

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU

HON. TIM SCOTT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate President Ma Ying-jeou of the Republic of China (Taiwan) on his inauguration on May 20th, 2012.

The Republic of China (Taiwan) is the first nation in the ethnic Chinese world where democracy has taken root. Today Taiwan celebrates freedom and democracy. We hope China will one day transform itself into a democratic and free country based on the example set by Taiwan.

For the past four years, under the leadership of President Ma, the relationship between Taiwan and China has improved dramatically, with increased economic and cultural exchanges as well as reduced military tension across the Taiwan Strait.

Taiwan and the United States have always had a strong partnership, built on cooperation, trust and shared values. In 1979 the U.S. Congress enacted the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), the cornerstone of our bilateral relationship. While the U.S. and Taiwan do not have formal ties, relations between the two sides have continued to strengthen. For instance, the support of the U.S. Congress for Taiwan has never faltered. We trust that the relations will grow in areas including trade, science and technology, educational exchange, military sales based on the Taiwan Relations Act.

On the occasion of Mr. Ma's second inauguration, we celebrate with him and his people by affirming our appreciation for their successes and by expressing our continued commitment to Taiwan's security and well being.

CONGRATULATING TAIWAN PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU ON HIS SECOND PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate President Ma Ying-jeou on his second presidential inauguration. The United States of America is proud of its relationship with Taiwan, originally created by the Taiwan Relations Act, which gives the United States an important legal commitment to their country's vibrant democracy.

Taiwan has made remarkable progress in so many ways. It is now one of the world's 20 freest economies. Their strong commitment to structural reform and openness to global commerce have enabled it to become a global leader in economic freedom.

Democracy is hard to come by as witnessed by the turmoil in the Middle East. To maintain

a democracy in these troubled times is no mere accomplishment. Taiwan, led by President Ma Ying-jeou, has achieved a democracy unrivaled. His efforts to bring peace to the region have been both courageous and meaningful.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating President Ma Ying-jeou and I wish him well in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF ROBERT N. CAMPBELL III, VICE CHAIRMAN OF DELOITTE & TOUCHE USA LLP

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the retirement of Robert N. Campbell III, Vice Chairman of Deloitte & Touche USA LLP and National Sector Leader of Deloitte's U.S. State Government practice. Bob will soon retire after 39 years with Deloitte.

During his tenure with Deloitte, Bob has worked closely with government leaders to address and resolve their critical policy, financing, and operational issues. He has advised leaders of major federal agencies, over 40 states and several major local governments on a variety of issues spanning human services, higher education, K-12 education, student loan finance, employment, economic development, public health care, Medicaid, mental health, developmental disabilities, revenue and taxation, and central finance and administration.

Mr. Campbell is a frequent writer and speaker on public policy and management issues. He recently co-authored the book *States of Transition* addressing the big issues currently facing our nation's governors. In recent years he has been quoted in *Washington Technology*, *Federal Times*, *Government Technology*, *Consulting Magazine*, *Computer World*, *The Hill*, *USA Today*, and other leading publications. He has also addressed a number of conferences and associations including the National Association of Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers, the Council of State Governments, and *Governing Magazine's* Government Performance Conference.

During his tenure at Deloitte, Bob has held a variety of senior leadership roles and was awarded the firm's annual Curtis Award for Partnership Values.

Bob received a Bachelor's degree with honors majoring in business and history from Austin College in 1971 and a Master's Degree from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas in 1973. He has served on various community boards and committees and is presently a member of the Advisory Board of the LBJ School of Public Affairs and on the Chancellors Council Executive Committee of the University of Texas System.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, Bob Campbell has demonstrated passion and excellence in helping governments address and resolve critical policy, financing, and operational issues. His insights have helped governments across the country achieve better results for the citizens they serve.

On behalf of the people of the 10th Congressional District, I would like to thank Bob for his years of service and wish him continued success in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF FRANCISCO "FRANK" ALVAREZ

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend, Mr. Francisco "Frank" Alvarez. He passed suddenly this week and his passing is a devastating loss to our entire community. Frank served as the Deputy District Attorney for the Stanislaus County District Attorney's office.

Frank was born July 13, 1954, in East Los Angeles. Mr. Alvarez served four years in the Air Force as a teletype repairman before starting his law career. He began working at the District Attorney's office in 1990. He prosecuted a number of misdemeanor and felony crimes from domestic violence to consumer fraud. Frank secured the first conviction against a gang member who violated the south Modesto gang injunction as a prosecutor for the gang unit; however, he spent the better part of his career—10 years—in the juvenile division.

"While he always made sure the young people were accountable for their actions, he was also very much focused on rehabilitation," said Ruben Villalobos, a defense attorney and a friend of Mr. Alvarez's. "There are a lot of young people who moved beyond their criminal behavior because of Frank."

In addition to his work at the District Attorney's office, Frank Alvarez served the community both as an advocate and also as the Commander of the American GI Forum. As a veteran, Frank knew how important service to our nation is. His life was an example to others. He was selfless and never hesitated to help a young person realize their goals and strive for success. Frank was known throughout our community for his outstanding community service.

He has also served on a number of boards and committees, including the Girl Scouts, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors Mental Health Board and the Turlock Unified School District Criminal Justice Committee. Since 1992, he participated in the Stanislaus County Mock Trial competition and has helped organize the Fourth of July parade, Veterans Day parade and Cinco de Mayo parade.

He recently was appointed as a member on the California Mexican-American War Memorial and was the commander of the American

• 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.

GI Forum. The organization raises money for scholarships for veterans and future military, but Mr. Alvarez and another member had the idea of starting a scholarship for teachers to help augment the money they pay out of pocket for classroom costs.

"He was a district attorney, but he was real down to earth," said Fred Garcia, an American GI Forum vice commander. "He never was assuming. He could deal with people from all walks of life, from homeless people to dignitaries."

Mr. Alvarez is survived by his wife, Sandra; daughter, Tanya; brothers Carlos, Alex and Luis; and sister, Sylvia, as well as nine nieces and nephews.

Please join me in honoring the life of Frank Alvarez and his dedication to our nation and community. He will be missed by all of us as we look to comfort his family during this difficult time.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT MA
AND THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, on May 20, 2012 the Honorable Ma Ying-jeou will be sworn in for a second term as President of the Republic of Taiwan. President Ma has already served four years as president and his tireless dedication to public service has been rewarded by the people of Taiwan with a well-deserved reelection this January.

During President Ma's first term, Taiwan has been accepted as an Observer in the World Health Organization, reduced tensions with the People's Republic of China, and crafted 16 trade agreements. I rise to congratulate President Ma on his election and the people of Taiwan for their decades of dedication to democracy and freedom.

As demonstrated over the decades, the United States of America and Taiwan enjoy a close and strong relationship based on shared democratic values and free market economies. Today, Taiwan remains a major trading partner and friend.

Our strong economic and cultural ties go back nearly a hundred years. I know this strong bond will continue for another 100 years, and, under President Ma's leadership, thrive in the immediate future.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Taiwan, I offer my sincere congratulations to President Ma and the people of Taiwan and look forward to our continued cooperation.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING IRAN FROM ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, Iran's failure to comply with U.N. Security Council resolutions

regarding its nuclear program, or its responsibilities as a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, are deeply troubling.

A nuclear-armed Iran would represent a grave threat to the interests of the United States, Israel, and our other allies in the Middle East. This body has forcefully and repeatedly emphasized the singular importance of contributing to Israel's defense and well-being, most recently only last week when we overwhelmingly passed H.R. 4133, affirming the strategic relationship between Israel and the United States.

Sadly, the resolution before us does not contribute in any appreciable way either to Israel's security or to the goal of compelling Iran's cooperation on their nuclear program. The ambiguous language of H. Res. 568 effectively redefines the circumstances that could be used to justify a military strike against Iran. This could make it harder to reach an agreement through negotiations, since it could be argued that Iran—and indeed any country with a civilian nuclear program—already possesses "nuclear weapons capability." The consensus in the U.S. and Israeli intelligence community remains that Iran has not made the decision to move ahead with the development of a nuclear weapon.

Furthermore, the resolution declares that, of all possible responses should Iran make that decision, our government cannot consider containment. By combining these two provisions, even in a non-binding resolution, the Congress risks accelerating a drive to war.

Since President Obama took office, the United States has carefully built a comprehensive regime of multi-lateral sanctions in response to Iran's intransigence. After extensive diplomatic efforts by this administration, Iran agreed to reengage with the international community, and the second major negotiations session will take place in Baghdad on May 23.

The United States and our partners enter the dialogue with Iran from a position of strength and unity, while reports indicate Iran's leadership is divided and weak. With the P5+1 negotiations, we have a unique opportunity to demonstrate our resolve to achieve the goal of full compliance by Iran with IAEA expectations, while reversing the clock on Iran's nuclear efforts and building toward a permanent agreement that ensures Iran will never develop a nuclear weapon.

The United States built a global alliance against Iran with the support of close, like-minded allies Britain, Germany and France. But our efforts also rely heavily on Russia and China, partners that have at times seen this issue very differently. It is critical that we maintain a consistent and reasoned approach towards Iran that will help us maintain this network of partners.

As we wind down two wars in the region, it is urgent that we make the most of our extensive diplomatic efforts and the platform of stringent sanctions the world community has imposed on Iran. We must capitalize on the opportunity presented by the Baghdad talks. This resolution is inconsistent with that aim.

HONORING RIMA PATEL

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great Nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Rima Patel is a junior at Dawson High School in Brazoria County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

The government is a colossal term which is defined in a variety of ways by different people in different places. Government means a multitude of things depending on country, region, and geography. Many people are shut out in the darkness by their government and have to struggle to learn even the basics truths of life because their government is so secretive. Living in a democratic country, I believe that since the idea of democracy was conceived in the western hemisphere, the ultimate goals of the government should be: to serve as a guardian, to be a force that leads people, and to always highlight the people before itself. I also believe that government's responsibility comes directly from the people because they are the ones who vote and put trust into the people who will be leading them. However it seems in this day and age that people often times do not make decisions based on issues that they believe in but more so on the public image the candidates display. Slowly it seems as if the democratic ideals of our nation are shattering, the public who should be the true force behind the government, is fading away into the distant background. I believe it is the government's job to not let their power grow unchecked and restore the people with the power that belongs to them. We've often heard the term that those who serve in the government are public servants meaning they are there to uphold the people and assist them with their needs. Therefore the government needs to aid people in obtaining a secure life and perhaps giving people a path to go down. The people in the government are the leaders that people look up to so that means they need to be uncorrupt, trustworthy, and above all dedicated to the people. It is this that people look for in the government someone who fosters development and expands the nation in the most positive way. The government should not barge into people's life and try to control people who have different ideas but should instead spark enthusiasm for the people to be ideal citizens. Its seems that in a decade where TVs and computers are so prominent, that the government has simply forgotten to keep the public educated at every step. It is not the job of the government to protect people from the truth but instead it is their job to help guide the people through the truth. The government should not conform the masses of people but instead take into account the different beliefs, and create a unity. It is my vision, hope, and belief that one day the government shall be the upmost example of

unity and truly uphold the people. It will truly be the strength behind the people and see the people reflected within it. The government in essence should be “for the people, by the people,” forever and always.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 252, due to other representational obligations in Hannibal, Missouri, I had to miss this vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

ARMENIAN REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 97th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. Today, I remember the one-and-a-half million Armenians that endured unspeakable suffering and loss at the hand of the Ottoman Empire during the first World War.

Only with a thorough examination of history and open acknowledgement of the past will the plight of the Armenians be fully understood. As my colleagues know, last month was Genocide Awareness month. In addition to the genocide of Armenians, the 20th century bore witness to the loss of 6 million Jews and 400,000 other persons deemed “non-desirable” by the Nazis, and the modern-day horrors in Cambodia and Rwanda. All too often, we have not learned from past genocides.

As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment” and that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.” Though nothing changes the fact that mass killings and unspeakable acts of brutality occurred, today I wish to learn from the past to better bring about hope for a brighter, more peaceful future and reconciliation of the people of Armenia and Turkey.

HONORING ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Asian-Pacific American community on the 20th anniversary of Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month.

The achievements and successes of Asian-Pacific Americans demonstrate, above all, that the greatness of our Nation lies in its diversity. And no other community in the U.S. represents the diversity of our great Nation more than the Asian-Pacific American community.

An inherently diverse population, Asian-Pacific Americans comprise over 45 distinct ethnicities and over 100 language dialects. Now numbering 18.5 million people, the Asian-Pacific American community grew 46 percent in the past decade—more than any other major racial group.

The Pacific Islander population, while significantly smaller in comparison to the overall APA population, has also grown at a rapid rate over the past decade. According to the 2010 Census, the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, NHPI, population grew to over 1.2 million, an increase of 40 percent over the past decade.

The NHPI population in the U.S. traces their roots to several island cultures in the Pacific. They include Native Hawaiians, Samoans, Tahitians, Tongans, and Tokelauans; Chamorros, Marshallese, Palauans, Chuukese, Mariana Islanders, Saipanese, Carolinians, Kosraeans, Pohnpeians, Yapese, and the people of Kiribati; as well Fijians, Solomon Islanders, Papua New Guineans, and the people of Vanuatu—all who have made their home in this great Nation.

Pacific Islander heritage runs deep in NHPI communities across the Nation and the ancient cultural values of service to the family and the village carry on in NHPI’s service to our Nation. In any arena of society in which Pacific Islanders have attained success, one common thread we see is their unending devotion to giving back to the community.

Just last Friday, I had the honor of speaking at the funeral of a beloved son of Samoa and NFL Great, Junior Seau, who not only shined on the football field but who also devoted much of his time off the field to helping underprivileged youth through the Junior Seau Foundation.

I was fortunate enough to have been able to meet Junior and one memorable occasion was right here in the Nation’s capital. In 2005, I had the privilege of attending an award ceremony at the White House to witness President George W. Bush present to Junior the distinguished President’s Volunteer Service Award for his work in helping youth through the Junior Seau Foundation. I remember Junior’s genuinely humble spirit evident of his continuous connection to his roots and humble beginnings.

And many others follow in these steps. Even stars such as Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, who by the way was recently awarded “Action Star of the Year” at the prestigious CinemaCon Awards Ceremony, are heavily invested in enriching the lives of those less fortunate.

Pacific Islanders also have paid the ultimate sacrifice in defending the freedoms of our Nation. As a Vietnam veteran, I would be remiss if I do not say something to honor and respect the hundreds of thousands of Asian-Pacific Americans who serve and have served in our armed forces.

In closing, as we celebrate Asian-Pacific Heritage Month this May, let us also honor our Asian-Pacific Americans who display the virtue of servanthood in every arena of society, and especially those who have dedicated their lives to serving our Nation in the U.S. Armed Forces, including those from my district of American Samoa. Let us pay tribute to their sacrifice as we celebrate our heritage and freedoms.

EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, due to mechanical problems on my flight en route to Washington, DC from Lafayette, Louisiana, I was unable to return in time for votes on the day of May 15, 2012. Had I been present to vote, my voting record would reflect the following: H.R. 365—“yea,” H.R. 3874—“yea;” H.R. 205—“yea.”

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CAPTAIN THOMAS GRAMITH, USAF

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Captain Thomas Gramith of the 336th Fighter Squadron, Seymour Air Force Base, United States Air Force.

Captain Gramith died in an F-15E crash while providing air support to ground troops during Operation Enduring Freedom near Ghazni Province in Afghanistan.

Captain Gramith is survived by his wife Angie, their daughters Stella and Eva, and his father and step-mother Frederick and Cynthia and his mother and step-father Patricia and Robert.

Captain Gramith was an honorable and dedicated airman who died serving his country. His commitment to his country will stand as an inspiration to all Americans. To his family and friends, I offer my humble thoughts and prayers. May God bless them in this time of remembrance.

CONGRATULATING THE OUR LADY OF LOURDES ACADEMY CONSTITUTION TEAM

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Our Lady of Lourdes Academy Constitution Team for yet another remarkable performance in the annual We the People Competition. Having won the right to represent the State of Florida by winning the State Championship in January, Lourdes came to Washington DC and placed an impressive 7th place nationally.

For 25 years, the We the People Competition has helped further civic education and awareness by testing students’ depth of knowledge and ability to apply constitutional principles to both historical and current issues. The competition, conducted on the campus of George Mason University and in hearing rooms of the U.S. House of Representatives, takes the form of simulated congressional hearings. Students testify as constitutional experts before panels of judges acting as congressional committees who then score the groups.

The hard work and research put in by the team is a testament to their commitment to civic education, as well as to the guidance and instruction of their teacher Rosalie Heffernan. I know I join all of South Florida in expressing our pride and admiration for the Our Lady of Lourdes Academy Constitution Team and their remarkable accomplishment. Congratulations to: Paula Abarca, Emily Bezold, Michelle Bueno, Gabriela Corzo, Oliva Diaz de Villega, Amelia Garcia, Patricia Garcia-Linares, Gabriela Hidalgo, Anne-Marie Hunter, Alexandra Lazcano, Maria Mendoza, Fabiola Navarro, Caitlin Opperman, Rachel Perez, Kelsey Quigley, Brigette Quintana, Cristina Sanchez, Veronica Sanchez, Kiara Taquechel, Tiffany Valenti and Clarisse Vamos!

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CAPTAIN
MARK McDOWELL, USAF

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Captain Mark McDowell of Colorado Springs and the United States Air Force.

Captain McDowell died in an F-15E crash while providing air support to ground troops during Operation Enduring Freedom near Ghazni Province in Afghanistan.

Captain McDowell is survived by his wife and parents. Captain McDowell was an honorable and dedicated airman who died serving his country. We will never forget his example and his dedication. To his family and friends, I offer my sincere thoughts and prayers. May God bless them throughout the days ahead.

JESSICA ALLEN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jessica Allen for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jessica Allen is a 12th grader at Arvada Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jessica Allen is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jessica Allen for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

IN CELEBRATION OF ASIAN PA-
CIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Against the background of this year's theme, "Striving for Excellence in Leadership, Diversity and Inclusion," this month provides us an excellent opportunity to reflect upon, and honor, the many contributions Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) have made to our Nation. From fighting in our armed services, to building the transcontinental railroad, to helping America lead the world in scientific discoveries, AAPIs have played an integral role in our country's greatest achievements.

As America's fastest growing population, more and more AAPIs are performing integral roles in forward-thinking companies and in American innovation. And, we are continually seeing a greater number of AAPIs elected to serve in public office and appointed to the Federal judiciary. AAPIs are making great progress; however, there are still obstacles that must be overcome for AAPIs and other minority populations.

We must continue to work together to ensure that our country does not repeat injustices of the past. We must continue to fight back on issues like racial profiling, housing discrimination, and disparities in health care. We must continue to ensure that AAPI voices and ideas are heard.

Our country has always been the land of opportunity. Our strength has been derived from the diverse cultures, traditions, and perspectives of the people that make up our society. As we look to our country's future, we must ensure that all of the cultures and peoples that call America home are represented and promoted.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in Congress, in particular, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, to provide greater opportunity and equality so that AAPIs, and our Nation as a whole, can continue down a path of prosperity and success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 250. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 251. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 252.

JHA-MIER RYAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jha-Mier Ryan for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jha-Mier Ryan is an 11th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jha-Mier Ryan is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jha-Mier Ryan for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO UNITEDHEALTH-
CARE COMMUNITY PLAN OF
PENNSYLVANIA

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Pennsylvania, which serves over 280,000 Pennsylvania residents through Medicaid, Medicare and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

The UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Pennsylvania has been under operation for more than 20 years, serving the healthcare needs of low-income Philadelphians. On May 4, 2012, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan opened a new multicultural community office in South Philadelphia to make its services more accessible to its members and to the larger community. UHC has staffed the new office with employees from a variety of ethnic groups to show the diversity of the surrounding-community.

At the UnitedHealthcare Multicultural Office in Philadelphia, residents of the community will be able to apply for low or no-cost health insurance, renew their health coverage, gain more understanding of their health benefits, and attend special events such as health and wellness workshops, citizenship and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and free health screenings.

It is with great honor that I recognize the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Pennsylvania and the new UnitedHealthcare Multicultural Office in Philadelphia as valuable resources of the state of Pennsylvania. I am proud to have such a wonderful organization in my state and community, and I look forward to watching it continue to succeed and grow.

JWAN SAWAQED

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jwan Sawaqed for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jwan Sawaqed is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jwan Sawaqed is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jwan Sawaqed for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

**RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MPS
AWARENESS DAY**
HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the National MPS Society for their 37 years of supporting families while searching for cures for this genetic disease. Mucopolysaccharidosis or MPS is a group of genetically determined lysosomal storage diseases that render the human body incapable of producing certain enzymes needed to break down complex carbohydrates. The damage caused by MPS on a cellular level adversely affects the body and damages the heart, respiratory system, bones, internal organs, and central nervous system. MPS often results in intellectual disabilities, short stature, corneal damage, joint stiffness, loss of mobility, speech and hearing impairment, heart disease, hyperactivity, chronic respiratory problems, and, most importantly, a drastically shortened life span. Symptoms of MPS are usually not apparent at birth and without treatment; the life expectancy of an individual affected begins to decrease at a very early stage in their life. Research towards combating MPS has resulted in the development of limited treatments for some of the MPS diseases.

I ask my colleagues and their staff to join me in recognizing May 15, 2012 as National MPS Awareness Day. This is an important time during which the MPS disease community will help increase the awareness of this devastating disease, as well as supporting research to improve treatments, find cures and receive early diagnosis. The MPS families are encouraged to reflect and support each other and to reach out to those families who have lost loved ones to MPS. By wearing their purple ribbons and sharing these ribbons within their community, they are increasing public awareness about this disease. This date is

also the start of the National MPS Run/Walk season along with other local community activities to raise awareness along with money for research and for family assistance programs. I commend the National MPS Society and their many volunteers for an unwavering commitment to bring about awareness of this disease and to continue to advocate for federal legislation to streamline the regulatory processes and to speed effective treatments and cures for their loved ones. More must be done to find cures and effective treatments, but let us reflect on the importance of this day. I ask that all of my colleagues join me in commemorating National MPS Awareness Day.

JOSEPH TRUJILLO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Joseph Trujillo for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Joseph Trujillo is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Joseph Trujillo is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Joseph Trujillo for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

**HONORING DIANE GLASSER, CEO
OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY**
HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Diane Glasser, the National and State Party Committeewoman and Vice Mayor of the City of Tamarac. As she concludes her term as Vice Mayor, we reflect on her years of dedicated community and public service which set a brilliant example for our future generations. It is truly an honor to represent her in the United States Congress.

Ms. Glasser has been integral in the significant growth and progress that the City of Tamarac has made over the past 20 years. She is a truly active and inspirational leader. She is involved in many civic and national organizations, such as the AARP, Hadassah, JAFCO, and University Hospital. Within the City of Tamarac alone, she has been a Charter Board Member, City Commissioner, and Vice Mayor. Ms. Glasser epitomizes public service, and it is unfortunate that I can only mention just a few in a long list of her tremendous accomplishments. I can affirm beyond a

doubt that she has been an important leader in the Democratic Party in South Florida, and I do not want her achievements to go unrecognized.

It is a privilege to represent an individual who has done so much for Broward County and the City of Tamarac. I applaud her efforts, and even though her term has come to a close, I look forward to her continued good work for years to come.

Congratulations to Diane Glasser, together with her children and her grandchildren, as they celebrate this well deserved honor.

JONNALYNN SELL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jonnalynn Sell for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jonnalynn Sell is an 8th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jonnalynn Sell is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be obtained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jonnalynn Sell for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

**HONORING MAH-RULCH
MUHAMMAD**
HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great Nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Mah-rulch Muhammad is a senior at Clements High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

The importance of participating in the political system is directly related to one of our key goals as a country: to ensure and preserve democracy. While the interpretation of democracy varies in everyone's individual perceptions, the main idea is the same: government by the people.

In other words, in a democratic society, the public has an active voice in influencing public policy and decisions. Only through effective participation, however, is it possible for this to happen. The final decisions end up affecting the public, so it is important that they speak up and make sure their voices are heard. Only when the people are involved in the political process can their needs be addressed by today's leaders, and consequently be put into public policy.

The policies that are eventually enacted and integrated into our society primarily affect the public. Therefore, the public ought to have a say in the process, as true democratic principles outline. This right does not come into place, however, if proper action and self input is not inserted. There are many options available for the public to be involved in the political process, such as voting, donating to campaigns, or joining interest groups. When people fail to use the options of political participation before them, they are slowly taking power out of their own hands, inviting the ability for the nation's liberties to be taken away.

Every individual is unique and lives under different circumstances. Income, race, gender, and opinions vary greatly from person to person. Due to this factor, it would be impossible for a certain select number of people from one majority to vote during elections for policies that they support, and have these votes reflect the nation's inclination. The idea that policies favor a select few does not seem fair, and leans towards the idea that we are fading away from the idea of democracy. The numbers of those who lack participation in the political process add up and create a hole in how much today's government reflects the will of the people.

Being involved in the government is an inherent part of democracy in that it places the individual into the political process. If the public separates itself, and does not allow its concerns to be addressed, then the problems that the everyday citizen faces won't be fixed. If one's concerns are ignored, then it creates a feeling of apathy within the nation towards the government for not addressing their needs. All of this would be the result of a simple communicational gap. The public's involvement in the political process is the key to closing the gap between themselves and the government. Once that gap is connected, we are one step closer to democracy. It is important that everybody is involved in the political process, given that every individual's opinion matters and makes up the viewpoint of the nation as a whole.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 251, due to other representational obligations in Hannibal, Missouri, I had to miss this vote.

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

RECOGNIZING IBEW LOCAL 25

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the im-

mense success that the members of the Local 25 chapter of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers have achieved. The 2,600 members of Local 25 have, for 80 years, dedicated themselves to the service of their community and achieving excellence within the electrician profession.

IBEW Local 25's service to Long Island began in 1932, when some of the finest crafts people in the world wanted to better facilitate their remarkable skills. IBEW is deeply committed to the ongoing training of its members. Seasoned associates of Local 25 eagerly pass down their accumulated knowledge to the younger generations of electricians in a fair, equal opportunity setting.

Local 25 is of vital importance to the Long Island community, and I am proud of their heritage and remarkable skill sets. The mission of this coalition of tradesmen is to produce the finest skilled electricians in the world who will produce the highest quality electrical installations. I believe the great members of Local 25 have achieved that goal.

Mr. Speaker, I honor the fine members of IBEW Local 25 for their invaluable and continuing contributions to our community. It is my great hope that they will continue to serve as an inspiration for others through their work and ongoing devotion to the great State of New York.

IN HONOR OF THE ONE HUNDRED YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF MARINE CORPS AVIATION

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May 2012 as the one hundred year anniversary of United States Marine Corps Aviation. The Marine Corps stands as a symbol of America's strength and honor, and its history serves as a reminder of the commitment and sacrifice so many Americans have made in defense of this nation.

What began in 1912 when Marine Corps 1st Lt Alfred A. Cunningham reported for flight training has extended through the ongoing operations around the world. A program that started with less than 40 men now consists of hundreds of skilled pilots, expert engineers, and experienced ground crews. In support of their brothers and sisters on the ground, they have flown over the hedgerows of Europe, the jungles of East Asia, the deserts of the Middle East, and every ocean in between. From transportation of the President, to air-ground fire support, to medical evacuation on the battlefield, the capabilities of Marine Corps Aviation are second to none.

In honor of Marine Aviators past and present, I have introduced H.R. 1621, legislation that pays tribute to Marine Corps Aviation with a commemorative coin. These coins will serve as a tribute to the capabilities pioneered by our earliest Marine aviators, and refined over the years to make the Marine Corps a force capable of protecting our nation "in any clime and place." As a helicopter pilot and 25-year Marine veteran, I am proud to have borne the title—Marine Aviator—and stand here today to honor one hundred years of Marine Corps Aviation. Semper Fidelis.

JESSICA GREENBURY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jessica Greenbury for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jessica Greenbury is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jessica Greenbury is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jessica Greenbury for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 250, 251, 252, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all three.

A HISTORY OF THE EXPANSION OF PRESIDENTIAL POWER

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter to the editor of the NY Times that was published on 24 April 2012. The letter was written by noted constitutional lawyer, Mr. Bruce Fein, Esq. It talks about the unchecked power the office of the President of United States has acquired since WW II.

[From the New York Times, April 27, 2012]

A HISTORY OF THE EXPANSION OF PRESIDENTIAL POWER

(By Bruce Fein)

The unilateral actions of President Obama in the domestic arena to circumvent Congress are more than matched by the president's unilateralism in foreign affairs. Among other things, President Obama has unilaterally commenced war, authorized the assassination of American citizens abroad and denied the writ of habeas corpus to detainees not accused of a crime.

Executive branch power at the expense of Congress and the Constitution's checks and balances has mushroomed since World War II. Examples include President Truman's undeclared war against North Korea; President Eisenhower's executive agreements to defend Spain; President Johnson's Gulf of Tonkin Resolution regarding Vietnam;

President Nixon's secret bombing of Cambodia and assertions of executive privilege; President Clinton's undeclared war against Bosnia; and President Bush's countless presidential signing statements, Terrorist Surveillance Program, waterboarding and Iraq war.

The Constitution gave Congress the power to declare war because the president is inclined to aggrandize executive power when faced with conflict or danger. As James Madison wrote to Thomas Jefferson: "The constitution supposes, what the History of all Governments demonstrates, that the Executive is the branch of power most interested in war, and most prone to it. It has accordingly with studied care vested the question of war in the Legislature."

The steady escalation of unchecked presidential power has transformed the Republic whose glory was liberty into an empire whose glory is perpetual war and domination.

KAYLA NAKATA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kayla Nakata for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kayla Nakata is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kayla Nakata is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kayla Nakata for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

NATIONAL DEFENSE TRANSPORTATION DAY AND NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION WEEK

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Defense Transportation Day and National Transportation Week. America has always been a leader in transportation development from the submarine to the steam engine that connected two great oceans and the first flight at Kitty Hawk to the mighty interstates that connect our cities. Transportation is our nation's lifeblood and has been a driving force of our economy. On May 18 is National Defense Transportation Day and May 13–19 is National Transportation Week.

A nation's ability to transport first responders, servicemembers, and materials to the front lines of any crisis is the key to saving lives and protecting our freedoms. Our trans-

portation networks have enabled us to react with speed and efficiency during a crisis.

Our roads, rails, runways, and shipyards have formed the foundation for a thriving global marketplace. Letting these vital infrastructures diminish in quality hampers our ability to maintain a thriving global marketplace. Recommitting to investing and building modern day infrastructure, as we did in the 1950s, we can once again galvanize our economy and soar to new heights like that of the eagle.

Transportation has a high priority for me as a member of Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ranking member of Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications. Crumbling bridges put our safety at risk, and antiquated infrastructure limits our capacity to respond to threats, emergencies, and hazards at home and abroad. These situations diminish our security, our prosperity, and our resilience, and we must do more to address them.

The need for strong and sustainable transportation networks has never been greater. The state of our roads and railways creates a competitive disadvantage that discourages investment and slows the pace of progress. Our nation invests only 2.4 percent of our GDP where as Europe and China invests 5 percent and 9 percent respectively into creating competitive infrastructure. We are greatly lagging behind and investing would save 1.8 million jobs and create up to 1 million more jobs.

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant program, all 50 States have launched new highway and infrastructure projects, and many have funded passenger rail development that will modernize our cities and help put more construction workers back on the job. But this is not enough; I remain committed to upgrading our infrastructure, ensuring the safety and security of our transportation systems, bringing diverse, sustainable transit opportunities to communities across our country, and investing in innovative solutions to address the transportation challenges of today and tomorrow.

On National Defense Transportation Day and during National Transportation Week, we celebrate that rich legacy and recommit to building robust infrastructure that will accelerate our economy in the years ahead. An economy built to last depends on a world-class infrastructure system. I call upon all Members to recognize the importance of our Nation's transportation infrastructure and to acknowledge the contributions of those who build, operate, and maintain these critical infrastructures.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, due to district business, I was unavoidably back in my Congressional District on May 15, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 365, the National Blue Alert Act of 2011, "yea" on H.R. 3874, the Black Hills Cemetery Act, and "yea" on H.R. 205, the HEARTH Act of 2011.

KASSIE ORONA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kassie Orona for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kassie Orona is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kassie Orona is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kassie Orona for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF USDA APHIS

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. While many Americans may not have heard of APHIS, the Agency's mission is so far-reaching that most are touched by its regulatory activities or policies every day. We in the Agriculture Committee understand that when we learned last month of the cow with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) that it was APHIS' swift response and scientific approach that reassured our trading partners that U.S. beef is safe and kept trade moving. We understand that it is APHIS whose work every day keeps our country free from many invasive insects and diseases like the destructive Mediterranean fruit fly. Every day, we hear and see the positive strides this Agency is making in support of U.S. agriculture.

Since APHIS was formed in 1972, it has evolved into a multi-faceted Agency with responsibilities that include protecting and promoting U.S. agricultural health from foreign animal and plant pests and diseases, regulating genetically engineered organisms, administering the Animal Welfare Act, and carrying out wildlife damage management activities. To carry out its mission, APHIS employees work to create and sustain opportunities for America's farmers, ranchers and producers and to safeguard the nation's agriculture, fishing and forestry industries. For that, I applaud them and join in celebrating this Agency's history.

During the early 1970s, APHIS was put to the test when it spearheaded an enormous effort to control an outbreak of exotic Newcastle disease in Southern California that threatened the Nation's entire poultry and egg supply.

APHIS mobilized thousands of workers in a response that included an investigation of over 77 million birds, administration of 113 million doses of vaccines, and maintenance of a quarantine zone spanning 45,000 square miles. Success was achieved in 1974 and marked the first time any country had eradicated such a widespread outbreak of the deadly disease, and it provided a blueprint for future animal disease control efforts. Using lessons it learned from the earlier outbreak, APHIS again lead a taskforce of Federal, State, and private veterinarians in 2002 to effectively stamp out an exotic Newcastle disease outbreak in California and other Western States. This time, however, APHIS and its partners eradicated this devastating disease in one-third the time and at one-half the cost of prior outbreaks, protecting the health of the country's poultry resources, worth more than \$23 billion.

Through the National Boll Weevil Eradication Program launched in the late 1970s, APHIS and its partners eradicated boll weevil from 16 of 17 cotton-producing States, with the last, Texas nearing completion of its eradication efforts. This three-decade effort has succeeded through the participation and cooperation of industry, State and Federal agriculture agencies, and APHIS in sharing costs and developing and improving eradication strategies to meet every challenge. APHIS continues its myriad of programs dedicated to keeping harmful and invasive plant pests and diseases out of this country and eradicating them quickly should they arrive. Recently, APHIS and its State and industry partners have nearly eliminated European grapevine moth infestations, keeping domestic commerce and foreign markets open for grapes, stone fruit, berries, and other commodities that would otherwise have been threatened by the pest.

APHIS assumed a new mandate for wildlife damage management in 1985, after Congress transferred the Animal Damage Control program from the Department of the Interior to USDA. Through this program, APHIS provides Federal leadership and expertise to resolve wildlife conflicts to allow people and wildlife to coexist. APHIS has provided critical support to U.S. agricultural producers over the years finding practical, humane, effective, and environmentally safe solutions when wildlife attack livestock or damage crops. But the program's impact extends beyond agriculture to urban areas, where they work to reduce wildlife hazards at the Nation's airports and military airbases, eradicate invasive species such as the Giant Gambian rat, and combat wildlife rabies.

APHIS' role in the Federal biotechnology era began in 1986 with the "Coordinated Framework for Regulation of Biotechnology," which outlined a comprehensive U.S. Government regulatory policy for ensuring the safety of biotechnology research and products. In November 1987, using new policies for regulating the introduction of genetically engineered organisms that might pose risks to plants, APHIS for the first time approved a field test, for a tobacco resistant to the herbicide bromoxynil. Since then, the Agency has overseen nearly 30,000 field trials at over 86,000 different locations and approved over 80 products for nonregulated status—many of which have subsequently been further developed and released as varieties used in agriculture benefitting farmers and consumers

while decreasing overall pesticide use and soil erosion.

APHIS' role in protecting and promoting the health of U.S. agriculture is also critical in the international trade arena. As part of the move to support growth in international trade while fulfilling APHIS' mission to protect American agriculture, APHIS inspectors began preclearing imports destined for the United States before they left their country of origin in the 1980s. APHIS also began employing other approaches to ensure that imported commodities were free of pests and diseases—X-ray detection devices began screening baggage for illegal material, and APHIS' "Beagle Brigade," established in 1984, sniffed out prohibited foods in passenger luggage. Throughout the years, APHIS' ability to quickly respond to outbreaks of foreign plant pests and diseases, helps assure our trading partners that U.S. products are safe and that the United States is a model for protecting the health and abundance of agriculture.

Today, APHIS continues to enhance its animal welfare efforts, overseeing the care and treatment of animals regulated under the Animal Welfare Act at licensed and registered facilities throughout the United States and its territories. APHIS' risk based inspection system enables the Agency to focus its resources on the most problematic facilities and pursue enforcement against violators.

Lastly, I applaud APHIS for continuously seeking to work together with its partners and stakeholders to achieve success in its programs. APHIS is an Agency that recognizes that it must actively work with States, Tribal Nations, industry and other stakeholder groups to help manage the many issues that affect U.S. agriculture. This coordinated effort has enabled the Agency to be successful in protecting our valuable agricultural and natural resources. We have seen the results of this approach, for example, as the Agency has implemented the Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill. This joint effort by APHIS, states, industry, academia, and other stakeholders has yielded great benefits—helping eradicate devastating plant diseases such as Plum Pox in Pennsylvania, increasing surveys to find foreign pests before they can become established in the United States, educating the public on reducing the spread of these pests, and enhancing research so we have better tools to protect our country from threats to our agricultural and natural resources.

As you can see, through the decades, APHIS has continued to modernize in demonstrating its vitality and significance to farmers, exporters and importers, and consumers. APHIS' leadership in protecting and promoting the health of U.S. agriculture has served the United States well. For that, I want to congratulate APHIS and its hard working employees for a highly successful 40 years, and applaud their continued commitment to the American people and U.S. agriculture.

HONORING MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL'S WE THE PEOPLE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of Milford High School's We the People state championship team.

We the People is a national competition that tests students' knowledge of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Teams from all over the country compete for various prizes and awards. With the help of their teacher, Dave Alcox, and after many months of dedication and hard work, the Milford High School team placed first in New Hampshire's We the People State Championship. In doing so, they earned a spot to compete in the National Championship here in Washington, DC earlier this month, where they placed 30th overall and first in the Unit 3 division out of more than 50 teams. I want to congratulate the following students for their accomplishments and inspiring commitment to their team:

Kelsey Bailey; Jack Betelak; Cara Brewer; Jess Byrne; Laura Elser; Mathias Christensen; Josh Clemens; Paige Craven; Emily Curry; Bekah Curtis; Molly Desmond; Adam Drescher; Robby Finan; Ryan Fitzgerald; Melissa Gray; Sarah Halstead; Ryan Hull; Kyle Joyce; Hannah Ladeau; Ally LaForge; Katie Lannin; Julia Lengvarska; Tom Lundstedt; Comfort Dum Maude; Zach O'Neill; Jon Penniman; Jason Porter; Nick Simo; James Smith; Natasija Vucicevic; and Brittney White.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Hampshire join me in congratulating these students on a job well done, and I wish them all the best in what I know will be a very successful future.

JOSE AVILA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jose Avila for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jose Avila is an 11th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jose Avila is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jose Avila for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

TAIWAN PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU'S SECOND INAUGURATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, this coming Sunday, May 20, Taiwan will inaugurate President Ma Ying-jeou for a second term after his overwhelming election victory earlier this year. Congratulations to President Ma and to all the people of Taiwan. They embody the vision of a representative democracy that founding father Sun Yat-sen imagined.

The value of the United States-Taiwan partnership cannot be overstated. Taiwan is the ninth largest trading partner of the United States and the sixth largest agricultural market for products grown and produced here in the United States. Additionally, Taiwan has long been an important contributor towards economic and political security across Asia, benefiting the entire region.

Taiwan and the United States uphold a peaceful partnership through both trade agreements and meaningful personal relationships. I was lucky enough to take a trip to Taiwan when I was a state legislator, and it is a beautiful country with a vibrant culture. I hope someday to return.

The strength of Taiwan comes from its people. The people continue to benefit from self-governance and free-elections, and the open society and democracy of Taiwan allows for innovation and growth that puts it on a competitive footing with the most powerful and largest countries in the world.

Congratulations to the people of Taiwan and President Ma Ying-jeou on his second inauguration.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. WEBSTER TRAMMELL

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Dr. Webster Trammell. Dr. Trammell has served in numerous positions in the education field and currently holds the position of Vice President of Development, Community and Government Relations at Brookdale Community College. His efforts to serve and educate students will be recognized during the Long Branch Concordance celebration. His actions are truly worthy of this body's recognition.

Dr. Webster Trammell has demonstrated through his work and actions his willingness and dedication to serve others. Dr. Trammell has been actively involved in educational administration since 1969. He served as Assistant Director and Director of Student Activities and Director of Housing before being named Assistant Dean of Students. In 1974, Dr. Trammell accepted the position of Director of the Educational Opportunity Fund, EOF, at Monmouth College, where he succeeded in restructuring the program to become an exem-

plary model for other colleges to emulate. Four years later, he accepted the position of EOF Director at Brookdale Community College successfully raised the quality of service and level of expectation produced by the department. Dr. Trammell was appointed Research and Development Officer for Brookdale Community College in 1984, serving as a member of the President's staff. He was subsequently appointed to the position of Vice President for Development, Community and Governmental Relations, the position which he holds today. In his current capacity, Dr. Trammell is responsible for the institution's governmental relations, resource development, the Brookdale Foundation and Alumni Association as well as external affairs. Dr. Trammell is a proud Alumnus of Monmouth College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art with a minor in Education and a Master of Science in Student Personnel Services. He received his doctorate in Psychology (Psy.D.) from Rutgers University.

Dr. Trammell is a member of several professional and community organizations. He serves as a member of the Legislative Affairs and Governance Committees of the New Jersey Hospital Association and was elected in 2010 to the Regional Policy Board of the American Hospital Association. Dr. Trammell is also the Immediate Past Chairman of the Monmouth Family Health Center Corporation Board of Directors and the Immediate Chairman of the Board of Trustees to Monmouth Medical Center. His impressive involvement in community activities resulted in the presentation of the 1993 Private Industry Council Partnership Award for Education, the 2004 Red Bank Men's Club Excellence in Education Award and the 2008 SCAN John Wanat Leadership Award, among others notable accolades. Most impressively, he currently holds an 8th degree black belt and has trained in the martial arts for 43 years. Dr. Trammell currently resides in Middletown, New Jersey with his wife, Kathleen. He is the proud father of three children, Ian, Heather and Emily and grandfather to Llewelyn and Evan.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Dr. Webster Trammell for receiving the honor bestowed by the Long Branch Concordance. His outstanding service to students and community continue to touch the lives of many throughout Monmouth County, New Jersey.

CONGRATULATING TAIWAN'S
PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU ON
HIS RE-ELECTION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in congratulating President Ma Ying-jeou for winning this year's presidential election in Taiwan, the Republic of China, ROC. He will be officially inaugurated as the fifth freely elected president of the Republic of China on May 20, reminding the world once again that Taiwan is a nation to be admired for her unwavering commitment to democracy and freedom.

It has been my joy to watch the success of the Taiwanese people in overcoming great obstacles and I know that President Ma will continue his record of achievement in this, his second term. We admire Taiwan's flourishing market economy and vibrant democracy. Their successes are directly attributable to the wisdom and industry of the people of Taiwan. Today nearly everyone in Taiwan is middle class and enjoys good nutrition, good health, excellent schools, low crime rates and safe neighborhoods. Politically, people are free to voice their opinions. Press freedom and human rights are guaranteed by the ROC's Constitution.

It is my hope that many countries in Asia will follow the example of this great island as a model of democracy and freedom. My colleagues and I greatly admire the accomplishments that have taken place since the end of martial law and the establishment of democracy in the 1980's. I wish the Taiwanese the best in the challenges ahead, particularly in handling cross-strait relations. I hope all of my colleagues here in the House of Representatives will be continually supportive as the Taiwanese pursue a peaceful solution to the China issue. I believe that peace and stability within the Taiwan Strait are in the best interest of the global community.

I have always cherished Taiwan's close friendship with the United States and I admire Taiwan's recent economic and democratic achievements. We look forward to working with the government and people of Taiwan in further strengthening and clarifying the commercial, cultural and other relations between the United States and Taiwan, particularly Taiwan's defense needs and Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations.

Again, congratulations, President Ma.

HONORING PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU OF TAIWAN

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou celebrates his second inauguration on May 20. With determination and courage, he has done what most pundits thought was impossible.

Through his initiatives with China he has achieved lessening tensions between the two governments while maintaining the integrity of Taiwan's people and their free and democratic society.

These strategic steps, assumed by many to fail, have in fact produced excellent results. Taiwan, long a major world trader, has opened up trade channels with mainland China which have been accompanied by tourists from the mainland. All this has been achieved while maintaining Taiwan's security.

Peace in the Taiwan Strait, which President Ma has worked toward, is of great importance to us as a Nation; for peace, among other humanitarian advantages, lessens the need for the United States to deploy more of our military resources to the region.

I congratulate President Ma and wish him well in his second term.

JOE TINER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Joe Tiner for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Joe Tiner is a 12th grader at Arvada Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Joe Tiner is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Joe Tiner for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

**HONORING NATIONAL POLICE
WEEK**
HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you remarks I made earlier this week at home in North Texas in recognition of National Police Week. I was honored to be present with many constituents of the 24th District of Texas alongside the Addison, Carrollton, Coppell and Farmers Branch, Texas police departments remembering those brave men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice in protecting our communities and neighborhoods. It was my honor to speak to this group and it is my privilege to express again my gratitude to the men and women who serve as peace officers and protect us each day.

ADDRESS GIVEN AT MEMORIAL CEREMONY,
MAY 15, 2012, LIBERTY PLAZA, FARMERS
BRANCH, TEXAS

Friends, it is with both pride and sadness that I am here before you today to recognize National Police Week. We come together today to recognize and honor those men and women nationwide who gave the ultimate sacrifice as officers of the peace. We must give thanks to them and the entire law enforcement family for their selfless actions in keeping our communities safe.

National Police Week is a time for all of us to come together to understand the important role these officers play in protecting the rights and freedoms of our community. It is a time for citizens to reflect and understand the duties, responsibilities, and sacrifices of our law enforcement officers. These men and women provide a vital public service, risking their lives on a daily basis to protect our own.

Today, May 15th, 2012, marks the 20 year anniversary of the first National Peace Officers' Memorial Day Service. That first service was held in Washington, D.C., on Capitol Hill to commemorate the peace officers who

had fallen nationally. In 1989, the first annual candlelight vigil was held at Judiciary Square in Washington, D.C. to honor the men and women who sacrificed their lives.

In 1991, President George H. Bush dedicated a National Memorial for these fallen men and women, honoring them for eternity. This Memorial honors federal, state and local law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and protection of our nation and its people.

On the walls of this memorial are the names of more than 19,000 officers who have given their lives in the line of duty throughout U.S. history. Today we celebrate the lives of all these brave public servants.

Each spring since that first fateful day in 1982, we have gathered nationwide to celebrate and venerate these men and women for their bravery. I ask that you join me today in commemorating and remembering law enforcement officers past and present. These are diligent and loyal men and women. They are devoted to their responsibilities and are dedicated in their service to their communities. Their reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens should be honored along with their sacrifice today.

Many officers have come from a home where their mother, father, brother or sister served their community in the same capacity. Family members often serve as an inspiration for their siblings, children and peers to serve as an officer. These inspired few that have the desire to protect and safeguard our communities are truly remarkable. It is that inspiration to protect and dedicate oneself to a community that brings us here today.

These men and women who serve with one another are a family. This is a family that I am very proud to support. They have a deep partnership with their community and each other. When a fellow officer falls in the line of duty, they do not lose a colleague, but a brother or sister. These brothers and sisters may have different badges or different oaths, but their valor in the line of duty is what binds them together. This partnership and this family are being remembered nationwide today.

Every day, officers put themselves in harm's way to protect the citizens and families they serve. These men and women are the continuous barrier between lawlessness and peace.

As a former city councilman, mayor, state representative and now Member of Congress, I have had the privilege of working with our community law enforcement for quite some time. I have the honor of calling countless police officers my friends. I will continue to be proud of their deeds and accomplishments in protecting North Texas, my family and my friends in all of you.

The honor these officers receive must be derived not only from their personal deeds, but the countless acts of violence and crime they have prevented. Today and every day we should remember that with courage, these fallen officers that we call to mind have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community.

It is with a heavy heart that we celebrate the lives of these men and women today. Let us not forget the service and duty they have done for us. And let us pay respect to the survivors of our fallen heroes, and we humbly thank their friends and loved ones for their sacrifice.

**HONORING THE BLUE STAR
MOTHERS OF AMERICA**
HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Blue Star Mothers of America. The Blue Star Mothers of America was founded in 1942 in order to bring together the mothers of children serving in the United States Armed Forces. In 1960, the nonprofit organization was chartered by the Congress of the United States. The Blue Star Mothers continue to provide support for active duty service personnel, promote patriotism, assist veteran's organizations and homeland volunteer efforts. Not only is the organization for mothers, but family members and friends may become associate members, and fathers of military personnel may join the Father's Association. During World War I, the Blue Star Service Flag was designed by Captain Robert L. Queissar and went on to become an unofficial symbol of a child in service. Today this same flag is an official banner authorized by the Department of Defense for display by families and associations who have members serving in the Armed Forces during a period of war. I ask that the U.S. House of Representatives honor the month of May as Blue Star Mothers Month, keeping in mind that sons and daughters continue to fight for our freedoms and protect this great Nation both domestically and abroad.

**RECOGNIZING USTAD RAHAT
FATEH ALI KHAN**
HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ustad Rahat Fateh Ali Khan who is considered to be the "Heart and Soul of Sufi Music."

Rahat Fateh Ali Khan was born on January 1, 1974 in Faisalabad, Pakistan to a prominent family of Classical musicians. He carries on the 700 year-old tradition of Qawwali, a form of Muslim Sufi devotional music.

Rahat Fateh Ali Khan began his formal training in music at the age of seven and had his first performance by the age of nine. By 1997 he was considered the leader of Muslim Sufi music. As a result of his talent and devotion he has built a bridge between the East and the West—in March of 1998 he performed with Eddie Vedder in Los Angeles and has appeared many times in New York City to much critical acclaim. He has also worked on many movie soundtracks such as Dead Man Walking with Sean Penn, The Four Feathers with American composer James Horner and lastly with Mel Gibson in Apocalypto. He is also a renowned Bollywood playback singer. However, more important than his artistic acclaim, Rahat Fateh Ali Khan has been his been recognized numerous times over due to his selfless participation in benefit concerts all over the world.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, my constituents and music lovers from around the world as I recognize Mr. Ustad Rahat Fateh Ali

Khan, as he is the heart and soul of the world music community with billions of fans all over the globe.

SECOND INAUGURATION OF TAIWAN PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou will be inaugurated for the second and final time on Sunday, May 20th. In addition to its continued democratic development, Taiwan has undergone numerous unprecedented economic, travel and tourism changes—between itself and mainland China—since President Ma first took office four years ago.

In July 2008, just over two months after taking office, President Ma launched the first regularized direct flights across the Taiwan Strait since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949. Such flights now number 558 per week, having greatly eased the burdens of Taiwanese living and working in mainland China. It's also made life much easier for American tourists and businesspeople crossing the Strait instead of having to change planes in Hong Kong, or another third party port, as they once did.

And in 2010, Taiwan enacted its Economic and Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) with mainland China that zeroed out tariffs on a number of Taiwan exports to the mainland. Further ECFA liberalizations will follow. ECFA's allowed Taiwan companies to tap mainland consumer markets while allowing them to stay in Taiwan and trade from their own home base. ECFA's further offered Taiwanese greater consumer choice at more affordable prices, while additionally uncovering opportunities for U.S. companies that have operations on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. It's thus no wonder the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei has, after years of calling for such changes, wholeheartedly applauded President Ma's economic openings. Slowly but surely, Taiwan's steadily reinserting itself into the global economic supply chain, strongly making its case for a resumption of Trade and Investment Framework Agreement talks with the United States.

The influx of mainland Chinese tourists to Taiwan, allowed since 2008, has boosted the island's economy while also exposing mainlanders to Taiwan's free society and vibrant democracy. This fact was most notable during Taiwan's January 14th presidential and legislative elections won by President Ma and his Kuomintang (KMT) Chinese party. Visiting mainlanders were mesmerized by Taiwan's televised debates and dueling public events, and their some of their cohorts back home even took to blogging about it. Last year, 1.8 million mainland Chinese tourists visited Taiwan. That's 30% of all 6.08 million tourists who visited Taiwan in 2011.

On this, his second inauguration, I ask my colleagues to not only congratulate President Ma on his inauguration, but also on his openings to mainland China that have not just benefited Taiwan companies and consumers, but also U.S. economic interests and enterprises in the region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, my car battery died and I was detained from voting on Tuesday, May 15, 2012. If present, I would have voted yea on the following rollcall votes: rollcall No. 250; rollcall No. 251; and rollcall No. 252.

JEANNINE LESANTE MAZURKIWE CZ

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. LOU BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jeannine Lesante Mazurkiwecz, who will be recognized with the 2012 Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce Athena Award. Each year, the Athena Award is presented to a Greater Hazleton businesswoman for outstanding professional achievement. Jeannine's selfless dedication to her career and community makes her an ideal recipient of this award.

Jeannine graduated from King's College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communications. Upon completion of an unpaid internship at WBRE, a regional television station, she declined a full-time job to invest her time and talents in her local, family-owned television news station, Greater Hazleton's First Local News 13/Sam-Son Productions. Since News 13's founding in 1994, Jeannine has worked in a variety of positions. Recently, Jeannine was promoted into administration. Through her various responsibilities, Jeannine has led her team at News 13 to the top of news and information coverage.

Jeannine is also active within the community, from teaching classes at King's College to assisting all types of organizations such as the American Red Cross and the Hazleton Blind Association. Additionally, she is the co-founder of the Making a Difference Foundation and currently holds the position of Assistant Director of Corporate Relations with Professionals Organized & Working to Enrich the Region (POWER) of Hazleton. Furthermore, Jeannine finds time to mentor students at the McCann School of Business and Technology and has been a volunteer to local brownie troops.

Mr. Speaker, Jeannine is truly a pillar of her community in the Greater Hazleton Area. I commend Jeannine for her many years of committed service to the community and our country.

HONORING MAY AS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor May as Older Americans Month. Since 1963 our Nation has come together to

celebrate the seniors in our communities. This month the theme is "Never Too Old to Play", which emphasizes how important it is for older Americans to stay active and engaged in their communities.

Communities are encouraged to organize social events like trivia night, painting a mural or a team photo scavenger hunt to encourage seniors to get involved. Just this past week I hosted a senior luncheon in my district.

This annual event is not only an opportunity to listen to my constituents concerns over a great meal, but it is a time for seniors to get together and enjoy themselves. We had performances from local entertainment groups, speeches and karaoke. It was a wonderful time for all involved.

I have also introduced H.R. 3794, the Expanding Opportunities for Older Americans Act of 2011. This bill would amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to include government funding to hire seniors who still wish to be working and active. Although seniors have already given so much, I truly believe they have much more to offer.

Older Americans Month is also a great time to bridge the generation gap. Children to young adults can learn so much from the older generation, but they rarely interact in everyday life. There is so much valuable knowledge the young people from this country can receive from the older generation, and this is an opportunity for people of all ages to get out there and interact together.

This month also gives me a chance to address an issue of key importance; caring for seniors with chronic illness and preventing unnecessary hospitalizations. In-home care can make a huge difference in recovery from illness and inpatient hospital treatments. Being around family and in the comfort of one's own home makes these traumatic experiences that much less painful.

Mr. Speaker, the majority of the skilled home healthcare providers in my district deliver high-quality, clinically effective and highly efficient care. In-home care is so important for the seniors who would otherwise be forced into hospitals without it.

As an elected official I want to make sure that Medicare funds in my district are going to those who qualify and deserve it, so we can continue to provide the best care for our seniors. With such a tough economic outlook throughout the nation it is of vital importance that we are not handing money over to criminals who are trying to play the system.

Mr. Speaker, after decades of paying taxes and working hard so that they will have security in retirement, the seniors of America deserve our full support. I hope every community takes this month to plan at least one event supporting the older generation, and bringing people of all ages together.

This month I honor the seniors of the 37th district of California, as well as all seniors across the country. Thank you for all you do, and do not forget, "It is never too old to play".

RECOGNIZING THE RIVERHEAD BLUE WAVES

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Riverhead Blue Waves

Girls Basketball Team on their history-making 2011–2012 season.

The Blue Waves of Riverhead, New York went all the way to the state Class AA Final Four tournament in Troy, New York, a first in the team's history and a truly remarkable achievement. Along the way they won the 2012 Long Island Championship in a 56–50 victory over the Baldwin Bruins amidst waves of cheering fans known as the "Blue Krew." They also won the Suffolk County Class AA championship, and the Suffolk County Section XI championship, finishing the season with a 23–2 record.

Their coach, Dave Spinelli, was named Suffolk County Coach of the Year, and senior guard Jaylyn Brown was named a first-team All-Long Island player. The team was named a New York State Scholar Athlete team for the seventh consecutive year with a team grade-point average this year of 93.1.

Hailed as hometown heroes, the athletes were honored with a parade down East Main Street sponsored by the Riverhead Central School District and the Town of Riverhead on April 29th, and the entire day was designated a day of celebration. Riverhead School Board vice president Greg Meyer said the team acted as a catalyst for the entire community. "The girls played their hearts out for their team and for this community, and the residents of Riverhead and the rest of the school district came together to support the team in a major way."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have such a talented and dedicated group of young athletes in my congressional district. They demonstrated commitment, teamwork, leadership and serve as role models for their community, proving that with hard work and a good defense, dreams do come true.

HONORING MADISON WEAVER

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Madison Weaver is a senior at Clements High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. His essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Government is defined as the political direction and control exercised over the actions of the members, citizens, or inhabitants of communities, societies, and states. In other words, the government is the ultimate source of authority in our country. However, I believe that this power should be used with restraint. I also believe that gov-

ernment should focus on protecting the people, instead of controlling the people.

Helping secure jobs and keeping companies in business is something the U.S. government has been promoting heavily in the past few years. With the passing of the 'bail-out' bill, numerous corporations, that would have otherwise failed, were saved by the government's decision to give them enough money in order to stay afloat. Consequently, millions of people were able to keep their jobs. But what does that say about our government? Is it humanitarian that our government reacts in order to save those companies and jobs? No, in fact this shows that our government is pushing forth its own agenda of what will be produced in America.

The fine line between government protecting and controlling is the difference in outcome. Protecting, will ultimately promote a healthier economy; while controlling, will produce quicker results, yet negative, long-term effects. For instance, by giving money to banks that made numerous bad loans, was essentially saying that it was 'ok' to make bad business decisions. Also, by giving money to the auto industry, was essentially saying that it was 'ok' to make products that people didn't want. Yes, the government was able to save many businesses, and countless jobs; but do we want failed businesses to operate in America? The answer is, "no"!

Instead of looking at every business failure as a sign of weakness of the government, we need to see to the failures and embrace them too. Without the fear of failure, there is no drive for success. Therefore, we need to have failures, recessions, and yes, even job losses in order to drive people to succeed and make our country better. I believe that the government has done us more harm than good in attempting to control the recession. By stepping back and letting the business cycle run its course, only then can government truly guide our country to a more productive America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 250, due to other representational obligations in Hannibal, Missouri, I had to miss this vote.

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

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING IRAN FROM ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for H. Res. 568. It is imperative that the United States takes necessary steps to ensure that Iran is unable to acquire the capability to produce nuclear weapons.

The United States and all our allies must respond to this threat immediately. The stability of the entire Middle East region hangs in the balance as Iran seeks this technology. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has openly threatened both the United States and Israel in the recent past and as a result, swift and harsh sanctions must be put in place against the Iranian regime.

The United States' security and interests are clearly in danger. Satellite intelligence provides us with enough information to confidently assess that Tehran is concealing their true actions. International inspectors have been denied entry into the facilities, a troublesome act if there is nothing to hide. The containment and appeasement of Iran must not be considered. Instituting aggressive sanctions against this radical regime is a prudent and necessary course of action.

H.R. 5746, A BILL TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO MODIFY CERTAIN RULES APPLICABLE TO REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS; TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleague from Massachusetts, Representative Neal, and Representatives SAM JOHNSON, CHARLES RANGEL, DEVIN NUNES, PETE STARK, DAVE REICHERT, JOHN LEWIS, PETER ROSKAM, EARL BLUMENAUER, JIM GERLACH, RON KIND, AARON SCHOCK, JOSEPH CROWLEY, LYNN JENKINS and ERIK PAULSEN, I rise today to introduce the Update and Streamline REIT Act (U.S. REIT Act). Congress created real estate investment trusts (REITs) in 1960, with the goal of providing Americans from all walks of life a transparent and liquid way to access the income and diversification benefits of investments in commercial real estate.

Periodically over the past fifty years, Congress has enhanced and improved the REIT rules as the real estate industry and marketplace has evolved, typically with non-controversial legislation that attracts significant bipartisan support. In that vein, the last REIT update was introduced in 2007.

A number of publicly traded REITs are headquartered in my home state of Ohio, and listed REITs as a whole have invested over \$8 billion dollars to date in Ohio malls, office buildings, health care, hotel, self-storage and other properties. This investment by REITs creates jobs, improves local economies; and helps to support and beautify our communities.

The U.S. REIT Act has been developed over a lengthy period. It has considerable bipartisan support and is largely revenue neutral. If enacted, it would increase flexibility and remove certain redundant and unnecessary restrictions on REIT activities, in order to enable REITs to continue to achieve the goals on behalf of their shareholders set for them by Congress over fifty years ago.

H.R. 5746, A BILL TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO MODIFY CERTAIN RULES APPLICABLE TO REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS; TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a bill that I'm introducing with my good friend and colleague from Ohio, Representative TIBERI, the Update and Streamline REIT Act (or U.S. REIT Act). I think it's important to note that the precursor to today's REITs began as Massachusetts business trusts over a hundred years ago. In 1960, an Act of Congress democratized investment in real estate, an asset class that had traditionally only been available to institutional investors and the wealthy, by authorizing the creation of REITs, widely-held entities that own and operate large-scale, income-producing real estate.

Since the Congressional authorization of REITs in 1960, Congress periodically has updated the REIT rules in a bipartisan manner to enable the industry to adapt to a changing marketplace and to evolve consistent with its original mandate. The U.S. REIT Act would continue that tradition.

Among other things, consistent with a provision in the Obama Administration's FY 2012 and FY 2013 Budgets, and Congressional repeal of a similar rule for publicly offered mutual funds in 2010, the U.S. REIT Act would repeal the preferential dividend rule for "publicly offered" REITs. Publicly traded REITs as a whole have invested over \$18 billion to date in a variety of Massachusetts properties, including malls, office buildings, health care, hotel, self-storage and other properties. As a former mayor, I recognize that these companies and their tenants are the bedrock of local economies, improving communities, advertising locally, and generating property and sales taxes that support local schools districts and first responders.

I am proud to have been a co-sponsor of legislation over the years that have refined the REIT rules to ensure that REITs can continue to provide the benefits envisioned by Congress to investors from all walks of life, and I am proud to co-sponsor this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the U.S. REIT Act.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CHARLES W. COLSON

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to a man we remembered just a few short hours ago at the National Cathedral here in Washington, DC.

The Good Book says, "Render therefore to all their due. . . honor to whom honor." Charles W. Colson is certainly worthy of honor and esteem.

The earthly life of this consequential American has come to an end and I mark this occasion with a sense of profound personal loss.

Chuck Colson rose to the heights of political power and fell to the depths of disgrace. But in his fall, he found redemption in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Given a second chance, Chuck Colson devoted his life to carrying the Christian message of second chances to those in prison, and he saw countless lives changed by his compassion and example.

His voice of moral clarity was an inspiration to millions of Americans and made him an invaluable counselor to leaders in government and business. I will always count it a privilege to have been able to call him my dear friend and mentor. His dedication to moral integrity, serving his fellow man and his steadfast faith have always and will always be an inspiration to me and my family.

Karen and I offer our deepest condolences to Patty, the whole Colson family and to all who mourn the loss of Chuck Colson.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL
ADVOCATES OF MORRIS AND SUSSEX COUNTY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children of Morris and Sussex Counties as they celebrate their 25th anniversary.

Court Appointed Special Advocates, CASA, was created in 1977 to address the issue of abused and neglected children within the court system. The founder, David Soukup, a Seattle Superior Court Judge, raised concerns over making decisions on behalf of abused and neglected children without enough information. To gain more knowledge he called for volunteers to investigate the cases, make recommendations and speak on behalf of the child about what would be in his or her best interest.

It quickly became clear that CASA volunteers provided the abused or neglected children a constant adult presence that supported them by advocating for their needs within the court system. According to the CASA mission statement, CASA's intent is to "speak up for the best interests of children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect. We recruit, train, and supervise community volunteers who provide a voice in court to assure each child a safe, permanent, and nurturing home."

CASA of Morris County began in 1987 by the National Council of Jewish Women and later merged with the Sussex County chapter in 1996. In the last fiscal year the CASA of Morris and Sussex Counties served 354 children helping 108 reach permanency, which includes reunification with birth parents, adoption, kinship legal adoption, or independent living. Out of the 15 CASA chapters in New Jersey, the Morris and Sussex Counties chapter serves the largest percentage of children in out-of-home placement.

For 25 years, the CASA of Morris and Sussex Counties has kept children from falling through the cracks of the court system and helped them gain a stable family structure. In the past year, CASA lists among their accom-

plishments helping four siblings reunite with their parents in a safe environment with two of the siblings attending summer camp on scholarships, a four-year-old child who spent the first three years of her life in five different foster homes was able to be adopted into a loving family, and an abandoned 16-year-old was able to find a part-time job, educational assistance, and a path to independent living.

CASA of Morris and Sussex County's is proud that their 25 years of work has always focused on the tenet of "every child can thrive in the safe embrace of a loving family." CASA has been able to provide the opportunity for abused and neglected children of Northern New Jersey to overcome their circumstance and mature into successful and caring adults.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing Court Appointed Special Advocates of Morris and Sussex Counties on their 25th anniversary.

HONORING THE ORIGINAL FLORIDA
HALL OF FAME HIGHWAYMEN

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen. They are a group of 26 named and listed landscape artists who have been called "The Last Great American Art Moment of the 20th century." These self-taught and self-mentoring African American Artists were able to define themselves against the many racial and cultural barriers of the time in which they painted, and created a body of work of over two hundred thousand paintings.

The Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen, from Fort Pierce, Florida, began painting in the early 1950s and created large numbers of relatively inexpensive landscape paintings, which were done using construction materials rather than art supplies. As no galleries would accept their works, they sold them in towns and cities and along roadsides throughout Florida, often still wet, out of the trunks of their cars.

Following the death of one of their members in 1970, the remaining members created fewer works and productivity waned. However, after being re-discovered in the 1990s, they have become celebrated for their idyllic landscapes of natural settings in Florida.

In 2004, the 26 Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen were inducted into the Florida Artist Hall of Fame. In addition to becoming part of Florida's culture and history, they have also received international recognition.

Eight of the original members are now deceased, but the remaining members, most now into their 70s and 80s, continue to paint, to this day. Despite racial barriers and obstacles, their success and longevity are remarkable.

Please join me in honoring the Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen, for their dedication to their craft and their contributions to art in the State of Florida and around the world.

THE SECOND INAUGURATION OF
PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to recognize the second inauguration of President Ma Ying-jeou, which will take place on May 20, 2012. I join with the people of Taiwan in celebrating this historic occasion.

Since the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, the United States and Taiwan have focused on creating a harmonious bilateral relationship. While our two countries have continued to share strong relations, we have been able to further strengthen our ties under President Ma's leadership.

I am pleased to note several positive developments that taken place over the course of President Ma's first term, including being recognized by the World Health Organization as an observer to the World Health Assembly. This important recognition has given Taiwan an avenue in which to address the health issues affecting its country.

Furthermore, the United States has increased trade relations with Taiwan, and U.S. agricultural and food products now account for over 30 percent of Taiwan's agricultural imports. These gains could not have been achieved independently, and such positive outcomes would not be possible without the collaboration and cooperation of President Ma's government.

Mr. Speaker, again I want to congratulate President Ma on his second term in office. I look forward to continuing my work with the President and his government to ensure a peaceful and prosperous Taiwan.

IN COMMEMORATION OF ASIAN/PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in commemoration of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

This month recognizes that our country's strength comes from the diverse talents, cultures, and ideas of its people. In Hawaii, it is this very diversity that helps drive our State forward and is the basis of our rich local culture.

We honor the indigenous people of Hawaii and the Pacific islands and the Asian immigrants who have come to America seeking opportunity and freedom. Key anniversaries in the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders occur in May, including the arrival to the U.S. of the first Japanese immigrants in 1843.

As an immigrant myself, I know firsthand the challenges—and the opportunities—that so many faced when they came to America.

My mother, brothers, and I arrived with little more than the clothes on our back and my mother's determination to build a better life for her children.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have found success in all walks of life. In government alone, we recognize Senator INOUE, president pro tempore, who chairs the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations; Patsy Takemoto Mink, the first woman of color in Congress, whose Title IX legislation ensured education equity for women and girls; and Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole, whose leadership led to the creation of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands with the passage of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920.

These distinguished leaders aren't just a source of pride for the AAPI community, they also inspire a Nation. I am proud to celebrate the accomplishments of all Asian and Pacific Islander Americans and look forward to seeing the trailblazers of the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on May 15, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall Nos. 250, 251, and 252.

SUPPORTING NOAA'S CLIMATE
COMPETITIVE RESEARCH, SUS-
TAINED OBSERVATIONS AND RE-
GIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAM

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of NOAA's Climate Competitive Research, Sustained Observations and Regional Information program, which was unfortunately cut by \$26 million from the President's Fiscal Year 2013 budget request in the Commerce, Justice, Science FY13 Appropriations bill.

While I appreciate the funding included in this bill for NOAA's satellite programs, NASA, NIST, and NSF, and thank my colleagues who supported these programs, I urge them to work with me to restore the \$26 million cut in this important climate research program.

In March, I joined 28 of my House colleagues in writing to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Science and Justice in support of the full budget request for this program.

NOAA's competitive climate program contributes to local, regional, national, and global weather and water outlooks. These are relied upon by key decision makers in cities and States throughout the country in areas such as agriculture and power generation. The State of Colorado is not only the home to world-class research institutions whose researchers are supported by this funding, but it is also a user of this information for vital natural resource governance decisions.

The southwest has experienced persistent drought conditions over the last three decades. Temperatures in Colorado have increased two degrees during the same time, a trend that will likely persist. Colorado has also

experienced earlier snow melting, which desiccates our reservoirs, contributing to increased demand for water for personal and agricultural use, and increased flooding risk.

The agricultural community, water resource managers, and power suppliers across Colorado rely on the monitoring, observation, and analysis supported by this funding line to inform decisions that directly affect the health of the economy.

The importance of this need was recognized in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Western Governors Association and NOAA to provide climate information to western states to help them mitigate disaster situations stemming from flood, drought, and fires.

This Climate Competitive Research, Sustained Observations and Regional Information program also supports critical ocean observing systems, as data has shown that the highly dynamic relationship between oceans and the atmosphere affects weather and climate shifts over land. It also supports satellite calibration and validation which inform the most accurate satellite observations.

Importantly, many American businesses rely on this funding to create and manufacture environmental observing equipment.

I recognize that we must make difficult choices in our current fiscal environment. Supporting this program will continue our investments in research, observations, and modeling to help States and businesses manage environmental risk and reduce future expenses from natural disasters.

I urge my colleagues to consider restoring funding to NOAA's Climate Competitive Research, Sustained Observations and Regional Information program before this spending bill is enacted into law.

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF
CHINA (TAIWAN) AND ITS PRESI-
DENT, MA YING-JEOU

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of China (Taiwan) and its President, Ma Ying-jeou, on the impending inauguration of his second term on May 20, 2012. I had the distinct pleasure of meeting President Ma in October of 2011, and I wish him and the Taiwanese people well during his second term of office.

The friendship enjoyed by the United States and Taiwan rests upon a strong foundation of democracy, trade, and security. Through the elections held on January 14, 2012 and the inauguration on May 20, Taiwan is reaffirming that commitment to democracy and that is something that should be held up as an example for others in the region and the world at large.

President Ma's first term was marked by many successes, including securing observer status with the World Health Assembly and increasing trade and reducing tensions in the East Asia region. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to ensure that the U.S.-Taiwan relationship grows and strengthens and that Taiwan remains a safe, strong, and stable ally in the region.

Please join me in congratulating President Ma and in wishing him a successful second term as he guides the Republic of China (Taiwan) for the next four years.

SEQUESTER REPLACEMENT RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, the recent vote in support of the H.R. 5652—Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act was a necessary vote to deliver on our promise to bring an end to the fiscal nightmare in Washington. We promised to restore a better future for of children and grandchildren and the action we recently took delivers on that promise.

Section 204 of H.R. 5652 reversed two Medicaid provisions affecting the U.S. territories—increases in both the federal match rate and the cap on federal Medicaid spending—created in Obamacare. While I fully support a repeal of Obamacare, I also understand the rationale for these provisions addressed a disparity in the treatment of U.S. territories under Medicaid going back decades. Prior to the changes, Puerto Rico paid 80 percent of its share of Medicaid, even though it has a population of almost 4 million and a poverty level percentage similar to the state of Mississippi. Unlike the 50 states, where no U.S. state pays more than 50 percent of its share, the territories operate under a different reimbursement formula. The adjustment in the Medicaid payments to territories helped to close this gap.

It is imperative for Members to recognize the importance of increased Medicaid funding to the territories, especially given the deep respect we share for our fellow U.S. citizens. I urge my colleagues to ensure equitable Medicaid funding to the territories as we move forward during this necessary budgetary negotiations.

STATEMENT ON H.R. 4970

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, although I support the Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP) grant program, I regretfully had to vote no on final passage of the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization (VAWA). Even with the changes in the manager's amendment, the bill that came to the floor today remains a partisan, extremist bill that provides far fewer protections for domestic violence victims than the strong, bipartisan Senate-passed bill.

This bill would put victims of domestic violence in greater danger by rolling back key protections in current law and by excluding entire populations of women, particularly in the LGBT and Native American communities, from these valuable victim protections. Even though VAWA is a critical grant program, I could not support the House GOP version, as such I voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded vote for rollcall No. 235. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this measure.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 17, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 21

2:30 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine national security, focusing on foreign language capabilities in the Federal government.
SD-342

MAY 22

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
SeaPower Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.
SR-232A

10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine implementing derivatives reform, focusing on reducing systemic risk and improving market oversight.
SD-538

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the report produced by the American Energy Innovation Council titled "Catalyzing American Ingenuity: The Role of Government in Energy Innovation" and related issues.
SD-366

11 a.m.
Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.
SD-G50

2 p.m.
Armed Services
Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.
SR-232A

2:30 p.m.
Appropriations
State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee
Business meeting to markup proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs.
SD-138

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

3:30 p.m.
Armed Services
Airland Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.
SR-232A

5 p.m.
Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.
SR-232A

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Strategic Forces Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.
SR-232A

10 a.m.
Judiciary
Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine protecting our children, focusing on the importance of training child protection professionals.
SD-226

Appropriations
Department of Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the fiscal year 2013 Guard and Reserve budget overview.
SD-192

Finance
To hold hearings to examine progress in health care delivery, focusing on innovations from the field.
SD-215

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine The Law of the Sea Convention (Treaty Doc. 103-

39), focusing on the United States National Security and Strategic Imperatives for Ratification. SD-419	2:30 p.m. Armed Services Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. SR-222	9:30 a.m. Armed Services Closed business meeting to continue markup of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. SR-222
Veterans' Affairs To hold hearings to examine seamless transition, focusing on a review of the Integrated Disability Evaluation System. SD-562	Judiciary To hold hearings to examine certain nominations. SD-226	
10:30 a.m. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs To hold hearings to examine the Secret Service, focusing on trust and confidence. SD-G50	MAY 24 9 a.m. Intelligence Closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business. SH-219	JUNE 7 2:15 p.m. Indian Affairs To hold an oversight hearing to examine Universal Service Fund Reform, focusing on ensuring a sustainable and connected future for native communities. SD-628
2 p.m. Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Security and International Trade and Finance Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine reviewing the United States-China strategic and economic dialogue. SD-538	9:30 a.m. Armed Services Closed business meeting to continue markup of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. SR-222 2:15 p.m. Indian Affairs To hold an oversight hearing to examine programs and services for native veterans. SD-628	JUNE 28 10 a.m. Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions To hold hearings to examine creating positive learning environments for all students. Room to be announced