career passing record, including passing yardage, total offense, touchdown passes, total touchdowns, and completions. He won 41 of the 57 games that he participated. He won the Conference USA Most Valuable Player award twice, as he also did the Sammy Baugh Trophy, awarded to the nation's top college passer. This weekend he will be one of twelve players chosen to highlight their skills at the Super Bowl Sunday All Star Challenge in front of a worldwide audience.

Case's success was not limited to the gridiron. He was named to the Conference USA Academic All-Conference selection twice, thanks to his 3.8 GPA earned while working towards his graduate degree in Sports Administration. He was a five time Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll member.

Every so often, a player comes around that redefines what it means to be a leader. Thanks to his internal fortitude, Case Keenum played an important role in the rebirth of the University of Houston Cougar football team. He has shown that hard work and perseverance can turn a pretender into a contender. I proudly congratulate Case on all of his accomplishments and wish him the best of luck in the future.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO LIONEL WINSTON
"RED" NOONAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to former Mobile County Probate Judge and former State Senator Lionel "Red" Noonan, a much beloved citizen of South Alabama, who recently passed away at the age of 86.

When we think of a public servant, we often have a mental image of someone who dutifully performs their job over many years for the good of the people. While there are many public servants in our land, few can match the level of selfless dedication of Judge Red Noonan. He possessed an indomitable enthusiasm for life and for helping others. Always wearing a smile and always looking to make things better for our community, that is how he will be remembered.

A native of New Orleans, Judge Noonan soon made his way to Mobile where he attended Murphy High School. He distinguished himself early on as a gifted athlete, participating in an AAU tumbling competition at the 1934 Chicago World's Fair, and later stood out as a star player on the Murphy High football team. He was named to the All-City Team and Murphy's Hall of Fame.

Upon graduation in 1942, he joined the Navy, serving his country during World War II. After returning home from the war, he attended the University of Alabama where once again he put his athletic talents to good use. He was selected as starting fullback for the Crimson Tide for four seasons, and played in both the 1946 Rose Bowl and the 1948 Sugar Bowl.

After earning his bachelor's degree in 1950, Judge Noonan also pursued and received a law degree from the University of Alabama. He accomplished this goal while also serving as the University's freshman football coach. He later earned a Masters in Economics at Alabama.

After completing his education, he worked from 1953 to 1980 at Merchant's National Bank in Mobile where he served as a Vice President and Trust Officer. He ran successfully for Alabama State Senate District 24, holding office from 1971 to 1978. In 1983, he was elected Probate Judge of Mobile County, serving until his retirement in 2001.

During his public service, Judge Noonan was instrumental in the creation of the University of South Alabama College of Medicine and the construction of the Theodore Industrial Canal and the Alabama State Docks Bulk Material Handling Plant.

He didn't stop there, however. He served on numerous local and state organizations, including as President of the Alabama Probate Judge's Association, President of the Trust Division of the Alabama Bankers Association, President of the Estate Planning Council of Mobile, Member of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, member of the Mobile Racing Commission and President of the University of Alabama "A" Club, to name but a few. He was named to the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame in 2001.

To say Mobile will miss Judge Noonan's tireless leadership and exuberance for community service is an understatement. On behalf of the people of South Alabama I wish to extend condolences to his beloved wife of 61 years, Ruby Noonan of Fairhope, their children, Ruth, Rusty, Kelly, and grandchildren and many friends. You are all in our prayers.