

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HEALTH CARE COST REDUCTION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2012*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of concern regarding the Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2011 (H.R. 436).

I am extremely disappointed that this bill, which addresses important issues, was needlessly injected with partisanship.

The medical device industry is integral to both our health care system and our economy.

Regardless of our political leanings, we should all be able to agree that it is in all of our best interests to support a thriving domestic medical device industry.

I have met with a variety of people on this issue—innovators, manufacturers, patients, consumer advocates, and many other stakeholders.

I understand their concerns about the impact that this policy would have, especially on small firms and in California, and wish we had the opportunity to look at a range of options to address them.

Unfortunately, in the bill before us, the House Majority has once again found a way to poison a bill by slashing important insurance provisions in the Affordable Care Act.

Yet again they have shown that they are willing to disregard American families in order to get a pithy sound bite and further their own divisive agenda.

By removing protections for low- and moderate income families who receive subsidies to purchase private health insurance, this bill pits American families versus manufacturers.

It essentially punishes people for improving their situation by getting a new job or a raise.

The result? According to the Congressional Budget Office, an estimated 350,000 families would be added to the uninsured ranks, and others would be left debating between going for a promotion or paying a hefty tax bill.

Health care is a right deserved by all, and shouldn't come with fear of punishment.

And the idea of asking American families to choose between having health insurance and improving their financial situations is preposterous.

Through this bill, the other side has shown that they are more concerned with dismantling health care reform than ensuring that the American people have access to health care.

And therefore I cannot vote for it.

### IN HONOR OF BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the time today to commemorate the 30 years

of dedication and service provided by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County. Through its mentoring services, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County has been a leader in prevention-based services to over 4,500 children and youth in our community since its founding in 1982.

By working to increase their sense of self-esteem and confidence, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County has proven effective in keeping children and youth in school, away from drugs and alcohol, out of the juvenile justice system, and, thus able to make healthier, more constructive life choices.

Youth matched to Big Brothers or Big Sisters have been provided with caring, supportive, and positive adult role models who offer opportunities and options not otherwise available. Thousands of volunteer hours have been spent by carefully screened and trained mentors who provide one-on-one guidance, friendship, positive role-modeling, and support to youth in Santa Cruz County.

The commitment of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County grants not only new-found opportunities and support to at-risk youth, but a sense of purpose and satisfaction to those who guide them, resulting in the enrichment of the family as well as the greater community. As is their goal, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County has and will continue to create new opportunities to place appropriate mentors with youth from the increasing number of families in need.

The continued success of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County can be attributed to the dedicated staff and volunteers who have helped generate support and enthusiasm in our community and who have worked admirably for the benefit of others.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and my colleagues in the House, I would like to thank and congratulate the staff and volunteers of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County on 30 wonderful years of service.

### CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF MANO FREY, VICE PRESIDENT AND REGIONAL MANAGER OF THE LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA, NORTHWEST REGION

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, Mano Frey originally hails from Yakima, Washington, where he grew up with a relatively small family of ten sisters and seven brothers.

After graduating high school, Mano attended Seattle University where he majored in civil engineering. In 1970, Mano took a small break during his senior year to set off with his close friend for Alaska. Their destination? The now-famous city of Valdez, Alaska.

After experiencing the wonders and magnificence of what some call "old Alaska," Mano

decided to delay college in favor of joining Laborers' Local 341. Almost immediately he was dispatched to pour concrete for a new school using a 90lb pavement breaker.

Soon, Mr. Frey became a steward for the drillers and powder men at the main terminal camp for the Trans Alaska Pipeline. The job, which at the time was the biggest in world history, had over 25 thousand people working on the line from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez.

His reputation grew within the union's leadership and in 1977 he was appointed to be the area's business agent. A year later they asked him to transfer to the union's headquarters in Anchorage. Soon after Mano became the union's president. In 1981, he attained the job of Business Manager, a position he held until he became International Vice-President and Regional Manager for LIUNA's Northwest Region.

During his time in Alaska, Mano left his mark as a leader. On more than one occasion, Mr. Frey was recognized by the Alaska Journal of Commerce as being one of the top ten most powerful people in Alaska. He was the first and only labor leader to be given the Public Service Gold Pan Award by the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce.

For a decade, Mano Co-Chaired the premier advocacy group Arctic Power, which advocated for the opening of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil exploration. To bring significant economic development to the State of Alaska and Nation.

Leading the program, Mano oversaw the huge advocacy effort to open the nation's largest oil reserve. Legislation to open ANWR has passed the House 12 times due in no small part to the work of advocacy groups like Arctic Power and the Alaska Congressional Delegation. The bill even passed the Senate once, only to be vetoed by President Clinton soon afterwards.

But, in his own inimitable style, Mano never lost faith and continued to push for the opening of ANWR, with the knowledge that if you ever let up on your goals, you certainly will never reach them.

It was with that same determination that Mano served as the Alaska AFL-CIO's executive president from 1984 until 2003. During his tenure, Mano also had the privilege of serving on the National AFL-CIO's Executive Council. Upon his retirement from the Alaska AFL-CIO, and in recognition of all the years of hard work and dedication to the working men and women everywhere, the organization named him President Emeritus.

In 2003 Mano became a Vice President and Regional Manager for the Laborers International Union of North America. He served this organization and its members with honor. He demonstrated on numerous occasions that he not only cared about how all of the Local unions under his jurisdiction fared, but that the most important mission was the welfare and quality of life of the members and their families.

On behalf of all the working men and women of Alaska and beyond, whose lives

• 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.

you enriched and livelihood you protected, I thank and wish you a happy retirement as you transition into your next chapter in life.

KATHRYN ELLIOT WILLIAMS

**HON. MARTHA ROBY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, the strength of a community is derived from leaders who contribute selfless gifts in an effort to benefit others. Service, grace, and support are namely a few of the many gifts and talents one can offer. Those who build on a foundation of service are truly the most valuable and remarkable individuals within our communities.

Kathryn Elliot Williams, my dear childhood friend, was a true servant of her community. All of those who knew Elliot were familiar with her giving nature. From a very young age, Elliot displayed a magnificent sense of eagerness to assist those around her. Described by others as "an inspiration to all," she set forth on a path to enrich others through her talents and gifts. However, a few weeks ago, Elliot lost a courageous battle with ovarian cancer.

She traveled an honorable journey for 36 years. In that time, she touched many lives through teaching, encouraging and serving. Her students, friends, neighbors and members of her church were those who benefited most. Their words describe Elliot the best:

"We honor her as a friend, wife, mother and professional and mostly a leader of Christianity."

"What a wonderful and brave woman,"

"There are so many amazing and wonderful things she accomplished for others,"

"Elliot never wavered when presented with obstacles,"

"A beautiful, kind person, she was truly an amazing woman,"

"Delightful even in the face of adversity,"

"She was honest, earnest and a true friend."

Elliot, a leader in her community and her home, stood as an example for all of those she encountered. Her actions resemble a challenge for each one of us to discover our God-given gifts and share them with everyone around us.

Elliot's husband, son and daughter, and her parents will memorialize a loving wife, mother, and daughter who shared her talents with the world. Elliot's community will remember a gentle and compassionate leader dedicated to the goodwill of others.

I honor Elliot for her ability to provide light, hope, and grace to those surrounding her. She was a community servant who rose to the challenge, lent support, and encouraged others. I thank her for her friendship and I know her life has shepherded future leaders to follow her Christ-centered example of service and goodwill.

HONORING DR. RON L. HOPPING

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Ron L. Hop-

ping of Clear Lake, Texas. At the end of this month, Dr. Hopping will be installed as 91st President of the American Optometric Association (AOA) during their 115th annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois. This is a prestigious and well-deserved title for a man of great determination and success in his career of Optometry.

Dr. Hopping earned his Bachelor's degree from Southern California College of Optometry and completed his Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Texas in 1982. He is also the recipient of the President's Award for Outstanding Service from ten different state presidents and earned the distinction of Texas Optometrist of the Year in 2002. Dr. Hopping also received the Outstanding Faculty Award at the University of Houston, College of Optometry.

Among his many impressive accolades, Dr. Hopping is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, as well as a Diplomate in Cornea and Contact Lenses. Dr. Hopping has also earned the title of Distinguished Practitioner by the National Academies of Practice in Optometry.

Dr. Hopping held several positions and served on numerous boards, including the American Optometric Association Board of Trustees. He served as a full-time faculty member with the rank of Assistant Professor at the University of Houston, College of Optometry and President of the Texas Optometric Association in 1996. Dr. Hopping also served as chair of the AOA Information and Member Services Group, and on the AOA Communications Group Advisory Committee.

Currently, Dr. Hopping is a member of the AOA Executive, Investment, Agenda and Personnel Committees. His board liaison assignments include the Meetings Center and affiliate associations in Alaska, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and Oregon. Dr. Hopping is also the liaison for the Armed Forces Optometric Society, Southern California College of Optometry and Western University of Health Science College of Optometry.

Dr. Ron L. Hopping distinguishes himself through his many contributions to his profession. His previous achievements and dedication provide the foundation for what I predict will be an extremely successful term as President of the American Optometric Association. It's a privilege to extend a heartfelt congratulation to the 91st President of the American Optometric Association, Dr. Ron L. Hopping. Thank you for enriching the lives of many through your work.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 300TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF CHATHAM

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the founding of Chatham, Massachusetts, a small, quaint town that has long been synonymous with the beauty of Cape Cod.

In 1606, Samuel de Champlain was the first European to traverse the area now known as Chatham. At the time of Champlain's arrival and until William Nickerson purchased land in 1656, the area was inhabited by the

Monomoyick people. In 1664, William Nickerson settled his family in the area and eventually founded the town forty-eight years later on June 11, 1712.

The first 100 years of Chatham's recorded history indicate a struggle to establish a stable population and economy. The French and Indian Wars and the smallpox epidemic of 1760 claimed lives and money from the residents of the new town. After the Revolutionary War, however, fishing exports, whaling, ship building and salt production flourished, fueling the growth of the local economy.

By the late 1800's, the town began to benefit from the growing popularity of seaside vacationing. Wealthy vacationers and summer residents provided the basis for the new economic growth, and the popularity of this seaside haven among vacationers continued to expand throughout the 20th century. By 1950, the summer population of 5,000 greatly outnumbered 2,457 year-round residents.

Present day Chatham has continued its expansion and popularity. The small-town charm and pristine coastline have kept generations of vacationers and summer residents coming back each year.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 300th anniversary of Chatham, Massachusetts. May this beautiful Massachusetts town flourish for many years to come.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 31, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, at its best, the Energy and Water Appropriations bill sets forth a forward-looking agenda for our national investment in ports and waterways, clean energy development, environmental reclamation, scientific innovation, the responsible management of our nuclear weapons stockpile and our ongoing commitment to nuclear non-proliferation. Unfortunately, in too many places, H.R. 5325 falls short of that forward-looking agenda.

As Ranking Member of the Budget Committee, I fully understand the need to cut federal spending. Indeed, I supported last year's Budget Control Act, which cut about \$1 trillion in federal spending over the next ten years. However, we also need to compete in clean energy, science, innovation and advanced manufacturing—and that is where this legislation misses the mark.

For example, this legislation cuts funding for clean energy and energy efficiency by \$374 million below FY 2012 and \$886 million below the President's request. The budget for the Department of Energy's Office of Science is cut \$64 million below current levels and \$167 million below the President's request. And the Advanced Research Projects Agency, or

ARPA—E—which is doing transformational, potentially game-changing work on behalf of our nation's long term energy security—is provided only \$200 million, which is \$75 million below FY 2012 and \$150 million below the President's request.

Additionally, the underlying bill contains a misguided policy rider blocking the Administration from restoring long-standing Clean Water Act protections for stream and wetlands across the country—and an amendment was adopted during floor debate which will block enforcement of common sense light bulb energy efficiency standards.

Mr. Chair, we can do better. I urge a no vote.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL HERMAN  
"HANK" TILLMAN FOR HIS DIS-  
TINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Herman "Hank" Tillman who passed away on February 19th 2012. Colonel Tillman received 41 citations and medals over a 31 year career of service in our nation's military, making him one of Maryland's most decorated war heroes. He served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Colonel Tillman was born in Baltimore, MD in 1922. He graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and went on to attend Johns Hopkins University. While enrolled in night classes at Johns Hopkins and working throughout the day in the engineering department at Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, the United States was attacked at Pearl Harbor. Six weeks later, he enlisted.

Colonel Tillman first received his wings in December 1942 as part of the "Pearl Harbor Anniversary Class," and by the age of 20, he was piloting the B-17 Flying Fortress, at the time the world's biggest bomber. In two years, he flew 52 missions many of which were deep behind enemy lines. He made Captain at 21 and shortly after his 23rd birthday he was promoted to Major. He received the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1943 for safely landing his plane and crew despite heavy damage from German fire and serious shrapnel injuries to his leg.

After his distinguished service in WWII concluded, Colonel Tillman returned home to his high school sweet heart, Elizabeth Anne Brown. They were married on June 25th, 1944 at Brooklyn Baptist Church. They had three children—Paula, Bruce, and Terri—and Betty left her position with the Coast Guard to care for the kids full-time while Colonel Tillman served abroad.

Colonel Tillman's continued service in the Air Force took him to Korea and Vietnam. He later told the Baltimore Sun, "I was a career person," he says, "As an Air Cadet graduate, I had taken the [officer's] oath. To me, commitment and oaths mean something, just like a marriage oath." In Vietnam he flew 105 combat missions, most of which were in unarmed recon jets through heavily guarded enemy airspace. He received the Silver Star for a reconnaissance flight through heavy anti-

aircraft fire near Mugia Pass that allowed attack planes to pinpoint enemy targets.

Colonel Tillman retired from the Air Force in 1972 after compiling 5,000 hours of flying time and earning 23 medals for bravery. He started a family business in Baltimore called Tillman Tool Company and later retired with his wife Betty to Kent Island, Maryland.

Colonel Tillman led an accomplished and fulfilled life. I would like to take this moment to thank him for his service to the United States, and to pass along my condolences to his proud family. Although we can never repay the debt our nation owes Colonel Tillman and other veterans like him, their sacrifices will always be remembered.

IN HONOR OF MARION OSHER  
SANDLER

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marion Osher Sandler—a prominent leader, a generous supporter of many humanitarian causes, and a dear friend who died June 1st. Her passing is a great loss to our community and the nation.

Marion Osher was born to immigrant parents who valued both business and philanthropy and encouraged those values in her as well. When Marion married Manhattan lawyer Herb Sandler in 1961, a beautiful family and a lifelong partnership in business and philanthropy was begun.

Marion and Herb together turned a two-branch Oakland savings and loan into Golden West Financial Corporation, with more than 11,000 employees. They ran Golden West for 43 years, she, the marketing and consumer brains of the firm, he the strategist. Marion Sandler was the first and longest serving woman CEO of a Fortune 500 company in the United States.

The Sandler's success enabled them to give back to the community by funding progressive political organizations and non-profits, particularly those that uplift the disadvantaged and underserved, such as Human Rights Watch and the American Civil Liberties Union. They helped found The Center for Responsible Lending, which is devoted to protecting homeowners, The Center for American Progress, and ProPublica, an investigative journalism organization.

Marion and Herb also supported lifesaving medical research, most recently donating \$20 million to the University of California, San Francisco. The Sandler Neurosciences Center will house world leading clinical and research programs such as The Institute of Neurodegenerative Diseases, the UCSF Department of Neurology, the W.M. Keck Foundation Center for Integrative Neuroscience, and the UCSF Memory and Aging Center.

Marion Osher Sandler lived the American dream. With a deep belief in a brighter future, she used her enormous gifts and talents to expand opportunities for all. She leaves behind a phenomenal legacy of service.

Marion had many friends in the United States Congress. I hope it is a comfort to her family, including her beloved husband Herb, her children Susan and James, her grand-

children Leah and Elijah, and her brothers Bernard and Harold Osher, that so many mourn their loss and appreciate Marion's life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 300TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF ABINGTON

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 300th Anniversary of Abington, Massachusetts, a town that represents the pioneering spirit that helped launch America.

In 1650, the land that would eventually become Abington was purchased from the great leader Massasoit and the Wampanoag tribe. The shoemaking, lumbering and milling trades all helped the town develop in its early days, as colonists forged their way in their new home. As our young nation approached its most difficult trial—the Civil War—Abington became closely associated with the Abolition movement, holding open-air Abolition meetings as early as the 1840s. It also expanded its hold on certain trades. During the Civil War, half of the Union Army's shoes were manufactured in Abington. And the town's contribution to the lumber and milling industries greatly contributed to the Commonwealth's economic development.

The development of the Old Colony Railroad in 1845 connected Abington to Boston, allowing residents to easily commute between the two places. Approximately 25 years later, Abington was divided, with Rockland and Whitman becoming independent towns. Today, with a population of over 15,000 residents, Abington still stands as an important town and a proud suburb of the Commonwealth's capital.

Among its storied history, however, is an even more important fact. The Town of Abington has an unwavering tradition of loyalty with an exceptional record of community service dating back to the Civil War, when residents tried to help better the lives of those who had fled to the Union. The town has also been recognized for its contributions to the Old Colony & Fall River Railroads, which service residents throughout the state.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the town of Abington and the entire Abington community on the celebration of their 300 years of service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to the United States. May this beautiful Massachusetts town flourish for many years to come.

HONORING MR. JOHN SAKELLARIS

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Sakellaris, in recognition of his years of service to both the Greek-American community and to all New Jerseyans. It gives me great pleasure to join with the Federation of Hellenic American Organizations of New Jersey in celebrating his achievements at their annual banquet.

Mr. Sakellaris was born in Volada on the island of Karpathos and came to America with the last wave of immigration of the decade 1965–1975. He has distinguished himself in his devotion to community involvement, both in the Karpathian community and beyond, serving as a friend and a model of accomplishment. Notably, his outstanding two-year service as chairman of the Karpathian Federation resulted in such a considerable increase of funds that the Foundation was able to purchase the “Karpathian Home” in New Jersey. He has also achieved success as a restaurant owner, first with the ownership of Al’s Diner in Jersey City and afterwards Lyndhurst Diner in Lyndhurst.

As a founding member of Pan Gregorian Enterprises in New Jersey, Mr. Sakellaris was instrumental in the formation of the Federation of Hellenic American Organizations of New Jersey. Through his tireless work with Andres Comodromos, Tassos Efstratiades and the founding Board members, Mr. Sakellaris helped to establish a sound and productive organization. He served as Executive Vice President of the Federation and currently is a Chairman of the Board of Pan Gregorian Enterprises of New Jersey.

Throughout his career, Mr. Sakellaris remained enthusiastically involved in political life, taking an active role in supporting several Philhellene political figures in New Jersey, such as Senator Bill Bradley, Senator Robert Menendez and Governor Jim Florio. In 1986, he joined the Michael Dukakis for President Committee, becoming one of the strongest supporters of the Greek American presidential candidate.

John Sakellaris has also served the Greek Orthodox Church in many capacities, including his service as a president of the Association of Voladioton “Saint Anargyroi” and president of the parish council of Saint Demetrios Church in Jersey City. He was also a member of the Metropolitan Council of the Metropolis of New Jersey. For his selfless service, Mr. Sakellaris was awarded the title of Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the remarkable work of Mr. John E. Sakellaris, whose service and tireless efforts have touched the lives of the entire Greek-American community in New Jersey. I join with the grateful members of the Federation of Hellenic American Organizations of New Jersey, and all of my constituents in northern New Jersey, in thanking him for his innumerable contributions to the community.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on June 5, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 315, 316, 317, and 318. If present, I would have voted “no” on rollcall votes 315 and 317, and “yea” on rollcall votes 316 and 318.

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 31, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chair, I oppose the amendment shifting funds from the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MOX).

On September 1, 2000, the United States and Russia signed the US-Russia Plutonium Disposition Agreement, with each nation agreeing to dispose of 34 metric tons of surplus weapons-grade plutonium. Since that time, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) has made the decision to disposition the weapons-grade plutonium by means of a Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MOX) which is currently under construction at DOE’s Savannah River Site (SRS), near Aiken, South Carolina.

In addition to providing a means to enable the United States to honor its international obligation to Russia, MOX will generate nearly \$50 billion worth of nuclear fuel rods over its lifespan which will be sold by the federal government.

The facility, which is more than halfway completed, currently employs 2,600 individuals at the site and is responsible for over 2,000 additional jobs across 42 states which are directly related to the project.

Finally, the MOX facility plays a great role in the energy future of the United States. The nuclear fuel rods MOX will produce will provide power to the homes of millions of Americans.

The MOX facility is a vital asset to our country and I stand committed to taking every measure necessary to ensure that this worthwhile program is fully funded.

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#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 375TH ANNIVERSARY OF DUXBURY

### HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 375th anniversary of the town of Duxbury, Massachusetts, a beautiful coastal haven on the State’s historic South Shore.

While the town itself was incorporated in 1637, people have inhabited the area for as much as 12,000 years. The Wampanoag tribe called the area now known as Duxbury “Mattakesset,” meaning “place of many fish.” Indeed, Duxbury is blessed with bountiful natural resources, including not only fish but shellfish, cranberries, rivers, ponds and idyllic beaches. Its English name was chosen by Myles Standish—an officer serving as a military advisor to the Pilgrims—who named it after Duxbury Woods in Great Britain.

Colonists in Duxbury fought in several early American wars, and during the Revolutionary War, the town maintained a militia of 60 minutemen under the leadership of Ichabod Alden. One of Duxbury’s first natives, George Partridge, went on to represent the State of Massachusetts at the Continental Congress and was elected to the First Continental Congress.

The fishing industry developed rapidly after the Revolutionary War, when fishing rights were granted following the Treaty of Paris. What began as a small operation involving no more than a few families with two-masted schooners eventually grew into the largest ship-building port in the world. At the peak of the shipbuilding era, Duxbury boasted 20 shipyards and produced an average of 10 large sailing vessels every year. Eventually, swift clippers that required deep harbors superseded the brigs built in the shallower waters surrounding Duxbury, and the center of American shipbuilding shifted to Boston. However, several historical monuments to this era remain standing today.

The shift in the shipbuilding industry made way for a new industry to dominate Duxbury’s economy—tourism. Thanks to its coastal location and natural beauty, Duxbury soon became a popular summer resort destination. Several area landmarks were built during this period, including the 130-foot Myles Standish Monument. The elegant Standish Hotel, originally built to accommodate the influx of summer visitors, survives today as two private residences.

Duxbury’s population further boomed with the construction of Route 3, which made Boston and the surrounding region more accessible. The rapid growth that occurred in subsequent years helped shape Duxbury into the vibrant community it is today.

Mr. Speaker, the 375th anniversary of Duxbury is an opportunity both to reflect on its past accomplishments and look forward to its future. Its long history embodies the richness of American history and the indomitable spirit of the American people. May this remarkable Massachusetts town flourish for many years to come.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, my vote on the amendment to H.R. 5855 offered by Congressman TED POE was not recorded due to a technical error. I intended to vote “no.”

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#### URBAN AREAS SECURITY INITIATIVE FUNDING

### HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chair, I rise to support the amendment offered by Mr. HIGGINS that would increase funding to the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s State and Local Program by \$58 million to allow communities such

as the one I represent, El Paso, Texas, to be eligible for Urban Areas Security Initiative, UASI, funding under the FY2013 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.

As you know, UASI provides funding to address the unique planning, organization, equipment, and training needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas. The program assists in building an enhanced and sustainable capacity to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism.

Unfortunately, the FY12 Homeland Security Appropriations bill contained provisions that would arbitrarily deny funding to more than 50 cities like El Paso, Texas. These hinder the progress that communities like El Paso, have made to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks and could potentially undermine the ability of these cities to safeguard their communities.

As former Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I know very well the importance of providing our cities with adequate resources to prepare, prevent, and protect against attacks. This is a time for our communities to remain vigilant. It is unwise to cut off resources by including arbitrary language that restricts funding for cities like El Paso, which sits on the U.S.-Mexico border across from what is arguably one of the most violent cities in Mexico—Ciudad Juarez. Yet, despite this, El Paso is ranked the safest large city in the U.S. I attribute this to the great work of law enforcement in our community which is supported by resources provided by UASI under the Department of Homeland Security's State and Local Grants programs. UASI has directed more than \$21.8 million to El Paso since 2007. Additionally, El Paso—Juarez is a major center for manufacturing and international trade and commerce. El Paso is home to one of the largest ports of entry on the U.S./Mexico border, and is recognized as one of the top trading points in the entire United States. El Paso is home to Fort Bliss, one of the United States largest military bases and the Department of Defense's top ranked military asset.

In 2010, El Paso, Texas received \$5,389,900 as part of the UASI program and an additional \$75,000 through the UASI Non-profit Security Grant Program to help nonprofit organizations at high risk of attack and located within one of the UASI-eligible areas.

With continued violence in Mexico and other potential security threats in our area, these funds are especially critical. As our local governments continue to face budget difficulties, these federal grants help ensure that our local law enforcement agencies have the resources they need to ensure El Paso remains the safest large city in the U.S.

El Paso has a track record of wisely investing UASI funds in projects such as an emergency notification system, an information fusion center, urban search and rescue teams, hazardous materials specialty teams, and critical interoperable communications infrastructure upgrades.

The UASI grant has provided the El Paso Region with equipment such as: chemical and hazardous materials detectors, thermal imaging cameras, personal protective equipment, command units, generators, tactical ballistic helmets and vests, security systems, response vehicles, emergency notification system, and even medical cache for H1N1 pandemic, as well as numerous other projects.

The grant funds have also assisted in coordination exercises, including: ranged inter-departmental communication and training, agency communication and training, and EOC exercises to regional cross-discipline and multi-agency training scenarios. All of the exercises are compiled and analyzed through After Action Reports, which are indispensable as training tools to reflect our areas of strength and weakness. In addition, the grant has also funded training such as National Incident Management System, Bomb Team, Hazmat, and other training exercises deemed eligible on the grant.

El Paso area communities have all benefited from the regional UASI by significantly increasing their capabilities. The funds allowed for the purchase of equipment and training such as those outlined by the Department of Homeland Security's National Planning Scenarios and Target Capabilities Lists. I urge my colleagues to support Mr. HIGGINS amendment, the Urban Area Security Initiative, to ensure that our communities and our country remain safe. Mr. Higgins' amendment ensures that communities like mine in El Paso, Texas receive the support they need from the UASI program.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and help continue to keep our large cities safe.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF  
EVERETT "BUD" RANK, JR.

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mr. Everett "Bud" Rank, Jr., lifelong Valley farmer and former Clovis Unified School District Trustee. Mr. Rank left us on the same property along the San Joaquin River in northeast Fresno where he was born in 1921.

Mr. Rank spent much of his life working with the Future Farmers of America, where he helped organize the Clovis chapter of the organization. He was then president of that chapter, as well as a member of many other farming organizations, including the Farm Bureau California Young Farmers and Ranchers, Clovis Young Farmers, the Clovis Grange.

As a Clovis High School graduate, schools and children were his greatest contribution to the local community, as his wife says. He served three terms as head of the Clovis Unified Board of Trustees in the late 60's and early 70's. To honor his work in education, Bud Rank Elementary School in Clovis was named after him in 2006.

Mr. Rank worked two tours of duty within the Agriculture Department, as Western regional director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in the 1970s, and as the head of ASCS and executive vice president of the Commodity Credit Corp. in the 1980s. He also served as a member of both President Nixon and Reagan's administrations' Agricultural Departments, all while being an avid golfer and ardent family man.

He is survived by his wife Evelyn, their three daughters, two grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

I applaud Mr. Rank for his years of tireless work on behalf of agriculture and education.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I ask my colleagues to stand with me in honoring Mr. Rank's remarkable life and his work in advancing our education system and agricultural productivity in the Valley. Please join me today in recognizing the commitment, dedication, and success of Mr. Everett "Bud" Rank, Jr.'s life.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5855) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise today in reluctant opposition to H.R. 5855, Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013. H.R. 5855 provides \$39.1 billion in discretionary funding for Department of Homeland Security (DHS), a decrease of \$484 million below last year's level and a decrease of \$393 million below the President's request.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) appropriations bill includes funding for all components and functions of DHS, including Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Coast Guard (USCG); Secret Service (USSS), the National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD), which includes Infrastructure Protection and Information Security (IPIS) and the Federal Protective Service (FPS), the Office of Health Affairs (OHA); the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), the Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO), departmental management, Analysis and Operations (A&O), and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

Mr. Chair, I would like to thank my friends Chairman ROBERT B. ADERHOLT and Ranking Member DAVID E. PRICE on their hard work on the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act. Although this bill provides adequate funding for some programs that I support, they are far outweighed by some unexplainable provisions in the bill.

This bill underfunds the Federal Air Marshals program by \$50 million which will reduce coverage on high-risk flights. The Administration has echoed my sentiment in a recent statement on administration policy. I also have reservations about extending a civilian pay freeze through fiscal year 2013. This is neither sustainable nor desirable.

As a Member of the House Homeland Security Committee, I cannot support this bill. We as Members of Congress have a responsibility to protect our communities from any possible danger. For this reason, there is no higher priority than to adequately fund our homeland security, particularly our first responders such as firefighters.

Firefighters are often the first responders to any and every emergency. As we saw on 9/11 firefighters are dedicated to saving lives and we must provide them with the resources to maintain their morale and readiness. Stringent budget cuts on the local level have left fire departments understaffed, unprepared, and unequipped to perform their duties to highest level.

Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs attempt to ameliorate this deficiency. In this bill both grant programs are once again underfunded. This legislation only funds up to 25 percent of the necessary funds required to effectively support local fire departments with hiring firefighters, providing modern safety gear, modern fire trucks, and other vital tools to our first responders.

It makes no sense to weaken our Homeland Security program by cutting their resources in a time when terrorist threats continue to put our Nation at risk. We as Members of Congress must unite and assist our brave first responders in their efforts to help contain any threats by providing them with all necessary resources, rather than turn our backs and leave them without sufficient funding.

Mr. Chair, DHS is charged with safeguarding America against diverse and relentless adversaries. Charged with this difficult but important task, providing DHS with the necessary provisions is a no brainer. But this bill has come short of providing those provisions. I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 5855 so we have that opportunity to provide our first responders with those provisions.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAPE COD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th Anniversary of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce plays an essential role in the Cape Cod community, networking local businesses and offering visitors an insider's perspective on much of what the Cape has to offer.

Founded in 1922, the Chamber of Commerce has grown to represent almost 1,400 members. From charities and museums to banks, churches and wildlife sanctuaries, the Chamber represents a diverse array of organizations on the Cape that help to define its unique character. These businesses provide vital services to both residents and visitors. Without the hard work the Chamber has done over the course of its long history, and without the numerous organizations it represents, the business community on the Cape could never have developed the vitality and ingenuity that makes it so remarkable.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce and its CEO, Wendy Northcross—as well as the hundreds of business and organizations that make it all possible—for their years of hard work. I am certain the Chamber's and their member organizations' futures will be bright.

UNCERTAINTY DESTROYS JOBS

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in Wednesday's Washington Examiner, columnist John Stossel quoted economist John B. Taylor of the Hoover Institution who stated "Unpredictable economic policy—massive fiscal 'stimulus' and ballooning debt, the Federal Reserve's quantitative easing with multiyear near-zero interest rates, and regulatory uncertainty due to Obamacare and the Dodd-Frank financial reforms—is the main cause of persistent high unemployment and our feeble recovery."

Over the past three and a half years, our economy has not improved: our unemployment rate has remained above eight percent, our small business owners have been forced to pay higher taxes, and our government spending continues to spiral out of control, destroying jobs.

The President and his liberal allies in the Senate continue to support legislation that creates more barriers resulting in economic uncertainty. This sense plays a tremendous role in our economy's inability to recover quickly. It is past time for the President and the Senate to work with House Republicans and pass legislation aimed to create jobs through private sector growth.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, I was delayed and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 362, "aye" on rollcall No. 363, "aye" on rollcall No. 364, "aye" on rollcall No. 365, "aye" on rollcall No. 366, "aye" on rollcall No. 367, "aye" on rollcall No. 368, "no" on rollcall No. 369, and "aye" on rollcall No. 370.

TRIBUTE TO KYLE McCULLOUGH

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to Kyle McCullough. Kyle, a 28-year-old Wasco County resident, is a former Army Special Forces soldier who served this country with honor and distinction. In Ramadi in 2006, he fought in one of the toughest engagements our forces encountered during Operation Iraqi Freedom. And now Kyle is currently in the process of reenlisting in the Army.

While at home, his mind is not far from his comrades in harm's way overseas. In recent conversation with his little brother, USMC 1st

Lt. Kristoffer "Turf" McCullough, currently serving in Afghanistan, he was asked: "Do people even remember that we're over here?"

Kyle, as ever his nature, jumped into action. In May, Kyle walked a distance of 198 miles over eight days from his home in Dufur to the Oregon coast in Seaside to raise awareness for the troops. That's an average of 24.5 miles every day, or two miles longer than the driving distance between Hood River and The Dalles.

During the trek, Kyle not only raised a few blisters on the bottom of his feet, but he also raised money for the Hood River-based Gorge Heroes Club, which provides care packages to deployed troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. With the money Kyle raised, the Gorge Heroes Club will be able to provide 1,250 soldiers overseas with morale-boosting care packages from home.

Media throughout the northwest covered Kyle's walk—and it was not lost on deployed servicemen and women overseas, either. Oregon National Guard Major Jack Gillentine, stationed in Kabul, said in a recent letter to the Gorge Heroes Club, "Thank you very much for the packages you sent us. Some of the non-perishable food goes on our trucks for missions when we cannot get to a chow hall. I especially wanted to say thank you to Kyle McCullough. I read the article and I appreciate his huge effort. Thank you for all you do."

The Gorge Heroes Club supported more than 5,000 troops last year alone. As a direct result of Kyle's dedication and willingness to persevere through pain and exhaustion, troops deployed around the globe will continue to receive these much needed morale boosting care packages.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my fellow colleagues join me in recognizing Kyle McCullough. He has earned the thanks of a grateful Nation not only for his courage on the battlefield, but for his homefront support of his fellow servicemen and women who every day put their lives on the line for our way of life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAPE VERDEAN HISTORICAL TRUST AND ITS SO SABI! EXHIBIT

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cape Verdean Historical Trust, its members and the upcoming So Sabi! exhibit. On June 16th, So Sabi! will open its doors and invite the public to explore Cape Verdean music, art and literature and the influence of the oldest Creole culture in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

So Sabi! allows all residents of Massachusetts—those of Cape Verdean descent and those not—to learn and appreciate the impact those first immigrants have had on shaping the modern culture and economy of our Commonwealth, where nearly 300,000 descendants of Cape Verdean immigrants make their home. My district, which includes Cape Cod, the Islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, and the towns of Southeastern Massachusetts, is home to the fastest growing Cape Verdean populations in the United States. This comes as no surprise, given the stark similarities in lifestyle and resources between the Commonwealth and this island community.

In the mid 19th century, Cape Verdean migrants flocked to New England ports on whaling vessels in pursuit of prosperity and opportunity. Today, many of Massachusetts' fishermen still bear the names of their Cape Verdean grandparents. These settlers easily transitioned into the fishing and agricultural sectors—helping the early whaling, commercial fishing and cranberry industries blossom with their sailing and harvesting expertise. In fact, several Cape Verdean publications and journals live on in Southeastern Massachusetts—allowing Cape Verdean-Americans to keep their culture's stories and traditions alive.

It brings me great pride to note that the opening of So Sabi! coincides with the second Millennium Challenge Corporation compact awarded to the nation of Cape Verde. This historic award marks the first time that the Millennium Challenge Corporation has approved a second compact for any country. This decision was based on Cape Verde's remarkable achievements in reducing poverty through sustainable economic growth and domestic efforts that the nation has made as a result of its first grant. I was proud to support Cape Verde's endorsement for a second compact, and prouder still to recognize the magnitude of Cape Verde's accomplishments in my capacity as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Speaker, as the Cape Verdean Historical Trust proudly unveils its So Sabi! exhibit in honor of Massachusetts' Cape Verdean culture and the nation of Cape Verde welcomes its second compact from the Millennium Challenge Corporation, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the historical and educational significance of the June 16th event.

**MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES  
ON H.R. 4348, SURFACE TRANSPORTATION  
EXTENSION ACT OF  
2012. PART II**

SPEECH OF

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong opposition to the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4348 offered by the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. BROWN. The draconian cuts directed by this motion would cripple the Nation's infrastructure and leave hundreds of thousands of people unemployed.

The language of the gentleman's motion is confusing at best. The exact amount suggested to be cut differs due to interpretation of the word "funding." By limiting the Highway Trust Fund's expenditures in FY 2013 to \$37.5 billion, the gentleman's motion would essentially bankrupt the Fund because \$37.5 billion is less than the amount needed to reimburse State and public transit agencies for obligations incurred in prior fiscal years.

The Federal Government already owes \$38.8 billion for projects that were implemented in the previous fiscal year, or are currently under construction. If we do not authorize the funds necessary to pay these debts, the government will be in default.

Spending cuts of this magnitude would cut more than 1.6 million jobs in a field with more than 2.2 million people already out of work. At

the beginning of the spring and summer construction season the unemployment rate in the industry was at 14.2%, and in May alone jobs fell by 28,000. It would be foolish to vote for a motion that will have the effect of putting more Americans out of work. That would be the result if the Broun Motion were adopted.

The motion by the gentleman from Georgia ignores the long-term underinvestment in our nation's surface transportation. Investments in transportation support economic growth, increase productivity and enhance America's competitiveness in the global economy.

A strong national infrastructure is what will bring this country back from the recession we are currently fighting through. The Highway Transit Fund is essential for not only providing a safe transportation network, but creating millions of jobs for hardworking Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that my colleagues and I are working during a time of economic constraints, and I understand that we must make spending cuts across the board in order to control the debt we have accumulated.

However, this motion is an irresponsible move, and if implemented would have disastrous consequences. The Highway Trust Fund would no longer have the ability to carry out highway, highway safety and public transit projects or activities. This would have long lasting negative effects on our nation's infrastructure and economy.

Mr. Speaker, this motion is bordering on absurd. I cannot believe that a member of congress means to drive our nation into default, and cripple our infrastructure in the process. I stand before you today to ask my colleagues, regardless of their political ideology, to ignore the motion put before you. This is what is best for our nation, and our economy.

**RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING  
MILITARY SERVICE OF MAJOR  
GENERAL ROBERT H. McMAHON  
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-  
TIREMENT**

**HON. AUSTIN SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the thirty-four year career of Major General Robert H. McMahon, who will retire this month after a distinguished and remarkable career in the Air Force. I commend Major General McMahon's career and offer my sincerest appreciation for his service in defense of our nation.

Major General McMahon led the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center since 2010, where he was responsible for worldwide logistics support for the C-130 and C-5 transport aircraft, the F-15 and other aircraft critical to our nation's defense. The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center is the largest industrial complex in the state of Georgia and is a critical component to the sustainment of our nation's Air Force.

Major General McMahon began his Air Force career in 1978 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He was recognized with numerous awards throughout his Air Force career, including the Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster and the Defense Superior Service Medal.

Over the past several years, Major General McMahon applied tremendous skill and leadership to transform the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center into a world class sustainment and logistics center. As a result, he has distinguished himself as one of the nation's most innovative and effective Air Force commanders. During his tenure, the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center achieved tremendous improvement in its sustainment mission, resulting in a ninety-eight percent on-time delivery rate of aircraft to the warfighter. Major General McMahon consistently demonstrated one of the key tenets of leadership, the ability to inspire and motivate the airmen and workers under his command.

Currently Major General McMahon and his wife Hope reside in the 8th Congressional District which I represent, where they will no doubt remain a pillar of the Middle Georgia community. I extend my warm congratulations and appreciation to Major General McMahon for his tireless service to our nation and wish him well in retirement.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall vote Nos. 294–296. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: rollcall No. 294, H.R. 5651—the Food and Drug Administration Reform Act of 2012 by Rep. UPTON, "yes"; rollcall No. 295, H.R. 420—the Service Member Family Protection Act by Rep. TURNER, "yes"; rollcall No. 296, H.R. 915—the Jaime Zapata Border Security Task Force Act by Rep. CUJELLAR, "yes."

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. TIM GRIFFIN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I was detained and missed rollcall vote No. 362 on Thursday, June 7, 2012. If I had been present, I would have voted "aye" for King Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 5855, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act.

**HEALTH CARE COST REDUCTION  
ACT OF 2012**

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2012*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I oppose H.R. 436 but I am opposed to the Medical Device Excise Tax. I support the Affordable Care Act, but just like all bills, it was not perfect.

In Texas, the medical device industry supports nearly 55,000 jobs. It is an industry at the cutting edge of technological innovation

and is critical to addressing many of the health challenges we face now and will in future. I believe this industry, just like any other, should pay their fair share, but I am worried that a tax like this will chill innovation. The tax is on revenue and not profits, which will have a disproportionate effect on small and mid-sized companies. Medical devices are incredibly expensive to develop and it takes a lot of revenue to offset overhead. By taxing revenue, instead of profit, it adds additional costs. Most business taxes are calculated on the profits after expenses, but this one is not.

A company near our district in Houston, Cyberonics, employs hundreds of Americans. A few years ago, I toured their facilities. I was surprised to learn that they did all of their manufacturing in-house, in Houston. This is an increasingly rare way to do business, but one we should encourage. Their company is a good example of American innovation and entrepreneurship. I am concerned that the way this tax is structured, it will negatively impact Cyberonics and companies like it. We should be taking steps to support research, design, and manufacturing job growth in our country.

While I oppose this tax, I am also opposed to the way this bill pays for the repeal of the tax. We should not replace a poorly designed policy with more poorly designed policies. This bill shifts the cost on to low and middle income earners and potentially risks their health insurance coverage under ACA.

We should find a better way to fix this and I want to work with my colleagues to craft a compromise that will not endanger American jobs but at the same time won't shift significant costs on to those who can least afford it.

RECOGNIZING ADELITA FIGUEROA-MUNOZ

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Mrs. Adelita Figueroa-Munoz, the County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences of Hidalgo County.

She has worked tirelessly to educate the community of south Texas for more than forty years, and is deserving of recognition and honor.

Mrs. Adelita Figueroa-Munoz, born and raised in Alice, Texas, earned her bachelor of science in vocational home economics at Texas A&M University in Kingsville and went on to the Pan-American University of Texas to receive a master's degree in counseling.

She joined the Texas Agri-Life Extension Services in 1971, and for much of her career, Mrs. Figueroa-Munoz has promoted healthy habits through programs like Better Living for Texans, which provides education in the areas of nutrition, food safety, and food resource management to food stamp recipients, and multiple cancer awareness campaigns like Put it Out and Cultivando la Salud.

In 2004, Mrs. Figueroa-Munoz became the County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences and continued to serve south

Texas by providing workshops to both youth and adults to teach important skills for success, including the Benefits of Teamwork, Communication Skills, Stress Management, Goal-Setting, and Leadership Development.

Mrs. Figueroa-Munoz has borne the privileges and responsibilities of her position with dedication and excellence for over forty years, and she may take great pride in her work.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the commitment to service exhibited by the County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences, Adelita Figueroa-Munoz.

RECOGNIZING THE NEW HAMPSHIRE LNA OF THE YEAR

**HON. CHARLES F. BASS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Talbot Blanchard, a licensed nursing assistant, LNA, from the Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital in Colebrook, New Hampshire. Talbot was recently honored by the New Hampshire Hospital Association as the 13th Annual LNA of the Year Award.

As a medical/surgical LNA, he was previously named "Employee of the Year" at the Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital after his first year on the staff and was chosen for the New Hampshire Hospital Association award from among a dozen finalists from throughout the state.

Blanchard is a "career change" nurse who previously spent 29 years at the Ethan Allen furniture plant in Beecher Falls, Vermont. It was a change that today benefits the residents of Colebrook and the surrounding communities as is evident by the comments made by his peers during the nomination process. Talbot is known for "bringing brightness and energy to his patients during their darkest and sickest hours."

It is the care and dedication of medical staff like Talbot Blanchard that allows New Hampshire hospitals to be among the finest institutions in the nation. I ask you to join me in recognizing Talbot Blanchard for his accomplishments, along with recognizing the care and service provided by thousands of nurses and medical staff every day in New Hampshire and throughout our country.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE AS NATIONAL SCOLIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, with respect and admiration I, along with my colleague, Ms. TSONGAS gather today to recognize June as National Scoliosis Awareness Month, and to reaffirm our commitment to fighting a potentially debilitating medical condition that afflicts over 7 million Americans.

National Scoliosis Awareness Month brings together all members of the scoliosis community, including physicians, patients, families, and businesspeople to raise awareness and educate the public about this condition. Diagnosing scoliosis is a simple procedure that takes less than 30 seconds, and early detection allows physicians to monitor the condition and, if necessary, begin treatment before serious complications—including chronic back pain and impacted heart and lung function—even begin. Raising awareness is therefore crucial to the fight against scoliosis.

Between two and three percent of the American population suffers from scoliosis, and the number of family and friends who are impacted by this condition numbers many millions more. While serious complications of scoliosis are largely preventable, affordable care and public awareness are necessary in order to maximize the effectiveness of treatment. National Scoliosis Awareness Month promotes a positive public awareness message that elevates the visibility of scoliosis and empowers those individuals whose lives have been touched by this condition. It is a time for us to recommit ourselves to reducing its impact in the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join us in recognizing June as National Scoliosis Awareness Month, and in thanking organizations such as the National Scoliosis Foundation and the Scoliosis Research Society, as well as their many supporters, for making it all possible.

JUSTICE FOR OFFICER KEVIN WILL—HOUSTON POLICE OFFICER

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on an early Sunday morning last May, one of Houston's finest, Officer Kevin Will, was investigating a hit-and-run accident. Suddenly, a different vehicle sped by and blazed past the police barriers at the accident where Officer Will was investigating. Immediately, before being struck, Officer Will yelled at a witness to jump out of the way, saving that citizen's life just before the officer's life was stolen from him. Only 38 years old, Officer Will left behind a pregnant wife and two stepchildren.

The driver of that speeding vehicle was foreign outlaw Johoan Rodriguez. The killer was in the United States illegally, having been deported once for another crime, but came back and committed another crime. This drunk and high driver blew through the safety lights of the police cruiser, striking and killing Officer Will.

Today, justice was served for Officer Kevin Will and his family. Johoan Rodriguez was sentenced to 55 years in prison. Let this be a statement to the lawless that criminal conduct is not accepted by Americans no matter where you are from. Those who wreak havoc on our communities and kill law enforcement officers will always be met by the long arm of American justice.

And that's just the way it is.



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5855) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my opposition to H.R. 5855, the "Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013." The need to find savings in the Federal budget must not be at the expense of homeland security. I am troubled that H.R. 5855 provides \$39.1 billion for the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) activities, which is \$393 million below what the President sought for the Department to continue to carry out its homeland and non-homeland security missions and \$484 million below what was provided for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012.

H.R. 5855 also sends a troubling message about the majority's commitment to honoring its promises. Last year, Democrats and Republicans came together to pass the Budget Control Act. Both sides made sacrifices to achieve a compromise that would keep the government running and address Federal budgetary challenges. H.R. 5855 reneges on the commitments Republicans made last year by reducing the funding allocation for the Department of Homeland Security beyond what is required by statute and below the amount the Department has stated it needs. This "bait and switch" is unjustified and undermines the security of our Nation.

As a result of the Republicans' misguided priorities, several programs critical to our national security are underfunded. For example, H.R. 5855 provides \$45.4 million in funding for Infrastructure Compliance Programs for FY 2013, which is about \$29 million below the President's request and \$48 million below the FY 2012 enacted level. Under H.R. 5855, DHS will not have resources necessary to implement the long-awaited final rule for ammonium nitrate or fully-implement the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program. As the author of the originating legislation for the ammonium nitrate security program and co-author of the originating legislation for the CFATS program, I strongly believe that these programs are at a crossroads and support is essential for them to realize Congressional intent and address vulnerabilities that put ordinary Americans at risk.

H.R. 5855 also misses a critical opportunity to put a struggling border security and immigration enforcement program on a path to success. It rejects the President's proposal to transfer the US-VISIT program to Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement and, instead, sets up a new bureaucratic office—the "Office of Biometric Identity Management" within the National Protection and Programs Directorate, where it has languished for nearly a decade. The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 highlighted the need to identify and remove

visitors to the U.S. who are legally admitted to this country but fail to depart when their visas expire, as four of the 9/11 terrorists were overstays. In response, Congress enacted the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, which directed the deployment of an entry-exit system "with all deliberate speed and as expeditiously as practicable." While the US-VISIT program has begun to capture biometric data of foreign travelers entering the U.S. at air, land, and sea ports, it has repeatedly failed to make progress in deploying a biometric exit system for travelers departing the U.S. This failure to fully implement the program has undermined DHS's ability to verify with certainty which travelers have departed this country. Inexplicably, H.R. 5855 rejects aligning this program with the agencies responsible for border and immigration enforcement, thereby sending the message that the House is not serious about tackling the alien overstay problem.

With respect to homeland security grants, I would note that H.R. 5855 provides \$1.7 billion for State, local, and tribal grant programs, which is \$412 million above FY 2012, but still falls short of where it needs to be. In FY 2010 and 2011, Congress recognized the first responders and first preventers on the State, local and tribal levels and provided \$3 billion and \$2.23 billion respectively. And, like last year, this bill punts responsibility for allocating funding to the 12 targeted grant programs to the Secretary of Homeland Security. Last month, FEMA released the National Preparedness Report. The report found a direct link between grant investments and the development of preparedness capabilities. In areas that have seen substantial grant investment—from emergency communications to medical surge capabilities to emergency planning—State governments reported measurably improved preparedness capabilities. The report also found that in areas where we have not invested, we are less prepared. The report makes clear: targeted homeland security grants work. I fear that if we continue to fail to fund these important grant programs adequately, capabilities that we have spent over a decade developing will be lost.

Finally, I am disturbed that H.R. 5855 is full of political sweeteners intended to rally support from the extreme right-wing faction of the Republican party. From slashing funding for the Transportation Security Agency, to increasing funding for the 287(g) program, to abortion limitations in ICE detention facilities, H.R. 5855 is full of politically-driven provisions that distract from pressing homeland security matters and divert resources from addressing them.

I recognize that the appropriators were faced with a difficult task in drafting this spending bill, and I appreciate the efforts of Chairman ADERHOLT and Ranking Member PRICE to draft a bill to adequately fund the Department of Homeland Security's activities in FY 2013. The funding allocation being what it is, however, this bill could never fully meet our nation's homeland security needs. Therefore, I must oppose H.R. 5855.

IN RECOGNITION OF ST. PAUL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH AND DR. EPHRAIM WILLIAMS

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and Dr. Ephraim Williams, who has been its Pastor for 41 years. As church members gather together to celebrate the completion of mortgage payments on the church's Family Life Center and the leadership of Dr. Williams, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring St. Paul's important role in the Oak Park neighborhood and the larger Sacramento community.

Since 1971, St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church has been a valuable community resource. Its congregation has grown 50-fold since its founding, and now has over 5,000 members. It has provided healthcare, tutoring, and employment assistance, facilitated charity in the community, established mentorship programs for local youth, and much more. St. Paul's dedication and service to its community has been nothing short of exemplary.

This month, Dr. Williams will welcome congregation and community members in celebrating the completion of mortgage payments on the Family Life Center, a community center promoting active, healthy, and community-centric lifestyles. The facility includes classrooms, space for childcare and the arts, and hosts many community events. I am confident that the Family Life Center will continue to be a shared treasure of the Sacramento area.

Dr. Williams' work in the community has earned him many awards and a great deal of recognition, from the California Legislature, the City of Sacramento, the Black American Political Association, and others. In 2011 he was awarded the Key to the City by the Mayor of Sacramento in recognition of his service as pastor. His leadership has made the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church a staple in the City of Sacramento.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and Dr. Ephraim Williams, as they celebrate their 41st year as a congregation and the completion of mortgage payments on the Family Life Center. I am confident that this church will continue its service to the Sacramento community under his stellar leadership. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church's outstanding work in providing the community with invaluable services.

RECOGNIZING MS. JERRELLE FRANCOIS FOR HER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AS VICE CHAIR OF THE BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Jerrelle Francois for her years of dedication to the people of Maryland, including

her 7 years as Vice Chair of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

Ms. Francois has a long history of service in Maryland. Beginning as a teacher at Cherry Hill Junior High School, she went on to become a Department Head, Assistant Principal, Principal and Assistant Superintendent. While holding these positions, Ms. Francois worked to establish policies and procedures for improving K–12 curriculum and instruction, as well as system-wide special student support services. Throughout her career, Ms. Francois has received numerous awards and commendations including the Richard R. Green Award, the nation's highest urban education honor, given in recognition of exceptional contributions to urban schools and students.

In 2006, Ms. Francois was appointed as the Vice Chair of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners. Utilizing her decades of experience at every level of the public school system, Ms. Francois has provided a valuable perspective which has opened up many new opportunities to students. Ms. Francois' work in Baltimore City Public Schools has been integral to the education and success of thousands of City school children. Under her leadership and guidance, Baltimore City Public Schools have made significant improvements in the scope and effectiveness of their education programs.

Through all of the promotions, accolades, and awards, Ms. Francois has stayed true to her commitment to educate the youth of Baltimore City. She has dedicated her life to improving public education and has enriched and guided the lives of thousands of children. The State of Maryland is forever grateful for all that she has done. As Ms. Francois retires from Baltimore City Public Schools, I would like to thank her for her unwavering dedication and service.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 2, 2012, I missed a rollcall vote. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on No. 377.

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#### IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL CANCER SURVIVORS DAY

### HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Cancer Survivors Day celebration that will be cosponsored by Falmouth Hospital, Cape Cod Healthcare, and the Falmouth Public Library.

National Cancer Survivors Day is an annual and honored worldwide celebration of life that is held in hundreds of communities across the globe. Participants in these events unite on the first Sunday in June to show that life after a cancer diagnosis can be meaningful and productive. The local Cape Cod event, to be cosponsored by Falmouth Hospital, Cape Cod

Healthcare and Falmouth Public Library, is part of a biannual celebration for cancer survivors and caregivers of upper Cape Cod. At the event, the "Survivors Quilt," or the Quilt of Hope, will be unveiled, which is made up of handmade squares contributed by local cancer survivors to celebrate their resilience and determination.

The cosponsors of the Cape's National Cancer Survivors Day event are local leaders who have led the effort to eradicate cancer and to assist cancer patients, their caregivers, and survivors. Cape Cod Healthcare, which is one of the top ten healthcare systems in the nation, provides the latest diagnostic imaging technology at health facilities throughout the Cape. As for Falmouth Hospital, its cancer program has received significant endorsements from accreditation agencies, such as the Commission on Cancer and the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers. Falmouth Hospital's Clark Cancer Center provides local access to the latest, most sophisticated, and most reliable cancer therapies available, and is the only hospital in which many Cape Cod residents can receive such treatments. Additionally, the hospital's Seifer Women's Health and Imaging Center, along with the Wilkens Outpatient Medical Complex in Hyannis, are the two Cape Cod Healthcare centers that provide certain types of digital screening and diagnostic services to Cape residents. The work of these organizations is invaluable to the local community, as the American Cancer Society estimates that Massachusetts will see over 38,000 new cancer diagnoses this year.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pride to honor these local organizations in their continuous fight against cancer and to commemorate their celebration of National Cancer Survivors Day. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of their work in the local community as well as the significance of National Cancer Survivors Day.

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#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MARINA DAY

### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significance and contributions of local marinas across the country as we commemorate National Marina Day on June 9, 2012. Every day across this great nation, folks take advantage of waterways for a variety of reasons, including commerce, sport, and recreation. National Marina Day is a special opportunity to highlight the valuable role that marinas play in communities across America as gateways to some of our country's most exceptional waterways.

The First District of Virginia is a region where waterways are an important part of life for many folks, from the Potomac, Rappahannock, and York Rivers to the great Chesapeake Bay itself. For many citizens, marinas serve as gateways to these grand waterways, places where folks can reacquire themselves with nature and learn valuable lessons of environmental stewardship, all while mastering the practical skills and expertise associated with operating a boat. Many of these life lessons

were instilled in me during summers on Virginia's Northern Neck, which I have called home for many years, and they are lessons that I have found to be beneficial in all aspects of my life. Marinas have provided the opportunity for folks from all walks of life to experience all of the substance that our natural waterways have to offer, and I am pleased to recognize their contributions and unique imprint on our communities as we commemorate National Marina Day.

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#### HONORING MONTANA'S WORLD WAR II VETERANS

### HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, today, it is my distinct privilege to welcome a very special group of men to our nation's Capital. And while it is incumbent upon us to honor them, the truth is, they honor us with their presence here.

On June 15, 2012, nearly 100 veterans of the Second World War will arrive in Washington, D.C. through the Honor Flight program. Since 2005, Honor Flight has worked to bring WWII veterans to visit their war memorial at the foot of the Washington Monument, and a few feet from the White House. In that first year, 137 veterans participated in the program. By last year, that total annual participation has swelled to 18,055.

And while each of the veterans who has participated deserves our thanks and our honor, this particular group is very special to me in particular because it marks the very first time Honor Flight has brought out a group of veterans from Montana.

You won't find a state that's more proud of our veterans than Montana. And we have a lot of them. In fact, you won't find many states that have more as a percentage of our population.

On December 7, 1941 the United States was pulled into the war and Montanans answered the call to service. Within the first year, 40,000 Men and women from the Treasure State enlisted. By the end of the war, 57,000 had served—nearly 10 percent of the state's entire population at the time, one of the highest rates in the country.

They served in every branch and in every theater of the conflict. And too many of them never made it back to Montana, although I think that heaven must be a little something like a peaceful sunset over the Yellowstone River.

But Montana's veterans didn't sacrifice in vain. They bled and died to defeat the greatest threat to freedom the world has ever seen. They fought across the bloody islands of the Pacific and in the frozen forests of Europe. They fought in the air, land and sea. Some even fought below the waves. And they won.

Today, the men and women who fought and won that war are justifiably part of what is called The Greatest Generation. The sacrifices of men who arrive in Washington, D.C. are the reason for this honorable title. It is not something we gave to them, it's something they earned.

As they visit this city and reflect on what it stands for as a beacon of freedom to the

world, I think the rest of us should remember that the reason liberty still exists is because good men stood up to tyranny. They are the greatest of the Greatest Generation, and on behalf of all Montanans, I want to thank them.

57,000 Montanans served during World War II. Just under 100 are here this week. Please join me in welcoming and honoring:

Herbert Alvin (Billings, MT); Roy Bloom (Kalispell, MT); William Boyer (Billings, MT); George Brown (Billings, MT); John Bullis (Hardin, MT); William Butler (Billings, MT); Marion Callen (Forsyth, MT); Galen Calvert (Missoula, MT); Murel Clancey (Ennis, MT); Frank Clark (Billings, MT); Paul Creek (Billings, MT); Donald Cullen (Helena, MT); Hubert Cummings (Billings, MT); Irvin Cuthbertson (Billings, MT); Ernest Devries (Joliet, MT); John Donovan (Billings, MT); Thomas Dragoo (Billings, MT); Duane Erickson (Glendive, MT); Allen Fox (Twin Bridges, MT); Arnold Funk (Helena, MT); John Gabelman (Butte, MT); William George (Missoula, MT); Cleburne Gilliland (Billings, MT); Harvey Glover (Billings, MT); Harold Godtland (Butte, MT); Robert Graham (Billings, MT); James Gunnels (Laurel, MT); Francis Gustafson (Billings, MT); Robert Haraden (Bozeman, MT); Delbert Hartford (Alder, MT); Donald Hecox (Bozeman, MT); Jack Henley (Hamilton, MT); Adam Herauf (Billings, MT); Victor Hergett (Laurel, MT); Thomas Hoffman (Billings, MT); Q.P. Hudson (Billings, MT); Frank Jasisko (Great Falls, MT); Herbert Kindsfater (Laurel, MT); Kenneth Kjelstrup (Kalispell, MT); Dale Lamphear (Laurel, MT); Ray Lau (Three Forks, MT); John Liggett (Roundup, MT); Chester Lindblom (Plentywood, MT); Albert Litle (Billings, MT); Herbert Livingston (Billings, MT); Louis Loushin (Butte, MT); Phillip Lyons (Butte, MT); Marvin Mackey (Libby, MT); Richard Marshall (Twin Bridges, MT); Arthur Merrick (Helena, MT); Marvin Metzler (Billings, MT); Jack Moriarty (Sheridan, WY); Roy Morrison (Billings, MT); Leo Mullen (Butte, MT); Kenneth Mumme (Sheridan, MT); John Murphy (Anaconda, MT); Donald Nafus (Billings, MT); Robert Noll (Missoula, MT); Vernon O'Leary (Helena, MT); Roland Oljnyk (Billings, MT); Paul Olsen (Billings, MT); Delphine Olson (Billings, MT); Albert Ottolino (Billings, MT); Harlon Owens (Billings, MT); Douglas Parrott (Roundup, MT); Robert Paye (Billings, MT); Russell Peery (Helena, MT); Walter Pfister (Roundup, MT); Drury Phebus (Baker, MT); James Phipps (Emigrant, MT); Walter Popp (Billings, MT); Jimmie Ramsey (Bozeman, MT); John Reamy (Billings, MT); Richard Redle (Columbus, MT); Francis Riebe (Polson, MT); Carl Rivera (Billings, MT); Robert Rutford (Superior, MT); Gladys Sandborgh (Butte, MT); Ron Scharfe (Missoula, MT); Ferdinand Schell (Lewistown, MT); Paul Schuyler (Roberts, MT); Orval Scow (Helena, MT); Dennis Scranton (Miles City, MT); J. William Smith (Billings, MT); Wade Smith (Butte, MT); James Snider (Forsyth, MT); Otto Staack (Butte, MT); Norman Sulenes (Billings, MT); Harold Van Sickle (Billings, MT); William Van Wieren (Billings, MT); Joseph Wedlake (Butte, MT); Kenneth Williams (Laurel, MT); Paul Winhofer (Glendive, MT); David Wittman (Billings, MT); Margaret Woolston (Billings, MT).

RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF CHARLES AND LUCILLE WARD

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to recognize Charles and Lucille Ward on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

On June 9, 1962, Charles and Lucille were married in Brewton, Alabama, a little town just north of the Northwest Florida panhandle, at the East Brewton Baptist Church. Since that day, Charles and Lucille have spent their lives devoted to their family, their faith, and their community. Charles honorably served his country for four years as a member of the United States Air Force until 1956 before beginning his career farming with the Ward Brothers Farm. He retired from the farm in 1998. Lucille, in addition to supporting her family as a mother and homemaker, served her community as an employee of the Santa Rosa County School System, retiring after 20 years of service. Throughout their careers and their fifty years together, their faith and family have remained first in their lives.

Charles and Lucille are proud parents to five children, Michael Ward, Doug Ward, Julie McGowin, Dean Ward, and Tina Fendley; eleven grandchildren, Preston Jernigan, Grayson Jernigan, Ashley Hernandez, Cassie Ward, Jack McGowin, Shawn McGowin, Alex McGowin, Becky Ward, Emily Ward, Madison Fendley, and Andrew Fendley; and one great-grand child, Anna Hernandez.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Ward on their golden wedding anniversary and thank them for their service to the Northwest Florida community and our great nation. My wife Vicki and I would like to wish all the best to Charles and Lucille, as well as their entire extended family, on this truly special occasion. May God continue to bless them for many years to come.

HEALTH CARE COST REDUCTION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2012*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 436 is primarily focused on dismantling the Affordable Care Act, which is why I will oppose it today.

Medical devices offer important benefits to individuals throughout the country. In some cases they save lives; in other cases, they improve the quality of life. An important part of the Affordable Care Act was to expand access to the benefits of medical devices by making health insurance more affordable. Indeed, as a result of the Affordable Care Act, over 30 million more Americans will have access to af-

fordable care. This is good for the individuals, and it is also good for the manufacturers of these devices, who will now have more people who can afford their products.

Now, the medical device industry apparently wants to keep the benefits of having more insured people capable of benefiting from their products without contributing to the effort that allows those individuals to afford their coverage in the first place. If every group that joined the effort to expand insurance coverage took that approach, the entire health care reform effort would fall apart—which is precisely the outcome the Republican majority is seeking with this legislation.

Additionally, rather than finding a different way to pay for extending affordable health insurance to over 30 million Americans, this repeal—and the rest of the bill—is offset by eliminating existing protections for middle and lower-income citizens who receive tax credits for insurance they purchase on the exchange, a change the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation estimates will increase the ranks of the uninsured by 350,000.

While I would support the provision in this bill allowing health care flexible spending account holders to recover up to \$500 in unspent funds from their FSAs if it came before the House as a freestanding bill, the vast majority of this legislation is clearly aimed at undermining the Affordable Care Act.

Accordingly, I urge a “no” vote.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 7th, 2012, I missed rollcall votes 358–370 for unavoidable reasons.

Specifically, I was in Palm Harbor, Florida, in my congressional district, to attend my son's high school graduation.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: rollcall no. 358: “yea” (On ordering the previous question), rollcall no. 359: “yea” (Adoption of H. Res. 679, providing for the consideration of H.R. 436—Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2012), rollcall no. 360: “nay” (On motion to recommit H.R. 436 with instructions), rollcall no. 361: “yay” (Passage of H.R. 436—Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2012), rollcall no. 362: “yay” (First King of Iowa Amendment), rollcall no. 363: “yay” (Second King of Iowa Amendment), rollcall no. 364: “nay” (First Blackburn of Tennessee Amendment), rollcall no. 365: “yay” (Second Blackburn of Tennessee Amendment), rollcall no. 366: “yay” (Sullivan of Oklahoma Amendment), rollcall no. 367: “nay” (Turner of New York Amendment), rollcall no. 368: “nay” (Second Polis of Colorado Amendment), rollcall no. 369: “nay” (On motion to recommit H.R. 5855 with instructions), rollcall no. 370: “yay” (Passage of H.R. 5855—Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for FY 2013).

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER WESLEY A. BROWN

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly inspirational man, Lieutenant Commander Wesley Anthony Brown, the first African American to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy. Sadly, Lt. Cmdr. Brown passed away on Tuesday, May 22, 2012. On Wednesday, June 6, 2012, a public memorial service was held in Annapolis, Maryland, where more than 250 people gathered to honor his life and legacy.

Lt. Cmdr. Brown was born on April 3, 1927 in Baltimore, Maryland to William and Rosetta Brown. During his senior year at Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C., he was Cadet Corps Battalion Commander. He then went on to attend college at Howard University.

In 1945, Lt. Cmdr. Brown entered the U.S. Naval Academy as the sixth African American man admitted in its 100-year history. He would be the first to endure until the end the hazing, the torment, and the hostility bred by racial inequality. He would be the first to hold his head high and keep true to himself amid the tension. He would be the first to graduate.

Despite the publicity surrounding this great accomplishment, Lt. Cmdr. Brown remained humble throughout his life. He honored those in whose footsteps he had followed and he spoke words of encouragement to those who followed in his footsteps.

Lt. Cmdr. Brown served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars as a Navy civil engineer. He

worked on many construction projects all over the world until his retirement in 1969. He then worked as a facilities analyst at Howard University until 1988.

George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Lt. Cmdr. Brown went far in life because he treated people the right way—with dignity, honor and respect even when he was not treated the same way in return. He has been an inspiration to all of us and we are blessed to have had him touch our lives.

Lt. Cmdr. Wesley A. Brown accomplished many things in his life but none of this would have been possible without the enduring love and support of his loving wife, Crystal; his children, Wesley, Jr., Gary, Wiletta, and Carol; and his seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, my wife, Vivian, and I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Lt. Cmdr. Brown's family during this difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

**PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT**

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill that strengthens the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and seeks to remedy the discrepancies in the wages of men and women in America.

In 2009, the first bill that President Obama signed into law was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Creating equal pay for women was one of the top priorities of Congress in 2009 and it was my honor to support this bill. The Lilly Ledbetter act pioneered the first steps at tackling the issue of sex-based discrimination, but our duty to American women in the workforce is not complete. Now more than ever, with women increasingly taking on the role as the breadwinner in many American households, this issue no longer affects just women; it affects entire families. For almost 50 years, we have been combating this issue. In El Paso women make up 45 percent of the labor force, with similar numbers around the country, but women earn only 77 cents on the dollar compared to men. If this gap in earnings is not reduced, everyday expenses, the ability to support their families and retirement funds will be negatively affected.

Continuing his commitment to securing equal pay for women, President Obama is pressing for us to turn this basic right, equal pay for equal effort, into a reality with the Paycheck Fairness Act. With the creation of the National Equal Pay Task Force that is cracking down on any violations of equal pay laws, the President is pressing forward with his efforts. Like President Obama, we must continue to fight for equal payment opportunities for our nation's women and in turn their families. Senate Republicans are blocking passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act which advocates for the fair treatment of almost half of our labor force. I support the Paycheck Fairness Act and its intent to increase penalties against those who participate in gender-based discrimination, and I urge Senate Republicans to stop their resistance on this issue.