

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING HERB J. WESSON, JR.

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, during Black History Month, I rise today to honor Los Angeles City Councilman Herb Wesson, Jr., who has built a ground breaking career of public service at the city, county, and state levels of government in the State of California.

Mr. Wesson made a significant contribution to contemporary Black History when he served as Chief of Staff in the office of Los Angeles County 2nd District Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, the first—and only—African American female ever elected to the LA County Board of Supervisors.

His first elected office came in 1998, when he was elected to the California State Assembly and was re-elected in 2000 and 2002. His colleagues in the California State Assembly—by a unanimous vote—elected Mr. Wesson the second African American in the 162-year history of the State of California to serve as Speaker of the California State Assembly.

After he left the Assembly, he was elected to represent the 10th Council District in the City of Los Angeles in 2005, capturing over 80 percent of the vote. His City Council colleagues called him “a consummate bridge builder.” Last year, he was elected by his City Council colleagues—once again unanimously—to serve as President of the Los Angeles City Council, becoming the first African American to do so since Los Angeles was incorporated in 1850.

On January 3, 2012, City Council President Wesson took office and presided over his inaugural meeting of the city council. My friend and former colleague, Herb, personifies the storied and triumphant history of the African American community not just in Los Angeles, but around our great Nation.

**CIVILIAN PROPERTY
REALIGNMENT ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1734) to decrease the deficit by realigning, consolidating, selling, disposing, and improving the efficiency of federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, while I agree that the federal government must find a way to dispose of unused federal government property properly, I voted against H.R. 1734, because this legislation turns the federal government into a worse partner than it already is.

There is a way to save federal government dollars and reduce our property holdings while

working in cooperation with local governments and the local population. Rather than working with local governments and respecting the plans they have implemented, this legislation ignores plans that are already in place, and does not give community leaders a chance to participate in any part of the property realignment. Additionally, the legislation overrides important environmental regulation that has helped protect our communities for decades.

It is frustrating that my colleagues refused to work in a bipartisan fashion, or even to work with local governments, to develop a better way to dispose of excess federal property. I look forward to working with my colleagues to find a solution we can all agree on.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DICK MONTEITH

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved leader in the Stanislaus County community, Mr. Dick Monteith, on his 80th birthday.

Dick Monteith was born in Los Banos, California, spent his early years attending Merced and Stanislaus County public schools, and graduated from Turlock High School. He continued his education at Menlo College and Stanford University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology.

Soon after graduation, Dick started a life-long career in agri-business as a partner in Monteith Tractor/Truck Company. He subsequently served in the Marketing Department of Gallo Wines, and then as a Sales Representative for Weyerhaeuser Company. He retired as General Manager of Sales and Distribution for Middleton Packaging prior to seeking his first elective office.

He was elected to the California State Senate representing the 12th District in 1994 and then again in 1998. In 2006, Dick was elected to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors. During his time on the Board, he witnessed the collapse of the housing market, which caused a reduction in property taxes. The county was faced with the worst budget crisis since the Great Depression. Yet, even during the darkest days, the Board of Supervisors accomplished many projects, including the Crows Landing-West Park Project, Federally Qualified Healthcare Look Alike, New Residency Program, and the sale of the Behavioral Health Center to DMC.

Some of the Capital Projects that have been completed during his tenure include the completion of Gallo Center for the Arts, the Empire Pool Project, the Expansion of the West Modesto Clinic, a new Animal Shelter, the Salida Library Remodel Projects and the ground breaking for the Juvenile Commitment Facility. In addition, he has attended 189 Board meetings, considered 4,331 Resolutions and served as Chairman of the Board in 2011.

Dick and his wife Jeanine make their home in Modesto. He has two sons, three step-daughters, and four grandchildren.

Dick is a member of Christ Community Church and serves on the boards of Modesto Gospel Mission, Youth for Christ and Stanislaus County Prayer Breakfast.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dick Monteith for his unwavering leadership and recognizing his accomplishments and contributions. Dick serves as an example of excellence to those in our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on February 3, 2012, I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 31, 32 and 33. Had I been present I would have voted “no” on rollcall vote 31, on the motion to recommit with instructions for H.R. 3578, “yea” on rollcall vote 32, passage of H.R. 3578, and “yea” on rollcall vote 33, on agreeing to the conference report for H.R. 658.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
MARRIAGE WEEK

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Marriage Week, which begins today and concludes on Valentine’s Day. I am a strong supporter of traditional marriage, which is the basis of the American family. The purpose of National Marriage Week is to encourage spouses to rededicate themselves to each other and towards strengthening their marriages. Strong marriages allow children to flourish and provide a safe structured environment for emotional, spiritual, personal and professional development.

The family is the cornerstone of our society and I encourage all Americans to take this week to focus on their spouse and commit to strengthening their marriage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on February 6, 2012, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 34 and 35 due to commitments in my district. Had I been present I would have voted “no” on rollcall vote 34 and “yes” on rollcall vote 35.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING FAMILY CENTRAL

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of Family Central, Inc.

Since its founding in 1971, Family Central has played a pivotal role in the lives of South Florida families by providing quality, safe, and affordable child care. By working at the local level, Family Central serves as an essential community partner in improving the lives of the constituents of Florida's 20th Congressional district and beyond. Throughout our region, Family Central has served approximately one million children since its founding.

I applaud Family Central's work to ensure that families in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties have access to excellent child care. As a working mother, I understand the struggles that working families go through to provide and care for their children. With the number of parents working full time on the rise, more and more families are fully engaged in the daily juggling act of making ends meet and caring for their children.

Family Central provides safe and affordable child care to over one hundred thousand South Florida children annually. The role they play is critical to ensuring families do not have to choose between being able to afford child care and being able to trust that their child is safe.

Family Central also provides training to childcare practitioners, giving them new skills to help them create a learning environment that supports a child's emotional, cognitive, and developmental needs. In the years since Family Central was created, research has reinforced that early learning is an integral part of successful child development and reducing achievement gaps in our educational systems.

This wonderful organization not only helps provide care for children when parents are working, but it also helps parents to become better and more effective caregivers for their children at home. They are one of only ten groups in the country identified as a Nurturing Parenting Affiliate. By helping parents to nurture their children, Family Central helps the families of South Florida become and remain strong, stable, and united.

The difficult economic conditions of the past few years have been especially tough for working families across the country, and particularly in South Florida. Now more than ever, the essential services provided by community partners like Family Central are critical to giving children in our community an environment in which to thrive.

Congratulations to Family Central on their 40th anniversary—and thank you to everyone who has made it possible. I commend their service to our great state, to South Florida and to the families and children of Florida's 20th Congressional District.

I look forward to more great achievements from Family Central as it continues its long tradition of providing quality, accessible and affordable services to South Florida's families.

HONORING THE HONOREES OF THE SEBASTICOOK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recipients of the 2012 Annual Sebacook Valley Chamber of Commerce Awards. For years, the Chamber has been at the forefront of business networking and development across 12 towns in the Newport, Pittsfield and Dexter areas.

Each year, the Sebacook Valley Chamber of Commerce honors local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy economic environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity and prosperity in Maine.

This year's award recipients include George and Linda Lougee for the Joyce Packard Community Spirit Award and C.M. Almy and Sons Inc. for the Business of the Year for 2012. Since they first came to Newport in 1999, the Lougees have devoted themselves to helping the area flourish. Their efforts to arrange Sparkle, the Chamber's and the Region's largest fund raiser, have generated \$78,000 for local organizations over the last six years. Additionally, C.M. Almy and Sons Inc. has manufactured church vestments, furnishing, and accessories since 1892. This third-generation family owned business is being recognized for community support in the region.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and to Sebacook Valley, Maine is a better place to live and to do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Sebacook Valley Chamber of Commerce and these individuals on their outstanding service and achievement.

WELFARE INTEGRITY NOW FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, last week I voted against the so called "Welfare Integrity Now for Children and Families Act of 2011," H.R. 3567.

H.R. 3567 would require states to prevent the use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program benefits in a liquor store, casino, or strip club.

This bill is being disguised as one that would ensure taxpayer dollars are being appropriately spent. In reality, this bill is being brought to the floor to demean individuals who rely on TANF benefits and to imply that they are immoral.

It is ludicrous to suggest that there is a national problem necessitating that Congress stop TANF recipients from spending their money at strip clubs.

TANF is a long-standing program, previously known as Aid for Families of Dependent Children, that is one of the most important parts of our national safety net and that keeps almost 2 million families from the brink of starvation.

What is missing from this bill is any discussion that in many underserved neighborhoods, the closest ATM is located in one of these establishments. Preventing the use of TANF cards at these establishments could result in TANF beneficiaries not being able to access their benefits. Instead of debating how Congress could pass laws that would help with economic redevelopment in underserved communities, we are spending our time vilifying individuals receiving benefits and then sanctimoniously taking credit for preventing any misuse. This is part of the message of those who seek to demean the President by calling him the food stamp President.

Further, this bill would cost money—not save it. In New Jersey, it is estimated that this bill would cost \$100,000 to implement and Governor Christie's office wrote to express their concerns about the bill.

For a bill that is supposed to be ensuring that taxpayer dollars are being well spent, this bill would hinder individuals from obtaining their legitimate benefits and cost states more money. Every Member of Congress should have opposed this bill which was more offensive than silly.

H.R. 1173 is another attempt by the Republicans to embarrass individuals who are on hard economic times instead of helping them find a job.

HONORING ANDREW G. ROMAN

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American and a proud son of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Andrew G. Roman, known as Andy, died peacefully January 4, 2012 at the age of 87.

Born to Greek immigrants on June 27, 1924, he was raised in Pittsburgh. By all accounts, Andy was a true patriot. During World War II, he served as a combat soldier in Italy with the 88th Infantry Division—Blue Devils, receiving two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars. After his honorable discharge, he returned to marry his childhood sweetheart Tresa and started his aerospace career working on the DC-6 and Harry Truman's Sacred Cow, with Douglas Aircraft.

Traveling extensively throughout the world during his time with McDonnell-Douglas, he worked on many programs critical to the security and technological pre-eminence of the United States, including the Thor, Delta, Nike Zeus (based on Kwajalein in the South Pacific), Apollo, and SkyLab programs. Andy completed his 35 year-career as the Director of Factory Operations for McDonnell Douglas in Titusville, Florida on the Dragon and Tomahawk missiles. Throughout his career, he was honored to work with many wonderful colleagues and friends who represented the McDonnell-Douglas family, an organization he truly revered.

Andy is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Tresa, and an extensive family that includes four grandchildren and seven great-

grandchildren. I know that many of his family still reside in our great city of Pittsburgh.

Andy's family and all those who knew him are exceedingly proud of his fine career and service to our country. I want to join with them today by expressing my best wishes for Andy's family as we honor Andrew G. Roman—an American patriot.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed three votes the afternoon of February 3, 2012, which included rollcall votes 31, 32, and 33.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 31, the Motion to Recommit Representative WOODALL's (GA-07) H.R. 3578.

If I had been present, I would have voted against rollcall vote 32, final passage of Representative WOODALL's (GA-07) H.R. 3578.

If I had been present, I would have voted against rollcall vote 33, the conference report for Representative MICA's (FL-07) H.R. 658.

RECOGNIZING MRS. GERTRUDE L. MALLETT FOR HER UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO HORTICULTURE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a valued member of our society, Mrs. Gertrude L. Mallett. Mrs. Mallett is a conservationist and agriculturalist from Hinds County, Mississippi. Her wisdom and sincere affection for everyone leaves everlasting impressions.

Born December 18, 1919, she is the widow of Frank Mallett and mother to their six children. Mr. and Mrs. Mallett believed in God, family, and hard work and raised their children to believe in such.

The Mallett family is proprietor of roughly 200 acres of land in Hinds County, Mississippi, where they raise and harvest cattle, corn and cotton.

Up until 1995, when Mrs. Mallett obtained her General Education Diploma from Hinds Community College in 1995 at the age of 75, she had only attained an 8th grade education.

Today, at 92 years of age, Mrs. Mallett remains active; she advises the day-to-day farm operations of their family farm in addition to maintaining her annual garden. Mrs. Mallett is an all around craftsman and self-taught ceramicist. She crafts quilts and crochets in addition to other handiworks.

Mrs. Mallett is a servant to God and faithful steward of Saint John's Missionary Baptist Church. She taught Sunday school for over 30 years, served as the church secretary for more than 50 years and still remains active in the church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Gertrude L. Mallett for her unwavering commitment to horticulture.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH RECOGNIZING THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENTS OF HAROLD GEORGE BELAFONTE, JR.

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of National Black History Month and to recognize the lifetime achievements of my good friend, Harold "Harry" George Belafonte, Jr., an American and International Hero. Black History Month is an appropriate time to pay homage to Harry Belafonte and his amazing, incredibly impressive, inspiring and historic renowned career, which began at the age of 19 in the United States Navy during World War II. After taking advantage of the G.I. Bill, his career soared as an actor, musician, singer, producer, and civil rights and humanitarian activist. Due to Harry Belafonte's lifetime achievements our nation and the world are far better.

After the Great War, Harry attended and graduated from The New School for Social Research in New York City. Harry began appearing in jazz clubs, cabarets, and soon began recording his wonderful pop, folk, and world music albums. His acting career took off after his 1953 film debut in *Bright Road*. Many movies and performances later, Harry Belafonte received a Tony Award nomination for his Broadway performance in *John Murray Anderson's Almanac*. Although he was acknowledged for his talent, it wasn't until he played a lead role in the film *Carmen* that he became a true star. Harry was able to use his new popularity to boost his album sales and create a need in the United States for Caribbean music that had lacked before. He then went on to win an Emmy for his special *Tonight with Harry Belafonte*, and was bestowed the honor of first African American producer.

With Paul Robeson as his inspiration, Harry took art and activism to new levels. During his 43 years of fame, Belafonte worked against social injustice. Throughout the civil rights movement, he advised and served as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s confidant and he worked to provide for King's family. His dedication led Harry to be blacklisted during the McCarthy era, like many other civil rights activists. He bailed King out of the Birmingham City Jail and raised thousands of dollars to release other civil rights protesters. Harry managed to mobilize the Hollywood community, finance Freedom Rides, support voter registration drives, and help to organize the March on Washington in 1963, where he delivered an inspiring speech. Harry went on to serve in President John Fitzgerald Kennedy's administration, as cultural advisor to the Peace Corps.

A true humanitarian Harry Belafonte is best known for his landmark music collaboration, "We Are the World," which joined many musicians—including songwriters and producers Michael Jackson, Lionel Richie, Quincy Jones and Michael Omartian—together. USA for Africa was able to use this song to help raise millions of dollars to help relieve famine in Ethiopia. Harry continued his work by becoming UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador in 1986. Harry carries on his incredible work by sup-

porting causes such as HIV/AIDS and cancer research and educating children.

Harry was an outspoken critic of apartheid in South Africa, and he and Arthur Ashe Co-chaired Artists and Athletes Against Apartheid, which played a major role in international sports boycott against South Africa. In 1988, Harry released his first album of original material in over a decade, *Paradise in Gazankulu*. The album contains ten protest songs against the South African former Apartheid policy. He was the Master of Ceremonies at a reception honoring African National Congress President Oliver Tambo at Roosevelt House, Hunter College, in New York City. The reception was held by the American Committee on Africa, ACOA, and The Africa Fund. Today, Harry is a current board member of the TransAfrica Forum and the Institute for Policy Studies.

Following his appointment Harry traveled to Dakar, Senegal, where he served as chairman of the International Symposium of Artists and Intellectuals for African Children. He also helped to raise funds, alongside other artists in the largest concert ever held in sub-Saharan Africa. In 1994 he went on a mission to Rwanda and launched a media campaign to raise awareness of the needs of Rwandan children. In 2001 he went to South Africa to support the campaign against HIV/AIDS. In 2002, Africare awarded him the Bishop John T. Walker Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award for his efforts to assist Africa. In 2004 Harry went to Kenya to stress the importance of educating children in the region. Harry has also been involved in prostate cancer advocacy since 1996, when he was diagnosed and successfully treated for the disease.

On June 27, 2006, Harry was the recipient of the BET Humanitarian Award at the 2006 BET Awards. He was named one of nine 2006 Impact Award recipients by AARP The Magazine. On October 19, 2007, Harry represented UNICEF on Norwegian television to support the annual telethon—TV Aksjonen—in support of that charity and helped raise a world record of \$10 per inhabitant of Norway.

Harry is additionally known for his visit to Cuba which helped ensure hip-hop's place in Cuban society. According to Geoffrey Baker's article "Hip hop, Revolucion! Nationalizing Rap in Cuba." Harry, in 1999 met with representatives of the rap community immediately before meeting with Fidel Castro. This meeting resulted in Castro's personal approval of the incorporation of rap into his country's culture. In a 2003 interview Harry reflected upon this meeting's influence:

"When I went back to Havana a couple years later, the people in the hip-hop community came to see me and we hung out for a bit. They thanked me profusely and I said, 'Why?' and they said, 'Because your little conversation with Fidel and the Minister of Culture on hip-hop led to there being a special division within the ministry and we've got our own studio.'"

On October 17, 2011, HBO Films released the documentary, *Sing Your Song*, which details a close look at the life of a patriot to the last and a champion for worldwide human rights. Told from Harry's point of view, the film charts his life from a boy born in New York and raised in Jamaica, who returns to Harlem in his early teens where he discovers the American Negro Theater and the magic of performing. From Harlem to Mississippi to Africa and South Central Los Angeles, Sing Your

Song takes us on a journey through Harry Belafonte's life, work and most of all, his conscience, as it inspires us all in a call to action.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you, my colleagues and a very grateful nation as we celebrate National Black History Month to recognize the achievements of the world's humanitarian, and Harlem's beloved, Harry Belafonte.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 658,
FAA REAUTHORIZATION AND RE-
FORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to explain my excused absence from the House last week, and to discuss how I would have voted on H.R. 658, conference report for the "FAA Modernization and Reform Act," if I hadn't been pulled away by the funeral of my dear friend, Frank Herrera.

Frank was a World War II veteran, a titan in his community of Wilmington, and a good friend of mine. He will be sorely missed by his family and all who knew him.

While I was at his funeral, the House took action on the first long term FAA reauthorization since the last one expired in 2007. After the embarrassment of twenty-three short-term extensions, I was glad to see our Nation's aviation infrastructure finally given the certainty of long term funding. Finally, we will bring our aviation infrastructure into the 21st century with NextGen, and give long overdue certainty to modernization projects across the country.

However, I was appalled to see that this "compromise" was bought with the rights of hard working men and women. I agree with the Communications Workers of America, the Service Employees International Union, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the National Education Association, the Teamsters and other advocates of working people that the American people deserved a clean FAA reauthorization, not this attempt to interfere with a worker's right to chose to form a union.

Had I been here on Friday, I would have voted "on" on H.R. 658.

RAISING AWARENESS OF CON-
GENITAL HEART DEFECT
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise public knowledge of Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week, which is February 7–14, 2012. This week encourages all citizens to increase their awareness, education, and services for Congenital Heart Defects, which each year affect thousands of babies in the State of Texas.

Congenital Heart Defects are the most frequently occurring birth defects and the leading cause of birth defect-related deaths worldwide.

Over a million families across America are facing the challenges and hardships of raising children with Congenital Heart Defects. Every year, 40,000 babies are born in the United States with Congenital Heart Defects.

Some Congenital Heart Defects are not diagnosed until months or years after birth, and undiagnosed Congenital Heart conditions cause many cases of sudden cardiac death in young athletes. Despite these statistics, newborns and young athletes are not routinely screened for Congenital Heart Defects, and research on these heart conditions has only recently begun catching up to the problem—but more must be done.

Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected to celebrate life and to remember loved ones lost, to honor dedicated health professionals, and to meet others and know they are not alone. Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week also provides the opportunity to share experience and information with the public and the media, in order to raise public awareness about Congenital Heart Defects. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring February 7–14 as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week.

TRIBUTE TO VICTOR CRUZ AND
THE NEW YORK GIANTS

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Victor Cruz and the New York Giants on their thrilling victory in Super Bowl XLVI on Sunday night, in which they defeated the New England Patriots by a score of 21 to 17. As a fan, I am excited that the Giants have once again brought a Super Bowl championship and the Vince Lombardi Trophy back home to New Jersey. After last winning a championship in 2008, this is the second Giants Super Bowl victory in the past five seasons, for an impressive all-time total of four Super Bowl wins amongst their eight National Football League championships.

Leading the charge for the Giants was the pride of my hometown of Paterson, New Jersey, wide receiver Victor Cruz. Paterson, located just a few miles from the Giant's home field, is home to thousands of proud Giants fans. Victor Cruz was born in Paterson, attending Paterson Public School #21 and Paterson Catholic High School before playing football at the University of Massachusetts, where he remains fourth in all time receptions. He fought his way off the streets of Paterson, finding a path to a college education. Starting as an unknown just two years ago, Victor gained the attention of Giants scouts and now competes on the highest level. Victor serves as a true inspiration to the people of Paterson, who gave him an enthusiastic send-off when he revisited School #21 before the team departed for the Super Bowl in Indianapolis.

On Sunday night, Victor Cruz scored the first touchdown of the contest on a reception from the game's Most Valuable Player, Giants quarterback Eli Manning. With this touchdown, Victor had the opportunity to showcase his signature "Silk City Salsa" touchdown dance, a fan favorite. This move shows Victor's con-

tinued connection with his home town, since it is named for the city of Paterson, which was once the center of a thriving domestic textile industry.

Since being signed by the Giants, Victor already holds the franchise record for single season receiving yards after going undrafted in 2010. He has also tied the NFL record for longest touchdown reception of 99 yards. Now, he can add a Super Bowl title to the long list of accomplishments he has already attained in just two years of playing professional football. Victor Cruz's story so far proves that anyone can achieve greatness with hard work and perseverance. I hope that Victor enjoys a long career with continued successes.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet I am especially honored today to recognize and commemorate the achievements of the New York Giants and Paterson's hometown hero, Victor Cruz.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the citizens of New Jersey, and me in recognizing the Giants for their victory in Super Bowl XLVI, and in wishing continued success to Victor Cruz, Eli Manning, Coach Tom Coughlin, owners John Mara and Steve Tisch, and the rest of the team. I am sure that former Giants owner and my fellow Fordham University alumnus, Wellington Mara, who passed away in 2005 after 80 years with the team, was also watching from above with a smile on Super Bowl Sunday. Let's Go Giants!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, on February 6, 2012, I missed a series of votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall 34, On Agreeing to the Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1734) to decrease the deficit by realigning, consolidating, selling, disposing, and improving the efficiency of Federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall 35, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as amended, a bill to provide the Quileute Indian Tribe tsunami and flood protection, I would have voted "yea."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 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 \$15,337,881,657,918.14. We've added \$10,536,476,482,623.86 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.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL TO CONSOLIDATE PROGRAMS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ENACT THE CAMPUS SAFETY ACT OF 2011

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to consolidate programs at the Department of Justice in order to create an offset for the costs in another bill I previously introduced this Congress, the Center to Advance, Monitor and Preserve University Security, "CAMPUS," Safety Act. This consolidation bill is intended to allay the concerns some of my colleagues have expressed about the lack of an offset in the CAMPUS Safety Act. This bill will offset a majority of the costs of the the CAMPUS Safety Act, using the same offsets used in the Senate companion to the CAMPUS Safety Act, S. 1749, as introduced by Senator MARK WARNER. When the CAMPUS Safety Act is considered, we will merge the two bills together for consideration.

In order to alleviate a majority of the costs of the CAMPUS Safety Act, this bill requires that the Office of Dispute Resolution of the Department of Justice and the jurisdiction and employees of that office be transferred to the Office of Legal Policy at the Department and funded through the general administration appropriation of the Office of Legal Policy. This was proposed in the President's 2012 budget and also by Senator COBURN in his "Back in Black" report. This bill also requires the Attorney General to implement policies that will result in at least \$1 million in savings through consolidating ineffective or duplicative programs.

This bill is important because it helps to pay for the CAMPUS Safety Act, which is vitally important to our Nation's institutions of higher education. The CAMPUS Safety Act will create a National Center of Campus Public Safety, "Center," which will be administered through the Department of Justice. The Center will train campus public safety agencies, encourage research to strengthen college safety and security, and serve as a clearinghouse for the dissemination of relevant campus public safety information. By having this information in one central location, institutions of higher education will be able to easily obtain the best information available on ways to keep campuses safe and secure and how to respond in the event of a campus emergency. This bill was introduced in the House in the 110th and 111th Congresses and passed both times by voice vote.

As Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security and a Member of the Education and Workforce Committee, I strongly urge my colleagues to sign on to the CAMPUS Safety Act to help schools keep their campuses safe and free from violence.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 658, FAA REAUTHORIZATION AND REFORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 658, the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act.

Mr. Speaker, we are considering this multiyear authorization after twenty-three temporary FAA extensions since 2007. The men and women who keep our skies safe deserve a long-term authorization. The American people deserve a long-term authorization. But I cannot support the long-term authorization that the conference committee has brought to us today.

There are good provisions included in this conference agreement. This agreement contains language I wrote to support service disabled veteran-owned small businesses in the Airport Improvement Program. I am also pleased that this agreement includes funding for Essential Air Service and Next Generation air traffic control systems, and that it requires airlines to implement emergency contingency plans for passengers who are subject to extended tarmac delays. It also ensures a fair collective bargaining process for our Nation's air traffic controllers.

However, the bill has a number of provisions that are serious problems, and thus I oppose the bill. For example, the bill fails to fundamentally address the transportation of lithium batteries on airplanes. Further, the bill attacks collective bargaining for other aviation employees. This conference agreement dramatically revises a 75-year-old statute that was crafted by labor-management cooperation and should not be changed without the agreement of both employer and employee representatives.

There is no reason for these provisions to be included in this bill other than the majority's desire to attack American workers' right to organize at every opportunity they get. This bill should not seek to change three-quarters of a century's worth of labor protections. The FAA reauthorization is not the place to rewrite federal labor law. And I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing it.

HONORING CHERYL McCLENNEY-BROOKER AT THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. CHAKA FATAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. FATAH. Mr. Speaker, the Philadelphia arts community is losing a highly talented administrator and dedicated advocate with the retirement in February of Cheryl McClenney-Brooker as Director of External Affairs for the Philadelphia Museum of Art after a remarkable 28 years of service.

Ms. McClenney-Brooker, born, raised, and educated in Chicago, has worked in the cultural field and the museum profession for

more than 40 years. Her professional involvement with arts and culture began in New York City as Curatorial Coordinator at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum from 1970 to 1974, then two year stints as Assistant Director of the Museums Collaborative Cultural Voucher Program and Assistant Commissioner of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. She moved to Washington D.C. to serve for five years as Director of Humanities Projects in Museums and Historical Organizations at the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Then in 1983 Ms. McClenney-Brooker arrived on the scene of Philadelphia, the city of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection, to begin this most notable stage of her career at the Philadelphia Museum of Art—and seemingly everywhere in the cultural community. She has shown a special gift for leadership and inspiration in African American and Multicultural arts and culture, both in Philadelphia and as a roving ambassador around the world.

Here's just a sampling: Ms. McClenney-Brooker is a member of the boards of directors of Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania, African American Museum in Philadelphia, Multicultural Affairs Congress of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, Philadelphia Commission on African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs, and The Jonathan Phillip Ford Memorial Foundation for Bipolar Disorder Awareness. She was Co-Founder and, from 1990 to 2005, Chair of the City-wide Philadelphia World AIDS Day/Day Without Art observance. She has served on federal, State and municipal funding panels, corporate and foundation funding committees, and works with several national, State, and local professional and community groups.

Ms. McClenney-Brooker's honors include: a National Scholastic Art Magazine scholarship to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; International Council of Museums' travel grant to Europe; Partners of the Americas' museum travel grant to Brazil; Leadership Pennsylvania Certificate; African American Women of Achievement Award from the African American Museum in Philadelphia; Individual Achievement Award for Arts Administration from the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations; and the Share the Heritage Award from the Multicultural Affairs Congress of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau.

One thing we know for sure about this tireless and selfless lady: As she transitions to "official" retirement with her husband, artist and art professor Moe Brooker, with the love of daughters Misha and Musa Brooker, she will simply have more time and energy to devote to the arts and culture projects that have consumed her life. I ask my colleagues in this House to join me in wishing good health, good times, and a productive "retirement" to Cheryl McClenney-Brooker.

RECOGNIZING MR. JAMES P. FALCONE FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. James P. Falcone of

Centreville, Virginia, on the occasion of his retirement at the end of February after 38 years of public service with the Internal Revenue Service.

Throughout his tenure with the IRS, Mr. Falcone provided an example of model leadership through his work in both tax administration and later in support operations. He served in various roles such as Director of Facilities and Operations, Director of Real Estate and Facilities Management, IRS Human Capital Officer, and the first acting Chief of Mission Assurance. During his career, Mr. Falcone assisted with many successful initiatives, including the reorganization of the IRS following the passage of the Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998. He also played a role in establishing the Mission Assurance organization following the September 11th terrorist attacks. That effort instituted new safeguards for the tax administration and assured the safety of its employees, facilities, and information systems. In addition, Mr. Falcone assisted in reducing the size of the IRS' real estate portfolio to realize operation efficiencies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Mr. Falcone for his lifelong service to our constituents. His distinguished career and accomplishments serve as a reminder of the great value of public service to our country, and I congratulate him on his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. MARY
ELLEN WEBER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable woman, Dr. Mary Ellen Weber. She is a veteran Astronaut, an instrument-rated pilot, a world-class skydiver, and Vice President of Government Affairs and Policy at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

As a NASA Astronaut for ten years, Dr. Weber inspired and awed our nation by completing two Space Shuttle flights, 297 earth orbits, and traveling 7.8 million miles. Among the youngest Astronauts ever to venture into space, she served as a pioneer for space exploration by flying aboard the Atlantis on mission STS-101. The mission was a critical early construction project for the International Space Station, in which she spent over eighteen days in space. She helped launch \$200 million communications satellite into Earth orbit when she flew aboard Discovery in 1995 on mission STS-70. After holding prestigious positions relaying reports to NASA's highest directors, she was awarded the NASA Exceptional Service Medal.

Not only is she a veteran in space, but she is an avid skydiver and pilot. She shares a world record for the largest freefall formation with 300 skydivers. She has logged over 4,000 skydives, and received twelve silver and bronze medals from the U.S. National Skydiving Championships. In addition, she is an instrument-rated pilot with over 600 hours in NASA's jet aircraft.

Dr. Weber was destined to share her knowledge of science. She received an M.B.A. from Southern Methodist University, a Ph.D. in

physical chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley, and a B.S. in chemical engineering from Purdue University. She published eight scientific papers and received one patent. In 2003, she became Vice President of Government Affairs and Policy at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. UT Southwestern Medical Center is one highest acclaimed medical school, research, and hospital complex in Dallas, Texas.

I was sworn in as a Member of Congress in 2003 and that is how I met Dr. Weber in her role with UT Southwestern Medical Center. With her support and leadership, we were able to create a Health Care Fellowship between my office and UT Southwestern Medical Center. This successful program has provided what has become a very well regarded opportunity for Medical Doctors to have a front row seat in Congress to participate in the health care policy process. We have also partnered with UT Southwestern Medical Center on several joint events on their campus in Dallas. The Fellowship and events could not have been successfully executed without the guidance provided by Dr. Weber and the leadership at UT Southwestern.

On February 8, 2012, Dr. Weber will be leaving UT Southwestern after nine years in government affairs. Her contribution to the NASA's space program and UT Southwestern Medical Center has been unprecedented and her departure will soon leave a void in many hearts. It is my great privilege to recognize Dr. Mary Ellen Weber for the ingenuity and commitment she has shown to the people of UT Southwestern, NASA, and our Nation.

TO EXTEND THE PAY LIMITATION
FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I don't think there is anyone in this country who supports increasing pay for Members of Congress. I certainly don't, which is why I voted in favor of H.R. 3835 on Wednesday. Throughout my tenure in this body, I have continually voted to cut, freeze, and otherwise limit pay for Members. With so many folks across Virginia's First District and the nation struggling to feed their families or find a job, Congress has got to lead by example and show that it is serious about tackling this country's economic woes in a responsible manner.

An important part of being responsible, however, is the ability to be fair, and I fear that H.R. 3835 sets an unfair precedent by targeting a particular group of public servants who are already tasked to do so much for their country: federal employees. Government workers have been under a pay freeze since December of 2010, and this legislation would extend that freeze through 2013. These hard-working patriots serve our nation on a daily basis, whether it be keeping our skies safe for travelers with the FAA or supporting our troops on the front lines of the war on terror with the CIA. From the lowest GS-1 to the highest GS-15, the federal workforce is full of dedicated and committed citizens who exem-

plify patriotism in everything they do. There is no question that changing the unsustainable trajectory of this nation will take sacrifice from us all, but continually singling out federal employees is an ineffective and unjustified response to the nation's fiscal struggles.

Although I have serious concerns with the federal employee pay freeze, I ultimately voted for this legislation because Congress must lead by example and freeze our own pay first. I would like to remind my colleagues that long after we are all gone, federal employees will continue to selflessly serve this nation, as they have since its inception. Repeatedly singling them out is no way to thank them for their dedicated contributions. I am hopeful that future deficit reduction efforts in this body will focus on more realistic methods of savings that truly address the drivers of our debt so that we can foster an environment of job creation and prosperity in this country.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF OFFICER STEVEN DION GREEN, SR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the service of a fallen hero, Officer Steven Green of the Mobile, Alabama Police Department, who recently gave his life in the line of duty.

On February 3, 2012, Officer Green, age 36, was fatally wounded while transporting a robbery suspect. Mobile feels the deep pain of the loss of this young, dedicated protector of the peace. His untimely death has deeply saddened our community and even moved others from around the nation to add their many voices to the long list of those offering condolences to his family.

Officer Green dutifully served the Mobile Police Department and the people of Mobile since May 2010. He was stationed to the Department in the First Precinct and was on assignment in the Fifth Precinct at the time of his death.

A native of Mobile, Officer Green was a graduate of Blount High School where he distinguished himself as an outstanding athlete and member of the Varsity Football team. After high school, he contributed his considerable athletic talents and love of sports to the service of young people by coaching Little League Football.

Mr. Speaker, there is a special calling for those who would lay down their lives to guarantee the safety of others. Those who answer this call to serve with courage and conviction often don't seek the limelight or reward . . . they do what they do because they know it is right. Officer Steven Green was just such a person.

Officer Green is survived by a very large and loving family, including his dear wife, Valerie, and their lovely children, Jasmine, Tariyah, and Steven, Jr.

On behalf of the people of Mobile and South Alabama, I offer my deepest condolences to each of them and to all of Officer Green's many family, friends and fellow officers. You will never be far from our hearts as we all reflect upon the devoted service of Officer Green. May God bless you all.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL
MARRIAGE WEEK**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Marriage Week, which is observed each year from February 7th to 14th. During National Marriage Week, organizations and individuals across America collaborate on programs designed to strengthen marriages, reduce the divorce rate, and acknowledge the institution of marriage as a vital factor in promoting family and community stability. Although it is important that we devote ourselves to strengthening our marriages each day of the year, National Marriage Week provides an important opportunity for us collectively to pause and reflect on the crucial role that marriage plays as the foundation of a strong and healthy society. In so doing, it is my hope that we will be inspired to work even harder to protect this sacred institution.

Marriage is ordained by God and provides innumerable benefits to spouses and their children. Studies suggest that married men and women experience greater financial stability, longer life spans, and a decreased risk of depression—particularly among married mothers. Children in married families also reap a host of benefits, including increased physical health, lower rates of alcohol and substance abuse, and a reduced risk of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.

I remain committed to the conviction that traditional marriage is worth protecting. The data demonstrates what many of us have long known: marriage between a man and a woman is one of the cornerstones of strength of our country, and is the foundation of families across America. I encourage you to join me in celebrating National Marriage Week by renewing your dedication to your spouse, and considering ways in which you can strengthen your commitment and devotion each day.

NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS
AWARENESS DAY**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and I rise to highlight the struggle of the African American community against this terrible disease. The theme for this year is "I am My Brother's/Sister's Keeper: Fight HIV/AIDS". HIV is a crisis in the Black Community and has been for thirty years.

African Americans are disproportionately affected by this disease. According to the CDC, an estimated 1 in 16 black men and 1 in 32 black women will be diagnosed with HIV infection at some point in their lifetimes; and an African American woman is 15 times more likely to be living with HIV than a white woman of the same age. The CDC also notes that in 2007, HIV was the ninth leading cause of death for all blacks and the third leading cause of death for black women and black men aged 35–44.

Today, the New York Health Department announced that new HIV data shows a 41% drop in deaths among black persons living with HIV/AIDS in New York between 2001 and 2010. Though this is promising new information, the black community is still disproportionately affected by this disease. More than 107,000 New Yorkers are living with HIV, but thousands more don't know they're infected. New York City's AIDS case rate is almost 3 times the U.S. national average. Brooklyn alone has the highest population of any borough in New York City and has one of the highest HIV infection rates among Black and Latina women in the country. According to a Brooklyn based research institution, in 2008 nearly 30% of people living with HIV/AIDS in New York City, who died, were Brooklyn residents.

African Americans are more likely to be diagnosed late in the course of HIV infection, less likely to be connected with care and less likely to be prescribed the necessary preventative and life preserving anti-retroviral medications. Blacks are also most likely to die from HIV-related causes.

These are sobering statistics, but they offer us the opportunity to spread awareness and take action to provide the community with the help they need. The Affordable Care Act, which I fully supported, is a fantastic opportunity to provide assistance to African Americans as well as others suffering from this disease. It stops providers from denying coverage to HIV positive children and adults as well as providing increased access to Medicaid and other prescription assistance programs. However, until this act is fully implemented, we must work hard and work together to educate and provide access to care for those who need it most.

We cannot let the black community continue to bear the most severe burden of all racial groups. We must stand together to support the community and take action against the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS. We must ensure our youth receive comprehensive education about the disease to help prevent infections in future generations. Until we put an end to AIDS, we must remain united to achieve the common goal of prevention and treatment for all.

HONORING MR. RICHARD L. COTTA

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Mr. Richard L. Cotta on his retirement from the California Dairies, Inc., and to thank him for his dedication to the agriculture community.

Since 2007, Richard L. Cotta held the title of President and CEO of California Dairies, Inc. (CDI). He spent his entire career in the dairy industry in virtually all aspects of the dairy business—from the dairy farm to genetics, to dairy processing and dairy politics.

Cotta's career at CDI began in 1993, when he joined San Joaquin Valley Dairymen—a dairy processing and marketing cooperative—as its General Manager.

In 1999, San Joaquin Valley Dairymen merged with Danish Creamery and California Milk Producers to form CDI. Cotta was named

Senior Vice President of Producer Affairs and Government Relations at CDI, a role he held until he was named CEO in 2007. Under his leadership, CDI profits reached record levels.

From 1984 to 1993, Cotta served as the CEO of Western United Dairymen, the largest producer trade association in the state. From 1980 to 1984, he was the CEO of United Dairymen of California, a producer trade organization, until it merged to form Western United Dairymen.

Cotta testified before the U.S. Congress and the California Legislature on behalf of the dairy industry. At the request of the Secretary of Agriculture, he participated in world trade missions to open the U.S. dairy market overseas.

Previously, he worked as a sire analyst for American Breeders Service, a classifier for the Holstein Association of America and a principle in Genetics, Inc. For several years, he was a dairy consultant with many successful dairies on feeding, breeding and management systems.

Cotta graduated with honors from California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, with a degree in Dairy Husbandry. He currently owns and operates Cotta Farms and is a partner in Terra Bella Farms, both almond farming operations.

Cotta currently sits on the following boards—U.C. Davis Deans Advisory Council, California State University Chancellors Agriculture Advisory Council, Sacred Heart School Foundation, and the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy. In addition, he sits on the Globalization Operating Committee for the U.S. Dairy Export Council.

Past board seats include—California Creamery Operators Association (Chairman), Dairy Cares Board (Chairman) California Dairy Research Foundation, U.S. Dairy Export Council, National Holstein Foundation, DairyAmerica (Chairman) and Challenge Dairy Products.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Richard L. Cotta for his hard work in the California Dairy Industry and in congratulating him upon his retirement from the California Dairies, Inc.

NEW YORK CITY NATURAL GAS
SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of the "New York City Natural Gas Supply Enhancement Act" (H.R. 2606). This bipartisan legislation will authorize the Secretary of Interior to allow the construction and operation of natural gas pipeline facilities in the New York portion of the Gateway National Recreation Area.

My southeastern Queens district includes part of the Gateway National Recreation Area near Kennedy Airport, including the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. I have long supported efforts to improve the environment in and around Gateway as well as to enhance Gateway's facilities.

I join with Congressman GRIMM and Congressman TURNER in thanking Resources Chairman HASTINGS, Ranking Member MARKEY, Subcommittee Chair BISHOP and Ranking

Member GRIJALVA and their staffs for their help in moving our bill through their committee to the floor.

I also thank the National Park Service for its work to strengthen the legislation as well as for its efforts over the years to improve Gateway and its historic Floyd Bennett Field. Also deserving our appreciation are Governor Cuomo, New York Deputy Secretary for Energy Congdon, Mayor Bloomberg, Deputy Mayor Holloway, the Floyd Bennett Field Blue Ribbon Panel, the National Parks Conservation Association, the Regional Plan Association, and countless other individuals and organizations in New York for their work and collaboration in support of Gateway.

The natural gas pipeline system serving Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island is 40 to 60 years old. While adequate for the demand at the time, the system no longer has the capacity for the approximately 5.2 million residents of these three boroughs. Simply put, we need new natural gas infrastructure to meet our existing and growing needs, and H.R. 2606 is necessary to get us there.

Robert Yaro, the President of the Regional Plan Association, summed it up in August 22, 2011 letter to me in support of our bill. He

stated that H.R. 2606 will expand the supply of natural gas in New York City, help support economic development, improve public health by increasing air quality, and provide needed financial support for restoration of one of Floyd Bennett Field's historically significant airplane hangars.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2606 is a win all around.

TRIBUTE TO ADORE FLYNN KURTZ

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of one of my constituents, Adore Flynn Kurtz, President and CEO of The Development Corporation in Clinton County, NY.

Receiving a bachelor's degree from the College of New Rochelle, along with a Master's of Public Administration from Ohio State University, Ms. Kurtz has dedicated her life to economic development and the betterment of the community around her. Her work has spanned

the course of twenty-eight years, with assignments in Connecticut, Ohio, and since 1995, Northern New York.

I have known Adore and her husband Perry since they moved to New York, and we have worked on many projects which brought much needed employment to our community. During her tenure as CEO, she has helped to increase TDC's net worth by 248 percent, and doubled the number of staff. She was among those who were instrumental in bringing manufacturers like Nova Bus and Bombardier to our community. At a time when our country faces a jobs crisis, Ms. Kurtz demonstrates a distinguished record in job creation and economic development.

While I am saddened to see such an exceptional individual and good friend retire today, I will be forever grateful for the work that she has done for my constituents and New York's 23rd district. As reflected in her accomplishments, her dedication and commitment to public service will continue to live on for many years to come. I trust much more of her time will be spent with her husband, children and grandchildren.