

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### GAUGING AMERICAN PORT SECURITY ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4005—"Gauging American Port Security Act" also known as the "GAPS Act." I would like to thank Congresswoman JANICE HAHN from California for her diligent work on this bill. I would also like to thank the efforts of the Committee on Homeland Security. This bill requires the Homeland Security Department, within one year of enactment, to conduct a study of the remaining gaps in port security in the United States and submit a classified report to Congress prioritizing these gaps and a plan to address them.

As a New York City Member on the House Homeland Security Committee, I understand how important border security is and how threats to our national security need to be reduced. I will continue to work to ensure that our nation is better prepared to terrorist attacks at our ports.

Ports are important to American commerce and a way to connect us to the rest of the world. We have more than 11 million cargo containers arrive in U.S. ports every year and we need to ensure that our ports are secure for this part of commerce.

Congress needs to continue to focus on improving security on our borders, land and port. I fully believe that this is a step to improving our port security and H.R. 4005 will help the Homeland Security Department to come up with a plan that will help with these challenges at our ports. This plan will address threats we face at maritime borders by closing the gaps in our security at our Nation's ports. The benefit of this legislation will greatly outweigh the cost. It is a way for us to adequately invest in our response capacities and security to safeguard our citizens and economy.

So today, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

### HONORING BISHOP WILLIAM P. DEVEAUX

#### HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, Bishop William P. DeVeaux is celebrating eight years (8) in leadership this year as the presiding prelate for all of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) churches in Georgia and Dr. Patricia Ann Morris is celebrating eight years as the Episcopal Supervisor, they have both provided stellar leader-

ship to their church on an international level; and

Whereas, Bishop and Dr. DeVeaux, under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained the African Methodist Episcopal churches in Georgia, as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man and virtuous woman of God give hope to the hopeless, feed the hungry and are a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Bishop and Dr. DeVeaux are spiritual warriors, persons of compassion, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who share not only with their Church, but with our District and the world their passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Bishop and Dr. DeVeaux on their excellent leadership in Georgia;

Now therefore, I, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. do hereby proclaim June 1, 2012 as Bishop William P. DeVeaux and Dr. Patricia Ann Morris DeVeaux Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 1st day of June, 2012.

### IN TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT JOHN "J.D." DAVID MEADOR II

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 20, 2012, Sgt. John "J.D." David Meador II, of Columbia, South Carolina, was killed in action while serving in the South Carolina Army National Guard in Afghanistan. Sergeant Meador began his career in service to our country when he enlisted in the United States Army in 1994. He is a graduate of Lexington High School and a member of the Lexington County Sheriff's Department. As a former high school wrestler, Sergeant Meador enjoyed coaching wrestling at his alma mater, White Knoll High School, and Irmo High School. He also enjoyed hunting, the outdoors and carpentry.

Every member of our Armed Forces sacrifices their lives to keep America and her freedoms safe. Without these sacrifices, America would not remain the most free and prosperous country in the world. Specialist Meador paid the ultimate sacrifice and died honorably protecting these freedoms that we all enjoy.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Christy, and their two daughters, Brianna and Elana, as well as his parents, John and Sharon Meador. His service to our nation will never be forgotten and we will always be eternally grateful. As a Guard veteran myself with four sons currently serving in the military, I particularly appreciate your extraordinary military family. Freedom is not free.

### HONORING THE CARROLLTON BLACK CEMETERY

#### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride and pleasure to rise today to recognize and commemorate the heritage of the Carrollton Black Cemetery. Buried beneath its soil are the men and women who forged the pathway for the Carrollton community. Today we recognize those who have gone before us, the sacrifices they have made, and the impact they have had on the lives of today's Carrollton citizens.

In 1850, the first recorded burial in the cemetery was Mary Lamer, an immigrant from Illinois and the original owner of the property. In 1871, the Carrollton Black Cemetery was established on a forty-acre sited owned by Mr. Scott Boswell, an early African American Carrollton farmer. By 1915, Mr. C.B. Baxley purchased the land with a deed exclusion to keep the cemetery intact. Up until the Civil War, it was customary to bury slaves on their owner's land. After Emancipation, freed slaves and their families wished to have their own burial locations. Unfortunately, the Carrollton Black Cemetery has undergone flooding from the Trinity River which has caused the loss of many of its gravestones. In 1981, to preserve the cemetery's history, a fence was erected around its perimeter. On Saturday, June 23, the cemetery was identified as a Texas historical site.

The Carrollton Black Cemetery is referred to by many names including the Carrollton Community Cemetery and the Carrollton Memorial Cemetery. The record of the Carrollton Black Cemetery reflects the rich history of the African American community in Carrollton. Many of the people buried in the Carrollton Black Cemetery were trailblazers of growth, development, and continued successes in the Carrollton community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the Carrollton Black Cemetery for the heritage and history it brings to the 24th District of Texas. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the Carrollton Black Cemetery and in commending the current citizens who care for it.

### TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

• 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.

consideration the bill (H.R. 5972) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 5972. While this is not a perfect bill, it will fund important transportation and housing projects creating well-paying jobs across this country.

I am pleased that this bill provides a much-needed increase to Amtrak, which will greatly help Amtrak accommodate growing ridership and develop intercity passenger rail. It also continues to invest in the FAA's NextGen air traffic control modernization effort, which will help to keep our public airspace safe and reduce flight times. The Community Development Block Grants program is also fully funded helping local governments to address housing and social service issues unique to their communities. It also fully funds the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program, providing the nearly 70,000 homeless veterans with long-term housing when they need it.

However, I want to express my deep disappointment that this bill does not provide any funding to high speed intercity passenger rail or the TIGER program. Both of these programs have proven to be successful and play an integral role in bringing our infrastructure in to the 21st Century. At a time when you have labor and business—the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and AFL-CIO—calling for stronger investment in our infrastructure, it is shortsighted that we not provide this necessary funding. We cannot continue to compete with our neighbors abroad if we are not improving and growing our infrastructure. My colleagues in the House, on the left and the right, have called for a jobs package and this funding could have been that first step.

I am disappointed at the lack of funding for critical housing programs. This bill drastically cuts funds to the Project-Based Section 8 voucher program that provides rental assistance to approximately 1.2 million low-income families. Furthermore, there is no funding for programs that would help rebuild blighted communities. Not only would eliminating blight and rebuilding neighborhoods create jobs, but they would also rejuvenate communities in areas like Southeast Michigan that were hit so hard by the collapse of the housing market and the economic recession.

Taken as a whole Mr. Chair, H.R. 5972 will make needed investments in our transportation and housing infrastructure, but more must be done. As our bridges, roads, sewers, buildings, and neighborhoods crumble, we cannot afford to underfund critical programs that rehabilitate and rebuild. We cannot move in to the 21st century with 20th century investments. I call on my colleagues to pass a strong surface transportation reauthorization that will fix this oversight of needed funding and put Americans across the country back to work bettering our neighborhoods and communities.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN JOHNSON

### HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and service of one of my constituents, John Johnson, President and CEO of Alice Hyde Medical Center in Malone, New York. John's time as a public servant in the North Country and hospital administrator reflects an enduring commitment to our community and to improving the access and quality of healthcare for the people of Northern New York.

After graduating with a Bachelor's of Science degree from SUNY Plattsburgh in 1971, John went on to rise through the ranks of the Franklin County Probation Department to become its Director in 1977. He later worked as Franklin County Manager in 1984 until he joined Alice Hyde as an Associate Director in 1990. He soon became the Executive Vice President of the Acute Care Facility, the Outpatient Health Center, and the Adjacent Skilled Nursing Facility. John went on to become President and CEO of Alice Hyde in 1994 where he has served till recently.

Under John's tenure as President and CEO, the AHMC has established five health centers and opened cancer, hemodialysis, ambulatory and orthopedic and rehabilitation centers. In 2009, AHMC was recognized as the Organization of the Year by the Malone Chamber of Commerce for its efforts to pursue innovative medicine, growth, and community programs.

I had the privilege to serve with John on the Plattsburgh State University College Council where he exemplified his community commitment. While I am saddened by the departure of John as President and CEO of AHMC, his work will continue to have an impact for years to come. I congratulate John on his retirement and wish him all the best in the many years ahead.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 28, 2012, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 442, "yea."

#### IN HONOR OF MIKE SEDELL

### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of my close personal friend Mike Sedell, who is retiring next week as the City Manager of the City of Simi Valley, California.

Mike and I have worked together for 33 years. When I was first elected to the Simi

Valley City Council, he was Simi Valley's Deputy City Manager under then-City Manager Lin Koester. When I was elected to Congress in 1986, he came to Washington, DC, to serve as my first Chief of Staff. After three years in Washington, he returned to Simi Valley as Assistant City Manager, becoming City Manager in 1995.

Mike and I are not just professional associates. We are personal friends and have continued to be personal friends in the 17 years since he left my employ. Not a week goes by that we don't connect to discuss a federal issue, or a local issue, or our respective families.

Mike began working for the people of Simi Valley in 1972 as a California State University, Northridge, intern and subsequently served the City in a variety of assignments. He first worked as Simi Valley's Personnel Administrator and Community Services Coordinator, which included working on the Neighborhood Council Program, the Youth Council, and Youth Services. In 1975, he was asked to become part of the City Manager's office.

Once in the City Manager's Office, Mike effectively supervised several programs, including public affairs, media relations, City Council/staff relations, governmental affairs, labor relations, transit system operations, and elections.

When Lin Koester left Simi Valley to become the Chief Administrative Officer for Ventura County in 1995, the City Council unanimously appointed Mike as City Manager, a position he has held since.

In addition to serving as Simi Valley's City Manager, Mike periodically teaches an Intergovernmental Relations Seminar in the Master's Degree program in Public Administration at Cal State Northridge, and has served as past Chair of the Board of Directors of Interface Children and Family Services of Ventura County.

With his contacts developed over the years in both Washington and Sacramento, Mike is often called upon by Simi Valley, and occasionally other cities, to assist whenever a legislative or intergovernmental crisis occurs. Mike also works with Sacramento and Washington legislators on budget issues affecting Simi Valley and other California cities, and he has been a key player in developing the final funding formula for local agencies, and crafting complex intergovernmental agreements.

His liaison work between the City and The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library has been instrumental in forming a strong operating bond between the Library and the City, and Mike was proud to be a member of the coordinating team that put together the local events for the funeral of President Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Sedell has spent a lifetime in public service at the local and federal level. He has steered the City of Simi Valley through many difficult times with great success and his expertise is recognized and sought after by many other government officials. I know my colleagues join my wife, Janice, and me in thanking Mike for his lifetime of public service and in wishing our good friends Mike and his wife, Judie, the best in retirement.

HONORING BRIAN A. MANN

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas, Brian A. Mann has distinguished himself as an outstanding researcher in the area of Science from Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology; and

Whereas, Mr. Mann has competed throughout the state of Georgia, the Nation and internationally; and

Whereas, his research project the "Piezo-electric Nanogenerators" received the designation and prestigious ranking of #3 worldwide as a Bronze medalist this year in Istanbul, Turkey; and

Whereas, he has studied hard, sacrificed much and balanced his life as a teenager maintaining a high grade point average throughout the school year; and

Whereas, he is a model student leader with the heart to serve his community and a drive to one day be the best of the best for his school, his family and his country; and

Whereas, his boundless energy and enthusiasm has opened internationally recognized opportunities, helping Fourth District Congressional students understand that their futures are as limitless as the skies; and

Whereas, we are grateful for the accomplishments and work of this outstanding student of honor who define the power of education and imagination; and

Now therefore, I, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. do hereby proclaim June 26, 2012 as Brian A. Mann Day in Georgia's 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 26th day of June, 2012.

**TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013**

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5972) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Chair, I rise today to address the dire need to provide resources to repair our nation's infrastructure and put Americans back to work.

One of the best ways to create jobs today is to invest in American transportation and infrastructure through the fiscal year 2013 Transportation-Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, approximately 35,000 jobs are created for every \$1 billion spent on highway and bridge construction. If Congress can spend a billion dollars each month fighting wars in Iraq

and Afghanistan, then we should be able to invest in America's workforce and infrastructure.

The very foundation of America, our infrastructure, is crumbling beneath our feet. The current condition of the infrastructure in the U.S. earns a grade of "D".

One-third of our roads are in poor, mediocre or fair condition and nearly 70,000 of our bridges are structurally deficient.

China and India have outpaced the U.S. with respect to infrastructure spending. Among developed countries, we rank 23rd in the world, behind South Korea, Taiwan and Barbados.

Now is not the time to short change our future; now is the time to repair our infrastructure.

In addition to repairing America's infrastructure, it is imperative that I address the lack of funding for housing in the Transportation-Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill. Allowing drastic cuts in the HUD budget squanders the opportunity to create jobs and address the nation's affordable housing needs.

Simply stated, vulnerable Americans will lose their housing if Congress passes this bill in its current form. This bill will "short fund" project-based Section 8 contracts, which will force HUD to straddle fiscal years to shift costs from FY2013 to FY2014 and beyond. Because contracts are currently funded for 12 months, the proposed \$1.1 billion in "savings" will have to be made up in the next fiscal year.

If the funds are not replenished in fiscal year 2014 and beyond, the consequences will be dire:

1.3 million families, 53 percent of whom are elderly or disabled, face losing their housing; 100,000 jobs will be in jeopardy;

\$460 million in local tax receipts could be lost; and

\$13.6 billion in Federal Housing Authority insured debt will be at risk.

If funding for contract renewals under the Tenant Based Rental Assistance program is not increased, 58,000 low-income households will lose rental assistance in fiscal year 2013.

The reality is that millions of low-income families, who need a strong safety net, are assisted by HUD to help them through difficult times. By eliminating this funding, we are pulling the safety net from underneath them allowing more Americans to fall into poverty and homelessness.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this Appropriations bill.

**IN HONOR OF ANTHONY A. TORRE AND JOHN GALLACHER, PH.D.**

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the careers of Dr. John Gallacher and Anthony A. Torre. As they prepare to retire as the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the town of Enfield, respectively, they leave behind a legacy of excellence.

Dr. John Gallacher's passion for education began in 1968, when he started his career as a sixth grade teacher for the Elmhurst U-205 School District in Elmhurst, Illinois. He moved

to Iowa eight years later to become an Elementary School Principal: first for the Ponora-Linden Community School District in Ponora, Iowa, and then for Washington and Torrence Schools in Keokuk. Dr. Gallacher continued his work in Keokuk until 1992, serving as the Instructional Services Coordinator and the Superintendent of Schools for the district. Having held a variety of positions within the public school system, Dr. Gallacher brought an impressive knowledge and diverse set of skills to Enfield, Connecticut. He has worked as the Superintendent for the past twenty years, where he earned the reputation of an astute problem solver and tireless worker.

Like Dr. Gallacher, Anthony Torre served in different facets of education before becoming an administrator for the Enfield Public School System. In 1959, he started out a classroom teacher at A.D. Higgins Junior High School, working for six years before transitioning to the Chair of the Math Department at Enfield High. Mr. Torre went on to serve as the school's Assistant Principal and Principal, as well as the Principal of Enrico Fermi High School in town. He has remained at his current position of the Assistant Superintendent of Schools for nearly forty years, playing a key role overseeing the expansion of the town's High Schools and ensuring that technological advances were integrated into classrooms.

These two men share nearly 100 years of experience between them that has been an invaluable asset to the children of Enfield. Both have been passionate advocates of education and have gone above and beyond the boundaries of their job description to transform the lives of thousands of youngsters. They will be missed greatly. I ask my colleagues to join with me to recognize the exemplary service that Dr. John Gallacher and Mr. Anthony Torre have provided to Connecticut's children.

**IMPORTANCE OF THE WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**HON. PAUL TONKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw our colleagues' attention to the OP-ED that appeared in Roll Call's online issue on June 20 authored by Tim Warfield, the Executive Director of the National Association for State Community Services Programs. The OP-ED, which I have included below, addresses the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), our nation's largest residential energy efficiency program. Energy efficiency represents one of our greatest opportunities to reduce energy expenditures for industry, government, and for individual citizens. Dollars we do not have to spend to heat or cool homes and buildings are dollars that can be invested elsewhere. Reducing energy use extends the years we can use non-renewable energy sources and brings us closer to achieving the goal of energy independence. Buildings represent a significant proportion of our energy use and heating and cooling expenditures are a significant portion of household budgets. At a time when we want to create jobs and lower energy costs for our constituents, programs like WAP should receive our full support.

I am disappointed that the Energy and Water Appropriations bill that we passed earlier did not maintain funding for this important

program. As Mr. Warfield's editorial points out, the funding level in the House bill will not sustain this important program through 2013. I hope our colleagues in the other body will do better.

[Special to Roll Call; June 20, 2012]

WARFIELD: WEATHERIZATION IS EFFECTIVE INVESTMENT

(By Tim Warfield)

The Weatherization Assistance Program employs workers in every state and county in America and has weatherized more than 7.1 million homes over the past 35 years. Weatherization has proved its value and is a highly successful and effective investment in the American workforce—weatherization improvements funded by the 2009 stimulus law alone created 14,000 new jobs, according to the White House Recovery.gov website.

Weatherization reduces household energy use by almost 35 percent in the typical weatherized home, allowing families to use their limited funds for other necessities. The reduction in energy demand also reduces our nation's reliance on foreign oil.

The success of a program that brings the threefold benefit of jobs, household savings and energy conservation is a powerful argument to sustain and fully fund the program, yet it still has its opponents on Capitol Hill, where two Republican House Members have introduced bills to abolish it.

Unfortunately, much of the information that has been presented as an argument to cut funding is a disingenuous misrepresentation of facts. Opponents have created the false impression that remaining stimulus funds will allow the program to serve just as many households in 2013 as it did before the program expansion under the 2009 law. This misstatement occurred again during floor debate recently on the House Energy and water development appropriations bill. The argument about "available funds" would seem to demonstrate that the Weatherization Assistance Program can absorb proposed cuts and still maintain services at a fiscal 2010 level. This characterization is entirely wrong.

Program opponents in the House are taking advantage of the confusion that arises because the "program year" is not the same as the federal fiscal year. The program year was set later in the year at the Weatherization Assistance Program's inception so it wouldn't suffer the disruptive and costly effects of funding gaps that might result from prolonged federal budget negotiations.

In most states, the new program year begins in April, and by that time almost all stimulus funding will be spent. Nominal amounts will remain in three states, but in the vast majority the "available funds" that program opponents propose to use for the 2013 program year will already be used up. Additionally, regular appropriations are similarly depleted, with the \$68 million provided for 2012 being far below a sustainable level. States have already begun slowing down operations and eliminating jobs.

The funding levels debated on the Hill threaten the nationwide network and many states will be hard pressed to operate a program at all in fiscal 2013. For example, at the \$54 million level in the House-passed bill, Arizona, Hawaii and Delaware could weatherize about a dozen homes each in 2013, effectively forcing them to halt services. The ripple effect will disperse a well-trained workforce, reduce purchases from vendors that provide supplies, leave the government investment in equipment and vehicles unused, and leave many families to struggle financially because of high utility bills.

Rather than dismantling a beneficial and cost-effective operation that has been suc-

cessful for 35 years, Congress should allocate funds to sustain the program at its true pre-stimulus level of \$220 million to \$240 million.

We are mindful of the difficult budget choices that face Congress, but these choices should be made based on facts. The facts show that the Weatherization Assistance Program performs a vital role in reducing the burden of high energy prices on low-income families. The program creates jobs and strengthens the economy through the purchase of materials and equipment from the private sector. Each dollar is multiplied as it flows through our communities.

Congress must restore the program to pre-stimulus levels to maintain an effective commitment to weatherization, maintain the trained workforce and provide a much needed economic boost to a fragile economy. Don't allow distortions of the facts to put the truly effective 35-year effort that is the Weatherization Assistance Program in peril.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call Nos. 441, 442 I would not participate in what I strongly believe was an abuse of power by the majority who, for illegitimate reasons, chose to hold the Attorney General, Eric Holder, in contempt of Congress. I was against the rollcall votes.

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

HOME HEALTH COMMUNITY

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, America's health care sector is wrought with waste, fraud and abuse, but the home healthcare industry has proposed thoughtful reforms that will strengthen program integrity and achieve substantial savings without burdening beneficiaries.

Among the home health community's proposals are measures to reduce the abusive use of home health care services in order to eliminate excessive overpayments, as well as implement initiatives that will drive innovation and reduce program costs. Other proposed safeguards achieve savings by screening questionable claims, improving payment accuracy, and targeting bad actors. The home health care industry's proposal is a responsible initiative and should be taken into consideration as Congress continues to address ways to reduce health care costs and improve patient care.

Home health care is a key source of clinical treatment for millions of Americans and is meeting complex needs in the most cost-effective, patient-preferred setting available—patients' own homes. Unfortunately, some are now advocating the reintroduction of a copayment for home health services at a time when the industry is already threatened by arbitrary yearly payment cuts. I believe that the imposition of a home health care copayment and

misguided cuts could seriously impact Florida's seniors and result in increased Medicare costs.

The home health community is vital to upholding our commitment to America's seniors and the millions of beneficiaries who depend on a meaningful and affordable Medicare program.

RECOMMENDING THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER BE FOUND IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this misguided effort to inject the politics of a presidential election year into what should be a serious investigation. I oppose the resolutions to hold the Attorney General Eric Holder in criminal and civil contempt, because they are unwarranted and motivated by politics instead of facts. I voted for a resolution sponsored by Rep. JOHN DINGELL to require the Oversight and Government Committee to conduct a real investigation into the Fast and Furious operation. The American public deserves a legitimate investigation into the actions of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in Arizona. Members of Congress have a responsibility to ensure that the ATF was abiding by the law and ensure that the "gun-walking" programs that took place under the Bush and Obama Administrations do not take place again. The American people deserve answers and they deserve an investigation that is based on fact and the truth, not on political gamesmanship and finger-pointing. Unfortunately, these resolutions are not based on real investigations or the desire to prevent future "gun-walking" operations.

This contempt resolution alleges that the Attorney General is not cooperating with the Oversight and Government Reform Committee's investigation. The Attorney General has testified before Congress nine times and the Department of Justice (DOJ) has produced 7,600 pages of documents to the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Additionally, two dozen DOJ officials have testified before the Congress. Something lost in the political allegations on cable news is that the documents at issue in the Contempt Citation are not related to the Committee's investigation into how "gun-walking" was initiated and utilized in Operation Fast and Furious. Attorney General Holder has turned documents relating to Operation Fast and Furious over to the committee. This contempt citation is over the DOJ's internal deliberative documents unrelated to the actual Fast and Furious operation. This contempt resolution does not list any proof that the Attorney General had any knowledge of the Fast and Furious operation. In fact, when the Attorney General did discover the Fast and Furious program he took action to shut down the operation, held those responsible accountable, requested an investigation by the DOJ's IG office and cooperated with House and Senate investigations. To this day, no evidence has shown that he or the President had any knowledge of the Fast and Furious operation.

What the American people also deserve to know is why the Majority is putting partisan politics above the public's right to a fair and balanced investigation. The Oversight and Government Reform Committee Republicans have not granted a single Democratic witness request in 16 months. If this investigation was on the up and up, it seems that the Democrats should be allowed the opportunity to bring forward at least one witness. In fact, the Republicans refused ten requests by Democrats to hold a hearing with the former Acting Director of the ATF Kenneth Melson. He was in charge of the agency responsible for the Fast and Furious operation. The Majority also rejected requests to have William Hoover, the former Acting Deputy Director of the ATF during Operation Fast and Furious, testify before the committee. They also refused to allow former U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey to testify about gun-walking programs initiated under the previous administration. I hope that by opposing these resolutions we can have a real congressional investigation into the ATF's "gun-walking" operations and pass legislation to ensure that similar operations never happen again. The Dingell Resolution I voted for requires the Oversight and Government Reform Committee to hold bipartisan public hearings with the Kenneth Melson, William Hoover, Michael Mukasey, and others.

The House of Representatives has never voted to hold a sitting Attorney General in contempt. I don't think Republicans and Chairman Issa have provided us a real reason to do so today. Instead, they have prevented a legitimate investigation from taking place and continue to move the goalpost again and again to demand documents unrelated to the Fast and Furious Operations. Their conduct has revealed they are far more interested in getting Attorney General Holder than getting the facts. This has been a total abuse of power and process. I believe that we should be voting on the President's jobs bill today instead of this misguided and partisan resolution.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this resolution.

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CAL FORMOLO

**HON. DAN BENISHEK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. Speaker, let it be known that it is an honor and pleasure to pay tribute to Lieutenant Cal Formolo for his distinguished military career. Lieutenant Formolo, a native of Iron Mountain, Michigan, joined the Navy in November 1987, and graduated from basic training from the Electrician's Mate "A" School and Naval Nuclear Power School. After graduation, he went on to the Nuclear Power Training Unit (S1W) where he completed prototype training. He remained in Idaho Falls for a staff instructor tour at the A1W prototype.

In August 1991, Lieutenant Formolo reported to his first ship, the Ohio Class submarine USS *Florida* in Bangor, Washington, where he was assigned to the Electrical Division. During his tour, the USS *Florida* completed nine strategic deterrent patrols, and Lieutenant Formolo was awarded two Battle Efficiency "E" awards. He was also selected as the USS *Florida* Sailor of the Year in 1996.

Leaving the USS *Florida*, Lieutenant Formolo served at the Nuclear Power Training Unit in Ballston Spa, New York. As a First Class Petty Officer, he quickly qualified as the engineering officer of the watch, and advanced to the rank of Chief Petty Officer. In December 2000, Lieutenant Formolo reported to the Los Angeles Class submarine USS *Honolulu* in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where he completed one Western Pacific Deployment and two Eastern Pacific Deployments. During his tour, the USS *Honolulu* was awarded the Battle Efficiency "E" Award. Lieutenant Formolo next reported to the USS *John C. Stennis* in San Diego, California. As the ship's reactor controls technical assistant, he was responsible for the safe operation and maintenance of *John C. Stennis's* two 500 mega-watt reactors. He stood watch as Officer of the Deck during a six-month Western Pacific Deployment. In 2004, Lieutenant Formolo reported aboard the Naval Submarine Support Center Performance Monitoring Team in Norfolk, Virginia, as Officer in Charge. He was responsible for monitoring submarine systems and creating work requests for system repairs, and was promoted to Lieutenant during this tour.

In January 2007, Lieutenant Formolo reported to Commander Submarine Squadron Six to perform the duties of the Material Officer and Depot Availability Coordinator. There he was responsible for the planning and execution of submarine dry-docking repair periods. After serving in the U.S. Navy for over 24 years, Lieutenant Formolo retired during this tour on April 1, 2012. Lieutenant Formolo was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Surface Warfare Officer Breast Insignia and Enlisted Submarine Warfare Breast Insignia. Lieutenant Formolo is currently employed at WE Energies as an Electric Distribution Controller. He is married to the former Cheryl Simonson of Benicia, California. They reside in Kingsford, Michigan, with their son Jacob. On behalf of the citizens of Michigan's First District, it is my privilege to recognize Cal Formolo for his service, sacrifice, and continued patriotism.

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MAINE WABANAKI-STATE CHILD WELFARE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION MANDATE

**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mrs. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my gratitude and best wishes to a coalition doing very important work in my state to heal injuries of the past and find a better path into the future.

Today, Wabanaki Chiefs, officials, and citizens—along with members of the Maine Legislature, Truth and Reconciliation Convening Group, Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission, and Maine's governor—are gathering to sign the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Mandate.

This historic signing will begin work to seek truth and healing in how the state child welfare system has treated the families of these indigenous Maine tribes—including the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahlunikuk, Passamaquoddy Tribe

at Sipayik, Penobscot Indian Nation, and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs. In recent decades, these groups have seen their children taken from them to be placed with non-native families through adoption and foster care.

Through this process, the commission will listen to stories of families affected by these practices and learn how the loss has impacted cultures that rely on their children for continued existence. The goal is not to injure, blame or shame anyone, but to bring these truths to the open air so they can heal, teach, and prevent future harm.

I'm so proud to live in a state that is willing to have these difficult, but crucially important, conversations with a spirit of honesty and reconciliation. I wish my best to this group and fervently hope it reaches a successful conclusion.

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HONORING BISHOP DR. STEWART REESE, JR.

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas, Bishop Dr. Stewart Reese, Jr., is celebrating forty three (43) years in pastoral leadership this year as the founder of Bethesda Cathedral of the Apostolic Faith, Inc., and has provided stellar leadership to his church; and

Whereas, Bishop Reese, under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Bethesda Cathedral as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Bishop Reese is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our District and the nation his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Bishop Reese, as he celebrates forty three years in pastoral leadership on this the Founder's Day of Bethesda Cathedral of the Apostolic Faith;

Now Therefore, I, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. do hereby proclaim June 3, 2012 as Bishop Dr. Stewart Reese, Jr. Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 3rd day of June, 2012.

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THE WIPA AND PABSS CONTINUATION OF SERVICES ACT OF 2012

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, along with my colleagues, the "WIPA and PABSS Continuation of Services Act of 2012," which would support Americans with severe disabilities who want to attempt to

work and potentially reduce their need for Social Security Disability Insurance (DI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits. It does so by ensuring the continuation of two important community-based programs that assist individuals who wish to transition off of benefits by seeking and maintaining paid employment.

These programs have in the past been extended with overwhelming bipartisan support. Unfortunately, due to lack of action by the majority, the programs are today on the verge of expiring, and disability beneficiaries who want to try to work will be without the assistance they need to move ahead. We have worked extensively to find another solution, but we have reached an impasse.

I have received many letters, calls and emails of support for extending WIPA and PABSS. I'd like to submit three of these for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—the endorsements of the bill by the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Task Force on Social Security, the National Disability Rights Network, and Easter Seals.

Helping individuals with disabilities who want to return to work should not be a partisan issue. I encourage all Members to join me in support of this legislation, and I hope we can move forward promptly, so Americans who are disabled are not denied the support they need to return to work.

More detailed information about WIPA and PABSS, and a description of the bill, follows.

“WORK INCENTIVES PLANNING AND ASSISTANCE” (WIPA)

When Congress passed the Ticket to Work Act in 1999, we recognized that beneficiaries needed help in navigating the work rules for DI and SSI recipients, which can seem like a complex maze. The Social Security Administration (SSA) lacked and still lacks the resources to be able to provide the kind of individualized assistance beneficiaries often need in order to use the work incentives. Moreover, Congress recognized that beneficiaries may be reluctant to discuss with SSA their interest in trying to work despite the obstacles, out of fear that they may lose their benefits even if their attempt to work fails. WIPA was created to fill this vacuum.

WIPA funds community-based programs through which trained benefit counselors help beneficiaries understand how to use the SSA work incentives. These counselors help people with disabilities in a number of ways:

They provide basic information on how disability beneficiaries can test out their ability to obtain and sustain employment, using work incentive provisions in DI, SSI and other programs to transition off of benefits.

They provide intensive, individualized guidance on the operation of these complex benefit rules and help beneficiaries report their earnings to SSA.

Their guidance helps reduce the likelihood of overpayments and increase beneficiaries' confidence that their attempt to work will not risk a catastrophic loss of basic economic security.

Recognizing the reality that SSA cannot always adjust benefit payments quickly in light of an individual's earnings, WIPA staff also counsel clients to set aside any overpaid benefits so that they are prepared to repay the overpayment once SSA processes their case.

Since their inception in 2000, WIPA programs have served nearly half a million SSA beneficiaries. SSA currently funds 140 WIPA

grantees, using \$23 million included in its overall annual operating budget. However, funding for more than half of the WIPA programs will expire on June 30, 2012, unless Congress or SSA is able to extend them.

“PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR BENEFICIARIES OF SOCIAL SECURITY” (PABSS)

During consideration of the Ticket to Work Act, Congress also recognized that Americans with disabilities who can work may need legal advocacy in order to be able to obtain a job or maintain employment, so that they eventually won't need disability benefits. The PABSS program was established to assist such Americans.

PABSS organizations provide a wide range of services in support of work by persons with disabilities:

An individual with an intellectual disability was told that the job-coach assistance that enabled her to work would be terminated. Her local PABSS program intervened and the client was able to maintain her employment.

A blind individual had accommodations in place at work, but a software change at his company made it impossible to use them to perform his job. The PABSS office helped the employer upgrade the accommodations and worked with the Commission for the Blind to split the cost.

An individual with muscular dystrophy who lived in a rural area needed car repairs so he could get to his job. PABSS helped him resolve the issue with his warranty company so that his car could be repaired and he could keep his job.

A disabled individual was able to drive a taxi, but needed prompt payment of his past-due DI benefits in order to purchase a vehicle. PABSS helped the client obtain his past-due benefits, and he was able to purchase the cab.

PABSS operates through the protection and advocacy agencies in each state and territory. Since its inception, PABSS has assisted more than 80,000 individuals. The \$7 million annual cost is included in SSA's annual operating budget. Funding for PABSS expires September 30, 2012.

STATUS OF WIPA AND PABSS

Both programs are permanently authorized, and SSA uses its annual appropriation for the agency's overall operating expenses to fund the grantees. To reinforce and clarify the underlying law, Congress has several times adopted legislation, with overwhelming bipartisan support, to extend SSA's specific authorization to use already-appropriated operating budget funds. However, in the 112th Congress, the majority has not been able to pass an extension and has not introduced any legislation on this topic.

We have been working to find an administrative solution, since the programs are permanently authorized in statute, but the issues are complicated. The simplest way to address the problem is to pass legislation.

THE WIPA AND PABSS CONTINUATION OF SERVICES ACT  
OF 2012

The legislation would clarify the existing law by removing any ambiguity about SSA's authority to continue WIPA and PABSS grants. The bill removes a conflicting provision from the statute that authorized a particular amount and time frame for funding of the WIPA and PABSS programs. It leaves in place the underlying provisions that permanently establish the two programs, including the standing au-

thorization for SSA to use its annual operating budget to fund them.

I urge all Members to support this legislation. I hope that Congress will act promptly so that we can keep these programs in operation and continue to serve Americans with disabilities.

NATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS

NETWORK,

June 27, 2012.

Hon. XAVIER BECERRA,

Ranking Member, House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER BECERRA: On behalf of the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), and the 57 Protection and Advocacy (P&A) agencies we represent in every state and territory, I write to express our strong support for the “WIPA and PABSS Continuation of Services Act of 2012” that you are introducing.

NDRN is the national membership association for the fifty-seven P&A agencies that run the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) program in every state, the District of Columbia, and all U.S. territories. Collectively, the P&A Network is the largest provider of legally-based advocacy services for persons with disabilities in the United States. NDRN strives to promote a society where people with disabilities have equality of opportunity and are able to participate fully in community life (including employment) by exercising informed choice and self-determination.

Every year, the PABSS program and the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program help thousands of people with disabilities enter or stay in the workforce, and to progress towards independence and economic self-sufficiency. Ensuring that these programs continue is critical to addressing the high unemployment and low labor participation rates for people with disabilities in this country, while simultaneously helping beneficiaries of Social Security disability benefits attain economic self-sufficiency.

The PABSS program was created in 1999 as part of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Act to protect the rights of beneficiaries as they attempt to go to work. PABSS provides a wide range of services to Social Security beneficiaries. This includes information and advice about obtaining vocational rehabilitation and employment services, information and referral services on work incentives, and advocacy or other legal services that a beneficiary needs to secure, maintain, or regain gainful employment. Advocates funded by PABSS can investigate and advocate to remedy complaints of employment discrimination and other civil and legal rights violations. These advocates also address deficiencies in entities providing employment supports and services to beneficiaries.

Authorization for both the PABSS and WIPA programs expired on September 30, 2011. Fortunately, the Social Security Administration (SSA) was able to set aside funding to sustain the WIPA program until June 30, 2012, and the PABSS program until September 30, 2012. However, without the passage of a new authorization bill, like your legislation, the Social Security Administration says that the funding for these programs will end, which will cause many Social Security recipients to go without services to help them return to work. Additionally, layoffs and long-term disruptions to the ability of grantees to provide these services will occur with the loss of experienced personnel.

Failure to reauthorize these programs will mean that the following success story, which



repeats around the country every day, will no longer be able to occur:

PABSS staff represented a 57-year-old female and SSDI beneficiary, diagnosed with bilateral blindness and orthopedic disabilities. She had not been employed since losing her eyesight several years ago. She sought to return to work, and applied for services from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). DVR took her application, disregarded her statutory presumptive eligibility, and sent her a letter stating that she was ineligible for DVR services because of "transferable job skills." As a direct result of PABSS advocacy, DVR reopened this woman's case, found her presumptively eligible, conducted an appropriate Comprehensive Assessment of Rehabilitation Needs, and negotiated with her former employer to allow her to return to her previous job. As a result, this woman has returned to the workforce.

Examples, such as the above story, demonstrate that losing the PABSS program will hurt efforts to encourage people with disabilities to return to work, which in turn leads to further depletion of the Social Security Disability trust fund.

Again, thank you for introducing the "WIPA and PABSS Continuation of Services Act of 2012." We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to enact this important legislation into law.

Sincerely,

CURT DECKER,  
Executive Director.

CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES,  
June 28, 2012.

Hon. XAVIER BECERRA,  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Social Security of the Committee on Ways and Means, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER BECERRA: The undersigned Co-Chairs of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Employment and Training and Social Security Task Forces are writing to thank you and express our strong support for the bill you are introducing to ensure the continuation of services under the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program and the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) program. These two critically important programs help beneficiaries of the Social Security disability programs navigate the complex program rules and work incentives and attain economic self-sufficiency. The PABSS program was created in 1999 to protect the rights of beneficiaries as they attempt to go to work. The WIPA program funds Community Work Incentive Coordinators who help beneficiaries understand their options if they choose to return to work. Without congressional action, these programs will run out of funding soon causing many Social Security disability beneficiaries to go without services to help them return to work.

As you know, both WIPA and PABSS are vital to help Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries who wish to return to the workforce. WIPA grants go to local non-profits and other agencies to support outreach, education and benefits planning. WIPA grantees inform beneficiaries on the impact that employment will have on their disability income and medical coverage, and address many of the real fears that individuals have about going to work at the risk of losing health coverage.

PABSS provides a wide range of services to Social Security beneficiaries. This includes information and advice about obtaining vocational rehabilitation and employment services, information and referral services on

work incentives, and advocacy or other legal services that a beneficiary needs to secure, maintain, or regain gainful employment. Advocates funded by PABSS can investigate and advocate to remedy complaints of employment discrimination and other civil and legal rights violations, and to address deficiencies in entities providing employment supports and services to beneficiaries.

Thank you for your leadership in continuing the WIPA and PABSS programs. We thoroughly support the continuation of these vital programs for people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities  
Employment & Training Task Force Co-Chairs:

ALICIA EPSTEIN,  
NISH.  
SUSAN GOODMAN,  
National Down Syndrome Congress.  
CHARLES HARLES,  
Inter-National Association of Business Industry and Rehabilitation (I-NABIR).  
SUSAN PROKOP,  
Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities  
Social Security Task Force Co-Chairs:

JEANNE MORIN,  
National Association of Disability Representatives.  
TJ SUTCLIFFE,  
The Arc of United States  
ETHEL ZELENISKE,  
National Association of Social Security Claimants' Representatives.

EASTER SEALS,  
Washington, DC, June 27, 2012.

Hon. XAVIER BECERRA,  
Ranking Member, Social Security Subcommittee, Committee on Ways and Means, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER BECERRA: I am writing in support of your legislative efforts to continue the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) and Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) programs at the Social Security Administration (SSA).

WIPA and PABSS provide Social Security beneficiaries with disabilities with access to reliable work incentive and benefits information that can help lead to increased employment and decreased reliability on public benefits. Four Easter Seals affiliates provide work and benefits counseling through WIPA to veterans, transition-to-work aged youth, and other Social Security beneficiaries who are interested in entering or returning to the workforce. Through the WIPA program, Easter Seals affiliates have helped thousands of individuals across the country, including many who are now working, paying taxes and improving their futures.

SSA has taken steps to wind down these programs by informing current WIPA and PABSS grantees to stop taking new clients and to finish their work with existing clients. Service disruption will further discourage beneficiaries from working—the very problem these programs were designed by Congress to address. In addition, gaps in service will result in the loss of experienced work incentive staff members that are specially trained on the complexities of the current work incentive system and rules. Shutting down and reopening WIPA services will cost far more in terms of dollars and lost ex-

pertise than a simple continuation. While Easter Seals believes SSA has the authority and funding to continue WIPA and PABSS through the end of fiscal year 2012, we strongly support your legislative fix to make it absolutely clear and to avoid future shutdowns of these programs.

Easter Seals applauds your efforts to continue these important programs for people with disabilities. We look forward to working with you to move the bill through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

KATY BEH NEAS,  
Senior Vice President, Government Relations.

## IN TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN RYAN RAWL

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 20, 2012, Captain Ryan Rawl, of Lexington, South Carolina, was killed in action while serving in the South Carolina Army National Guard in Afghanistan. Captain Rawl is a graduate of Lexington High School in 2000. After graduating from high school, Captain Rawl furthered his education and graduated from The Citadel in 2004 with a major in Criminal Justice before joining the South Carolina National Guard in 2006. While in college, Captain Rawl received an award for his outstanding service on the school's Honor Court and enjoyed leading underclassmen in Bible study. Captain Rawl joined the National Guard in 2006. Since his active duty deployment, Captain Rawl has received numerous decorations and honors including The Bronze Star, The Purple Heart, The Combat Action Badge, The South Carolina Medal of Valor, and The South Carolina Meritorious Service Medal.

We are able to enjoy our freedoms due to the sacrifices of the brave men and women serving in our Armed Forces. Captain Rawl paid the ultimate sacrifice dedicating his life protecting American families and all of the freedoms we hold so dear.

My thoughts and prayers are with wife, Katherine, and their two young children, Callie and Caleb, as well as his parents Stanley and Diane Rawl. As a Guard veteran myself with four sons currently serving in the military, I particularly appreciate your extraordinary military family. Freedom is not free.

## RECOMMENDING THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER BE FOUND IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

### HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letters to Ranking Member ELIJAH CUMMINGS regarding H. Res. 711.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, May 30, 2012.

Hon. ELLIJAH E. CUMMINGS,  
Ranking Member, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER CUMMINGS: This letter is a follow-up to my letter dated May 24, 2012 regarding the March 15, 2010 application for a wire intercept that the Justice Department authorized in support of Operation Fast and Furious.

ADDITIONAL WIRETAP APPLICATIONS OBTAINED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee has obtained three additional wiretap applications from the Fast and Furious investigation, dated April 19, 2010, May 7, 2010, and May 18, 2010, respectively. These three applications pertain to four target telephone lines. Each application includes an accompanying memorandum, dated April 15, 2010, May 6, 2010, and May 14, 2010, respectively, from Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division Lanny A. Breuer to Paul M. O'Brien, Director, Office of Enforcement Operations, authorizing the interception application. The memoranda from Breuer were marked specifically for the attention of Emory Hurley, the lead federal prosecutor for Operation Fast and Furious.

In response to your personal request, I am enclosing copies of these three wiretap applications. Please take every precaution to treat them carefully and responsibly. I am hopeful that they will assist you in understanding the extent of information brought to the attention of senior officials in the Criminal Division who were responsible for reviewing the contents of the applications to determine if they were legally sufficient and conformed to Justice Department policy. The information is as vast as it is specific. These wiretap applications, signed by the late Deputy Assistant Attorney General John C. Keeney under the authority of his supervisor, Assistant Attorney General Breuer, provide additional insight into who knew—or should have known—what and when in Operation Fast and Furious.

To assist you in better understanding the facts, I appreciate the opportunity to provide relevant and necessary context for some of the information in these wiretap applications. Due to the sensitivity of the documents, individual targets and suspects will be referred to with anonymous designations. Nonetheless, you will see that the individuals referred to in the wiretap applications are well-known to our investigation.

FACTS LEARNED FROM THE FIRST WIRETAP APPLICATION

As I understand it, the wiretap application authorized on March 15, 2010 was the first in this controversial case. Like many federal wiretap applications, the affidavit provided significant details about the controversial operational tactics used in the case, such as breaking off surveillance of a suspect who had illegally purchased firearms. As we now know, as early as December 2009 agents from ATF and DEA knew that the main target of the case, Target 1, planned to acquire firearms for the purpose of transporting them to Mexico. In fact, the affidavit in the first wiretap application provides entire conversations obtained through a separate DEA wire intercept detailing Target 1's efforts. The affidavit acknowledges that while monitoring the DEA target telephone numbers, law enforcement officers intercepted calls that demonstrated that Target 1 was conspiring to purchase and transport firearms for the purpose of trafficking the firearms from the United States to Mexico.

At the time it was preparing the first wiretap affidavit, ATF was aware that from Sep-

tember 2009 to March 15, 2010, Target 1 acquired at least 852 firearms valued at approximately \$500,000 through straw purchasers. As of March 15, 2010, ATF had identified 21 of these straw purchasers. Between September 23, 2009 and January 27, 2010, 139 firearms purchased by these straw purchasers were recovered—81 of those in Mexico. These recoveries occurred one to 49 days after their purchase in Arizona. The document reflects that the Justice Department should have been fully aware that large sums of money were being used to purchase a large numbers of firearms, many of which were flowing across the border. In fact, ATF even knew the tactics the smugglers were using to bring the guns into Mexico. The straw purchasers would purchase the firearms in Arizona and then transport them either to Mexico or a location near the U.S.-Mexico border from which others would drive the guns into Mexico.

The first wiretap application in Fast and Furious contains rich detail about the transactions by many of the straw purchasers. Given this detail, it shocks the conscience that federal law enforcement officials intentionally abandoned surveillance. Even more shocking is that upon reviewing these facts, senior Justice Department officials authorized the wiretap applications instead of shutting down the investigation.

NEW INFORMATION CONTAINED IN ADDITIONAL WIRETAP APPLICATIONS

These three additional wiretap applications further demonstrate that senior officials in the Justice Department's Criminal Division failed to sound the alarm, despite being presented with unmistakable evidence of the extent of the Fast and Furious gun trafficking ring. Given the danger involved, these officials should have intervened without hesitation. Throughout this investigation, one of my goals has been to hold these officials accountable for their management failures. In public statements, you have indicated you agree with this objective. Given this new evidence obtained by the Committee, I expect you to join me in seeking to hold these officials accountable.

SENIOR DOJ OFFICIALS KNEW BY MAY 2010 THAT AT LEAST 1,500 FIREARMS WERE INVOLVED, AND RECOVERIES IN MEXICO WERE ONGOING

The affidavits for the additional wiretap applications demonstrate that senior officials at both ATF and Justice Department headquarters knew that Target 1 was continuing to acquire firearms illegally and traffic them to Mexico. By April 19, 2010, Target 1 had acquired at least 1,217 firearms through straw purchasers, costing approximately \$800,000. By May 17, 2010, less than a month later, Target 1 had acquired nearly 300 additional firearms. Between September 23, 2009 and March 23, 2010, 302 of these firearms were recovered, including 182 in Mexico and 116 along the U.S.-Mexico border. These recoveries occurred between one and 105 days after the firearms were purchased in Arizona. The affidavits illustrate that ATF allowed Target 1 to continue to operate the firearms trafficking ring despite evidence indicating that they should have shut it down. Senior Department officials also failed to act on these facts. As a result, Target 1 was able to acquire even more firearms.

MONITORED PHONE CALLS DETAIL LARGE NUMBERS OF FIREARMS

The affidavits include details of phone conversations showing that Target 1 and related straw purchasers were heavily involved in illegal firearms trafficking. For example, one affidavit details recorded conversations over the course of a 30-day period between Straw Purchaser Y and a cooperating FFL. In each of these recorded conversations, Straw Pur-

chaser Y discussed future firearms purchases from the FFL. Following each of those conversations, Straw Purchaser Y later arrived at the FFL and purchased firearms.

In that month alone, Straw Purchaser Y bought a total of 120 AK-47 type rifles, 6 FN Herstal 5.7 caliber pistols, a Springfield Armory .40 caliber pistol, a Glock .45 caliber pistol, a Colt model "El Jefe" .38 super, and a Barrett .50 caliber rifle. One person's purchase of over 120 assault-type firearms in less than a month should have set off alarm bells for Criminal Division lawyers reading these affidavits. That fact alone should have been enough for a senior Department official to stop this program. Nobody did. This failure to raise an alarm represents a major breakdown in leadership.

SURVEILLANCE CONTINUES ON THE ILLEGAL PURCHASE AND TRANSFER OF FIREARMS

In addition to recording conversations of straw purchasers, ATF surveillance units continued to observe them buy guns illegally. For example, on April 16, 2010 surveillance units witnessed Straw Purchaser Y buy three Barrett .50-caliber rifles at a cost of \$9,000 each from an FFL. Surveillance followed Straw Purchaser Y and observed him transfer at least one of the rifles into a vehicle registered to Target 1. After the transfer, surveillance followed Target 1's vehicle to the residence of Straw Purchaser V, where the firearm was unloaded from the vehicle. Again, law enforcement did not interdict these guns or make an arrest.

On April 24, 2010, surveillance units observed Straw Purchaser Y purchase three FN Herstal 5.7 mm pistols from the same FFL. Later that day, surveillance units followed Straw Purchaser Y to his residence, where the same vehicle belonging to Target 1 was parked. After leaving Straw Purchaser Y's residence, the vehicle was later observed at the residence of Straw Purchaser V. At that point, surveillance was simply terminated.

A Barrett .50-caliber is a fearsome rifle that New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly has called a "weapon of war." Senior Justice Department officials should have asked tough questions of ATF about the circumstances surrounding each of these purchases. Given the circumstances of these purchases and the subsequent transfer to Target 1's vehicle, senior Department officials had a duty to intervene in the operation to ensure that it was being conducted in accordance with the law and Department policy. Instead, they stood by as the straw purchasing ring continued unabated.

TRACKING BORDER CROSSINGS

The affidavits also describe Target 1's border crossings, some of which occurred immediately following periods of buying from the straw purchasers. From December 17, 2009 to March 23, 2010, Target 1 made 13 documented crossings from Mexico into the United States. Eleven of these crossings occurred at Texas points of entry.

On December 31, 2009, Straw Purchaser Y purchased seven firearms. The following day, Target 1 crossed by vehicle from Mexico into the United States via a port of entry in Fabens, Texas. From December 30, 2009 to January 15, 2010, Straw Purchaser Y and Straw Purchaser Z purchased a combined total of 80 firearms. Then, on January 18, 2010, Target 1 again crossed from Mexico into the United States via the Faben, Texas point of entry. From January 26, 2010 to February 12, 2010, Straw Purchaser B, Straw Purchaser N, and Straw Purchaser Y purchased 62 firearms combined. On February 13, February 15, and February 16, 2010, Target 1 crossed by vehicle from Mexico into the United States via a port of entry in El Paso, Texas. From April 6, 2010 to April 24, 2010, Straw Purchaser Y purchased 24 firearms. On April 26, 2010, Target 1 crossed by vehicle from Mexico into the



United States via a port of entry in Lukeville, Arizona. The affidavits also state that Target 1 routinely travelled to El Paso, Texas. In fact, according to the affidavits, intercepted phone calls show that at that time, Target 1 was engaging in conversations relating to firearms trafficking with individuals in and around El Paso, Texas.

Moreover, one of the affidavits states that ATF agents believed Straw Purchaser Y was also traveling to El Paso, Texas to receive U.S. currency to transport back to Mexico for future gun purchases in the Phoenix, Arizona area. For example, on March 23, 2010, the day after Straw Purchaser Y returned from El Paso, Texas, Straw Purchaser M, Straw Purchaser N, and Straw Purchaser Q purchased a total of 30 AK-47 type rifles and 7.62x39 caliber ammunition from Phoenix, Arizona FFLs. Straw Purchaser Y traveled to El Paso, Texas on two occasions after March 21, 2010. On both occasions, Straw Purchaser Y drove to El Paso, Texas, stayed at a hotel approximately one day, and then drove back to Phoenix, Arizona. On the second occasion, surveillance units observed Straw Purchaser Y meeting with an unknown individual before returning to Phoenix, Arizona a short time later.

#### CONCLUSION

These wiretap affidavits show that straw purchasers were buying massive numbers of guns from Phoenix area FFLs, and that federal law enforcement officials were contemporaneously aware of many of these sales. By monitoring and recording phone calls and conducting extensive surveillance, ATF tracked the actions of the firearms trafficking ring. ATF knew, and shared with the Criminal Division, that Target 1 facilitated the illegal transfer of these firearms to Mexico for the drug cartels. The volume of firearms distributed by the gun trafficking ring was a major threat to public safety. Despite the volume of information gathered through this field work, no one in ATF or Justice Department headquarters took action. This is inexcusable.

The new facts these wiretap applications reveal are dismaying. More than we previously believed, senior officials at the Department of Justice were aware of specific information about ATF's efforts to monitor illegal transactions and subsequently abandon surveillance. Now, more than ever, it is imperative that you join me in demanding that these senior officials be held accountable.

Sincerely,

DARRELL ISSA,  
*Chairman.*

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
GOVERNMENT REFORM,

*Washington, DC, June 1, 2012.*

Hon. ELLJAH E. CUMMINGS,  
*Ranking Member, Committee on Oversight and  
Government Reform, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR RANKING MEMBER CUMMINGS: This letter is a follow-up to my letters dated May 24, 2012 and May 30, 2012 regarding the applications for wire intercepts the Justice Department authorized on March 15, 2010, April 19, 2010, May 7, 2010, and May 18, 2010 in support of Operation Fast and Furious.

#### ADDITIONAL WIRETAP APPLICATIONS OBTAINED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee has obtained two additional wiretap applications from the Fast and Furious investigation, dated June 2, 2010 and July 2, 2010. These two applications pertain to two target telephone lines. Each application includes an accompanying memorandum, dated June 1, 2010 and July 1, 2010, respectively, from Assistant Attorney Gen-

eral Lanny A. Breuer to Paul M. O'Brien, Director of the Office of Enforcement Operations, authorizing the interception application. The memoranda from Breuer were marked specifically for the attention of Emory Hurley, the lead federal prosecutor for Operation Fast and Furious.

These documents further highlight the scope and volume of information known by the Department of Justice, including senior officials in the Criminal Division, about Fast and Furious. Between March and July 2010, these officials had access to rapidly mounting evidence of firearms trafficking and gunwalking, and had multiple opportunities to halt Operation Fast and Furious. They did not. Instead, these officials authorized the wiretap applications, and Fast and Furious continued unabated.

In response to your personal request, I am enclosing copies of these two wiretap applications. Please take every precaution to treat them carefully and responsibly. I am hopeful that they will assist you in understanding the extent of information brought to the attention of senior officials in the Criminal Division who were responsible for reviewing the contents of the applications to determine if they were legally sufficient and conformed to Justice Department policy. The information they contain is as vast as it is specific. These wiretap applications were signed by Jason M. Weinstein and Kenneth A. Blanco, respectively, under the authority of their supervisor, Assistant Attorney General Breuer.

To assist you in better understanding the facts, I appreciate the opportunity to provide relevant and necessary context for some of the information in these wiretap applications. Due to the sensitivity of the documents, individual targets and suspects will be referred to with anonymous designations. Nonetheless, you will see that the individuals referred to in the wiretap applications are well-known to our investigation.

#### FACTS LEARNED FROM THE PRIOR WIRETAP APPLICATIONS

The prior four wiretap applications provided a breathtaking amount of facts and details about the operational tactics used in Fast and Furious. The applications demonstrate that ATF knew as early as December 2009 that the main target of the case, Target 1, planned to acquire firearms for the purpose of transporting them to Mexico. In fact, the applications include entire conversations obtained through a DEA wire intercept demonstrating Target 1's specific plans. The applications acknowledge that while monitoring the DEA target telephone numbers, law enforcement officers intercepted calls that demonstrated that Target 1 was conspiring to purchase and transport firearms for the purpose of trafficking the firearms from the United States to Mexico.

The applications include transcripts of phone conversations showing that Target 1 and related straw purchasers were heavily involved in illegal firearms trafficking. The applications describe ATF surveillance units observing straw purchasers buying guns illegally. The applications also describe Target 1's border crossings, which often coincided with firearms purchases by the straw buyers. The affidavits even show that firearms were recovered in Mexico soon after straw purchasers bought them in Arizona, sometimes the next day. Though aware of all of these facts, ATF did not arrest anyone in the gun trafficking ring until many months later.

#### NEW INFORMATION CONTAINED IN ADDITIONAL WIRETAP APPLICATIONS

These two additional wiretap applications further demonstrate that senior officials in the Justice Department's Criminal Division failed to sound the alarm, despite being pre-

sented with unmistakable evidence of the extent of the gun trafficking ring and the controversial tactics used in Fast and Furious. Given the danger involved, these officials should have intervened without hesitation. Throughout this investigation, one of my goals has been to hold these officials accountable for their management failures. In public statements, you have indicated you agree with this objective.

#### \$1 MILLION WORTH OF FIREARMS

From September 2009 to July 2010, Target 1 acquired over 1,500 firearms through his straw purchasers at a cost of approximately \$1,000,000. In other words, Target 1's firearms trafficking ring acquired at least an additional 700 guns at a cost of \$500,000 in approximately four months after the Justice Department authorized the first wiretap application.

From December 17, 2009 to July 2, 2010, Target 1 crossed from Mexico into the United States a total of 15 times. Thirteen of these 15 crossings occurred at Texas port of entries. According to the applications, Target 1 orchestrated both narcotics and firearms transactions with the intent to sell narcotics, purchase firearms, and then transport the firearms into Mexico from the United States. Although ATF and the Justice Department were aware of this information for many months, they took no steps to interrupt Target 1's criminal activities.

#### STRAW PURCHASERS BY THE NUMBERS

These additional wiretap applications again provide startling numbers regarding Target 1's straw purchasers. For example, by July 2, 2010, Straw Purchaser Y had purchased at least 616 firearms from the Arizona Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs). Y purchased 125 of these guns between March 26, 2010 and June 5, 2010. By March 26, 2010, ATF had only recovered 81 firearms purchased by Straw Purchaser Y, including 28 in Mexico, within eight to 120 days after the firearms were purchased in Arizona.

Straw Purchaser Z had bought 281 firearms from Arizona FFLs by June 8, 2010. By July 2, 2010, at least 57 of these guns had been recovered in the possession of others or at crime scenes, either in the United States or Mexico. Surveillance units also observed a vehicle registered to Straw Purchaser Z parked in front of Target 1's residence from June 4, 2010 until June 7, 2010. On June 7, 2010, Customs and Border Protection officers observed Straw Purchaser Z and Target 1 crossing into the United States from Mexico in a vehicle registered to Straw Purchaser B.

Between January 26, 2010 and June 5, 2010, Straw Purchaser N purchased 96 firearms from Arizona FFLs. From October 5, 2009 through June 8, 2010, Straw Purchaser B bought 83 firearms from Arizona FFLs. In that same period, Straw Purchaser Q purchased 141 firearms.

The applications painstakingly document several of the straw purchasers' firearms acquisitions, including specific quantities, dates, and locations. The applications also specify to whom the firearms were transferred, and even at what specific crime scenes the guns were later recovered. Though fully aware that these firearms were being smuggled into the hands of the Mexican drug cartels, senior Department officials allowed the illegal purchases and transfers to continue. The continued acquisition of firearms by the gun trafficking network exacerbated the threat to public safety. Even when faced with these stark facts, senior Department officials failed to put an end to this operation.

#### ADDITIONAL WIRETAP APPLICATIONS

You now have a total of six applications for Fast and Furious. Officials in the Justice Department's Criminal Division authorized these applications on the following dates:

Wiretap	Date	Criminal Division Signature
1	March 10, 2010 .....	Kenneth Blanco.
2/3	April 15, 2010 .....	John Keeney.
4	May 6, 2010 .....	John Keeney.
5	May 14, 2010 .....	John Keeney.
6	June 1, 2010 .....	Jason Weinstein.
7	July 1, 2010 .....	Kenneth Blanco.

There may be additional wiretaps from Fast and Furious that are not currently in the Committee's possession. During his transcribed interview, Deputy Assistant Attorney General Jason Weinstein said:

Q. And did you review wiretap applications in Operation Fast and Furious?

A. I reviewed what I believe to be three of the wiretaps in Fast and Furious, in what I now know to be Fast and Furious.

Weinstein later clarified:

Q. How many did you authorize?

A. I authorized three to the best of my recollection.

Q. You were the signing official authorizing three?

A. On three of them, yes.

As the chart above reflects, however, Weinstein only signed one of the wiretaps currently in possession of the Committee. This leaves the likely possibility that at least two more wiretaps from Fast and Furious exist. To fully understand the scope of what the Criminal Division knew about Fast and Furious and when they knew it, it is essential that the Committee have access to these other two wiretap applications, if they exist.

#### CONCLUSION

The volume of information known to senior Justice Department officials regarding Fast and Furious by July 2, 2010 is overwhelming. Despite this, Fast and Furious continued for nearly seven more months. Notably, only after U.S. Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry's murder were arrests made and indictments issued. In light of the information contained in these wiretap affidavits, approved under Assistant Attorney General Breuer's authority, Washington, D.C.-based Justice Department officials can no longer disclaim responsibility in failing to shut down Fast and Furious. We now know numerous senior officials had access to information about the controversial and dangerous operational tactics used in Fast and Furious.

At the Committee's February 2, 2012 hearing with the Attorney General, you stated that we "now have all the facts." These wiretap applications prove that your comment was premature. The information contained in these wiretaps underscores the reality that we do not have all the facts. I hope you will join me in strongly urging the Department of Justice to cooperate with our investigation fully until we obtain all the facts and it holds those responsible for authorizing the continuance of this operation accountable.

Sincerely,

DARRELL ISSA,  
*Chairman.*

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH  
CHURCH ANNIVERSARY OF REV-  
EREND DAVID L. STANLEY, SR.

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to extend my personal congratulations to the Reverend David L. Stanley, the beloved pastor of Union Baptist Church in

Macon, Georgia, who will be celebrating 25 years at this wonderful church. On Sunday, July 8, 2012, he will be honored by his congregation at Union Baptist Church for this important milestone.

Rev. Stanley, the second youngest of five children, was born to Charles and Anna Stanley. He grew up in Dublin, Georgia and attended M.M. Burdell Elementary School and Northeast High School in Macon, Georgia.

Rev. Stanley went on to receive a Certificate of Diploma in Old and New Testament Studies from Moody Bible College. He also obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Studies from Carolina University in Lincolnton, North Carolina. However, Rev. Stanley's studies have not concluded as he strives to continue to understand and keep abreast of the Word of God.

Before becoming pastor of Union Baptist Church, Rev. Stanley served as a Sunday School teacher, Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent. He received God's call to the ministry in 1985 and accepted pastoral duties at Union Baptist Church two years later in 1987.

Union Baptist Church has had an enduring history. After relocating many times since the church was founded in 1893, a church at the present site was built in 1963. Many improvements and additions have been made since then and groundbreaking for the new edifice was held on November 27, 1999, during Rev. Stanley's tenure. Two years later, on April 1, 2001, the new sanctuary was unveiled and dedicated to the Lord.

Under Rev. Stanley's leadership, Union Baptist Church has grown not only in size, but also in faith. Always pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, in order to better improve the craft of Christian discipleship, Rev. Stanley's philosophy emphasizes the importance of instructing his flock and others in becoming more knowledgeable about God's Word. Putting his philosophy into action, he implemented the Union Baptist Non-Accredited Bible School to enhance regular Bible study among members of his congregation and the community.

As a servant of God, Rev. Stanley is also a servant of others. He has received a "Key to the City" for his community work. Always endeavoring to motivate others, he was chosen as one of Macon's Most Inspirational Speakers by the residents of the city. He is also involved in the Union Baptist Association, the Georgia Baptist Convention and the Baptist Minister's Union.

Rev. Stanley is a great and inspirational leader, but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife, Deborah, and his son, David, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Reverend David L. Stanley for 25 outstanding years of pastorship at Union Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia. He has truly implemented the Word of God in his congregation and in the community. I am profoundly grateful for his outstanding Christian stewardship and dedication to his church and family.

Truly to God be the glory!

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 28, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 438. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 434: "yes"—Securing Maritime Activities through Risk-based Targeting (SMART) for Port Security Act.

HONORING DR. EDMUND O.

SCHWEITZER, III

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a very good friend and constituent, Dr. Edmund O. Schweitzer, III on receiving the 2012 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Medal in Power Engineering.

Truly one of the most inspirational individuals I have ever met, Dr. Schweitzer is an electrical engineer and President, CEO, and Founder of Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories in Pullman, Washington. After growing up in Chicago, he received his bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, and his doctorate from Washington State University, Pullman. After sharpening his craft at Ohio University and Washington State University, Dr. Schweitzer founded SEL, Inc. in 1982 in Pullman, Washington. An IEEE Fellow and member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, Dr. Schweitzer's has more honors and accolades to fully list, but they include an Alumni Achievement Award from Washington State University and the Purdue University Outstanding Electrical and Computer Engineer Award.

Since its founding, SEL has grown into the world's leading power protection company with over 3,000 employee-owners with facilities in 20 countries around the world. Dr. Schweitzer envisioned the concept of the "smart grid" long before the term was popularized. He recognized early in his career the importance of computer technology for power protection and how it could change the field. Dr. Schweitzer's pioneering inventions and leadership in bringing computer-based methods to the marketplace starting in the 1980s have revolutionized safety, reliability and efficiency in generating, transmitting and distributing electric power and have transformed operation of the power grid.

Much like Benjamin Franklin and many of our nation's greatest inventors, Dr. Schweitzer was not deterred by early set backs or conventional wisdom that ran contrary to his transformational vision. Dr. Schweitzer's innovations have allowed engineers of all backgrounds to monitor, control and protect power systems in ways not previously imagined. As an engineer with keen business intellect, Dr. Schweitzer realized early on that his innovations could revolutionize companies' bottom line—allowing them to reduce expenses, expand, and create jobs. The application of Dr.

Schweitzer's digital technology as replacement equipment or in new installations has led to reduced design work in protection and control systems, flexible operation options and increased reliability, resulting in reduced cost.

Recently, Speaker JOHN A. BOEHNER and I had the pleasure of touring and meeting the newest employee-owners at SEL's headquarters in Pullman, Washington. The Speaker and I were touched by the sincerity and pride each of SEL's employees have in their work—a direct reflection of the Dr. Schweitzer's leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating one of America's great innovators and modern day pioneers, Dr. Edmund O. Schweitzer, III, on receiving the 2012 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Medal in Power Engineering.

HONORING MRS. CAROLYN B. PARKS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, the lives of many have been touched by the life of one—Mrs. Carolyn B. Parks; and

Whereas, Mrs. Carolyn B. Parks is the District I Vice President of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA), she has been and continues to be involved in promoting business and community by informing, educating and giving support to our citizens in our District; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents for the betterment of our community through her tireless works, words of encouragement and empowerment; and

Whereas, Mrs. Carolyn B. Parks has given DeKalb County and the Metropolitan Atlanta area, tools that enhance lives, supports our youth, protect our seniors and promotes our community businesses; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Carolyn B. Parks for her outstanding leadership and service to our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim July 27, 2012 as Carolyn B. Parks Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 27th day of July, 2012.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I was detained on June 20, 2012, and was unable to be on the House floor to vote. Had I been there, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall 389: H. Res. 691, On Ordering the Previous Question: "yes."

Rollcall 390: H. Res. 691, Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4480: "yes."

Rollcall 391: Walz of Minnesota Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4348: "yes."

CONGRATULATING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ZACHARY DANIEL MERRITT

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to offer my heartiest congratulations to Lieutenant Commander Zachary Daniel Merritt of the United States Navy on his recent promotion. This is certainly a momentous occasion and one worthy of great commendation.

Lieutenant Commander Merritt was born and raised in my hometown of York, Pennsylvania. He graduated from the Naval Reserves Officer Training Corps at Penn State University with a Bachelor's Degree in nuclear engineering. He was commissioned at Penn State in December 2004.

Lieutenant Commander Merritt served his junior officer tour aboard the U.S.S. *Michigan* and later served on the faculty of the Naval Submarine School, where he earned the distinction of "Instructor of the Year." He currently serves as the Engineer aboard the U.S.S. *Alexandria*.

Lieutenant Commander Merritt's outstanding record of service to our country is certainly worthy of great praise. All Americans are forever indebted to him and his family for their dedicated service and deep commitment to our country. I am certain that Lieutenant Commander Merritt's fellow citizens, family, friends and colleagues join me congratulating him on his recent promotion.

RECOMMENDING THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER BE FOUND IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in the history of the House of Representatives, the House Majority has brought a contempt vote against the Attorney General of the United States, even though he has complied with federal law. This act is purely political and unnecessary.

Chairman ISSA has admitted that he has no evidence that the Attorney General authorized, condoned, or was even aware of Operation Fast and Furious, nor does he have any evidence of wrongdoing. Rather, the evidence shows that as soon as the Attorney General was aware of the gunwalking program he immediately halted it and ordered an investigation by the Office of the Inspector General. To date, the Attorney General has provided thousands of pages of documents and testified before Congress nine times. The House Majority's unprecedented political attack, despite any evidence of wrongdoing, flies in the face of our justice system and is a disservice to the American people.

The death of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry is tragic, and the criminals responsible for his death should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Sadly, the goal of today's vote is not to bring justice for Agent Terry, secure our border, eliminate illegal guns, or even uphold the law. Today's vote is an attempt to discredit the President of the United States and the Attorney General through whatever means necessary, with no regard to evidence, a fair process, or the truth.

The American people want Congress to focus on growing the economy. If Congress does not act by the end of this year, taxes will rise on every American, and the government will face massive budget cuts that our economy cannot afford. The House should be focused on creating jobs for Americans, not ending the tenure of the Attorney General.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF GAIL MILLAR

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, and I would like to take a moment to recognize the career and the retirement of Gail Millar, the General Counsel for the House Budget Committee, and to thank her for the service she has provided to not just the Committee, but to the Congress and the United States of America in a wide variety of roles. Ms. Millar is retiring after more than three decades of dedicated service to our Nation as an employee of the Federal Government.

In 1981, she began her time on Capitol Hill by joining the Senate Budget Committee under Senator Pete Domenici and became Chief Counsel. She went from there to the Senate Parliamentarian's Office and stayed there from 1984 through 1988. After the departure of the Senate Parliamentarian, Bob Dove, she took on the enormous responsibility in 1987 as First Assistant to the new Parliamentarian, Alan Frumin. He has characterized her as a "great colleague, smart, courageous, reliable, loyal, and tough as nails."

When she announced that she was leaving the office, Majority Leader Robert C. Byrd made a personal appeal for her to stay with the Office.

Even so, soon after, Ms. Millar began as an assistant counsel for the Congressional Budget Office, rising to General Counsel during her stay there, which lasted from 1989 to 2000. Ms. Millar's area of expertise was budget scorekeeping and working with budget analysts and program analysts on budget issues.

She also served from 2000 to 2002 as clerk for the Subcommittee on Commerce, State, Justice, the Judiciary and Related Agencies at the House Committee on Appropriations. After that position, she worked from 2002 to 2005 as associate director for budget policy and management in the Office of Technical Assistance at the Department of the Treasury, a job in which she and her staff advised governments around the world about how to put in place budget processes and procedures to advance their nations.

In 2005, she began serving as Chief Counsel to the Senate Budget Committee before

leaving to work for the House Budget Committee as General Counsel in 2007.

As Counsel to both the House and Senate Budget Committees, Ms. Millar has been dedicated to the proper interpretation of the law, the drafting of bills and amendments, and the development of important concepts related to those laws.

Throughout her public service, she has fearlessly advocated to preserve the integrity of the budget process and the principles of the House and Senate.

For all of the outstanding work she has done in her 32-year career, her greatest accomplishments and her proudest achievements are her two children, Joe and Jeanne.

We deeply appreciate Gail Millar's long service to Congress and to the Executive Branch, which has been manifested in so many ways and in so many roles. We will truly miss the wisdom that she brings to her work. We wish her the best in her retirement and in her new opportunity to spend more time with her family and friends.

#### TRIBUTE TO ERNESTINE CORNETT

### HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ernestine Cornett, in honor of her retirement after dedicating nearly 30 years to WYMT-TV, a CBS-affiliate in Hazard, Kentucky, providing continuous news coverage and serving as a tireless ambassador for southern and eastern Kentucky.

With Ernestine Cornett at the helm of WYMT as General Manager, hundreds of thousands of families gained access to local, live-remote news coverage in southern and eastern Kentucky with the station's first satellite truck. Over the years, WYMT-TV has also answered the call for more than news coverage. To promote higher attainment rates for college degrees, Ernestine led the way for thousands of students in the region to gain access to college scholarships through fundraising efforts by the station. In the midst of flooding, tornadoes and other natural disasters, the station has provided staff and airtime for numerous telethons to raise money to give back to families and communities in dire need. During the holidays, WYMT also promotes food and donation drives to make sure the less fortunate have something to celebrate.

Ernestine Cornett is also a model for women in business in rural communities. Starting in the commercial traffic department at WYMT more than two decades ago, Ernestine worked her way up the ladder to general manager in 1990 through her loyalty to the region, integrity in decision-making, her astute leadership, and pure hard work. The station's call letters, WYMT, stand for "We're Your Mountain Television" and it's Ernestine's passion for connecting and improving the region that have served as hallmarks for the station's mission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a leader and dear friend of southern and eastern Kentucky, Ernestine Cornett, on her retirement. My wife, Cynthia and I wish Ernestine and her family all the best in the years to come.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for a vote on June 26th 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall No. 416—On Agreeing to the Amendment (Connolly of Virginia Amendment) "yes."

#### CONGRATULATING THE MIAMI HEAT

### HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Miami Heat on its 2011–2012 National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship. The Miami Heat's journey to its second championship is a testament to teamwork and selflessness. In honor of their remarkable season and leadership in my community, I submit the following poem, written by Albert Carey Caswell.

THE HEAT IS ON,

FEEL . . . FEEL THE HEAT!

IN HONOR OF THE WORLD CHAMPIONS

THE MIAMI HEAT

THE HEAT IS ON, FEEL . . . FEEL THE HEAT!

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

THUNDER and HEAT!

When two forces of nature so meet!

But only one can so hold that title so very sweet?

As World Champions, as out into a future which so speaks!

Feel . . . Feel The Heat!

"WADE" a minute, your over your head . . . so very deep!

Something so fast and so furious that no one can beat!

Like a Category 5 Hurricane coming at you, up from the beach!

You better get your children inside, because this title is so out of reach!

Feel! Feel The Heat!

It begins . . . with a little boy with a ball in hand. . .

As into the wee hours of the night he now so stands . . .

Shot after shot, rebound after rebound, as he takes command!

Dreaming that Dream, that once so began!

To walk upon that hardwood, and so see and so feel the crowd . . .

To play in the NBA, all of those sights and so sounds!

As it all so begins with that first basketball, The Round!

Pee wee leagues, elementary, pick up games, middle and high school ball!

And just maybe a college so comes to call . . .

And then The Pro's, The Greatest of All!

Oh how I wonder, if all of this Dr. Naismith saw?

And for many, this dream but so gives them that chance!

To leave a life of heartache and poverty, and to so advance!

To go to March Madness, and The Big Dance . . .

And to get an education, and have a life and make future plans!

And yet still for some, even greater dreams may so advance!

To play in The NBA!

And then the greatest of all of them,

That One Golden Chance!

To be a World Champion,

and wear that crown and ring and so dance!

And so reside at The Top of Round Ball,

oh what a romance!

That of a World Champion, to so take that most lofty stance!

For only a very few will ever be in such a circumstance!

For these are sheer men of might!

Who fly through the air almost at the speed of light!

Who jump high above those backboards all on game night!

With such catlike reflexes and speed, to the crowds to ignite!

Even Spider Man could learn lessons from them all about flight!

The ones who can shoot the eyes out of basket going left or right!

And who will wear this most hallowed crown, so very bright?

And earn that great title of World Champions, this night!

THUNDER AND HEAT!

When two forces of nature on the hardwood so meet!

Something's got to give, THUNDER AND HEAT!

And after last year's loss they had down graded, The Heat!

But, this year's version . . .

according to The Book of King James, "hunt it . . . hunt it" was ready to compete!

As they took that loss and planted it all in their hearts so very deep!

As day in and day out they so strived for that title to seek!

AS THE THREE AVENGERS AND THE TEAM,

ALL CAME TOGETHER AT WARP SPEED!

THE BIG THREE, WHAT HELL TRULY CAN BE!

Melding into a perfect storm,

in the NBA to create such havoc, to reek!

Making grown men so weep!

AS IT WAS JUDGEMENT DAY!

AS THIS TIME THEY WERE PLAYING FOR KEEPS!

A New Kid in town, Durant and his Thunder at the OK Corral!

When, The James Gang came riding into town!

Two of the best ball slingers in the NBA to be found!

But they were ambushed in game one, as The Heat went down!

As Dwayne said "WADE, A MINUTE . . . WADE A MINUTE NOW!"

And King James said, "its' not OK, we're going to be wearing that crown!"

And he said, "you won't get this title sooner, much later now!

And BOSH, put it into high gear . . . high performance so now!

As The Heat evened the series,

and cried take me to Miami. . . were heading South!

As it was Mano v Mano,

LeBron and Durant who would so bow?

Even Spider Man wishes he could be like LeBron,

someway. . . or somehow!

Maybe if he goes to his basketball camp,

King James will show him just how!

A question asked, "did LeBron, really turn that role of Spider Man down?"

As the next three games, were all so insane. . .

As THE HEAT said feel my pain!

With a wave of DEFENSE, that washed The Thunder out!

As this Hurricane's intensity grew so, and how!

Even the weather channel was forecasting major damage, about!  
 As they gave The Thunder fair warning to evacuate this town!  
 As Dwayne was smooth as silk, as he comes from a different ilk!  
 Is he from another planet? WOW!  
 Shooting the eyes out of the basket, up and down the court on a cloud!  
 As The Thunder said,  
 "cape crusaders in the NBA should not be allowed!"  
 Like Batman and Robin. . . King James and Wade,  
 The Dynamic Duo said throw in the towel!  
 Now that's what I'm talking about!  
 And then throw in THE BOSH, making The Big Three!  
 IT'S LIKE A BATTLE STAR, HOLY COW!  
 James, Wade and Bosh have more combined take offs and landings,  
 than Miami's airport does so now!  
 We need an air traffic controller on the court,  
 to regulate these take offs and landings somehow!  
 You know, "Sometimes you get a "REVEALING"!  
 Like you never had before!  
 As they turned UP THE HEAT and LeBron triple doubled,  
 and went beyond a category 5 to victory insure!  
 A category, is that what his number 6 on his jersey stands for?  
 Ruling, over his Kingdom from baseline to baseline. . .  
 Something so beautiful and pure!  
 He'll slam you, he'll jam you, like a vampire make your neck sore.  
 As he was a Man For All Seasons, need I say more?  
 He's a Tour De Force!  
 As once again MVP once more!  
 As Miller Time, throwing up three's like he was out of his mind!  
 And Shane Battier would "Duke it out", making threes from the back line!  
 As they were all giving James, a very Harden time!  
 As Serge couldn't Iblocka each and every Heat shota he'd find!  
 And Westbrook, Miami's D gave him the hook making him whine!  
 As Mario Charmed them from down town one at a time!  
 And Udonis U Hasem,  
 all on defense and rebounds making them hide!  
 AND WHEN GAME FIVE WAS DONE,  
 THAT'S HOW THE WEST WAS WON!  
 AS KING JAMES SAID, THE HEAT IS ON!  
 STAY OUT OF THE HEAT MY SON!  
 Even skin block won't protect you, get the job done!  
 As you looked around,  
 you saw the tears in The Heat's eyes!  
 As they had a feeling like they never had before!  
 A revealing!  
 As coach Erik Poelstra said, "I'm so proud of you guys!"  
 And Riley said, "Erik, I worship you on high!"  
 For money can not buy, that feeling of a dream deep down inside!  
 That all little boys hearts, one day hope to realize!  
 Somewhere in America tonight, a little boy stands. . .  
 shot after shot, rebound after rebound into the night making plans!  
 Dreaming that dream, fighting that fight!  
 WARNING! WARNING! A NATIONAL WEATHER ALERT!  
 MORE HURRICANES ARE PREDICTED IN THE FUTURE THAT HURT!

MORE NBA CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE COMING FROM THE HEAT!  
 THE HEAT IS ON, IT'S ON THE COURT, IT'S IN THE SEATS,  
 IT'S IN THE OCEAN, IT'S IN THE STREETS, ON BISCAYNE BVD  
 SO SWEET! THE HEAT IS ON, FEEL. . . FEEL THE HEAT!

HONORING CRYSTAL BROCKINGTON AND JOHNATHAN DAVIS

### HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, Crystal Brockington and Johnathan Davis have distinguished themselves as an outstanding research team in the area of Science from Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology; and

Whereas, Miss Brockington and Mr. Davis have competed throughout the state of Georgia, the Nation and internationally; and

Whereas, their research project the "Optimization of Solar Cells Using Quantum Dots & Nanofibers" received the designation and prestigious ranking of #2 worldwide as a Silver medalist this year in Istanbul, Turkey; and

Whereas, these students have studied hard, sacrificed much and balanced their lives as teenagers maintaining high grade point averages throughout the school year; and

Whereas, they are model student leaders with the heart to serve their community and a drive to one day be the best of the best for their school, their family and their country; and

Whereas, their boundless energy and enthusiasm have opened internationally recognized opportunities, helping Fourth District Congressional students understand that their futures are as limitless as the skies; and

Whereas, we are grateful for the accomplishments and work of these outstanding students of honor who define the power of education and imagination; and

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim June 12, 2012 as Crystal Brockington and Johnathan Davis Day in Georgia's 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 12th day of June, 2012.

### IN CELEBRATION OF HOWARD E. JEFFERSON'S 75TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the 75th birthday of a respected community and business leader, Howard Jefferson. Born in Mississippi, on this day in 1937, Mr. Jefferson rose from humble beginnings to preeminence in Houston, Texas.

He excelled in school, graduating from Southern University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. In 1962, he was the recipient of the prestigious Academic Year Fellowship in Science and Mathematics from the University of Texas. Mr. Jefferson received a Masters Degree in Administration and Su-

pervision from the University of Houston in 1967.

A born scholar and educator, Mr. Jefferson finished his education and quickly rose to the position of Assistant Superintendent in the Houston Independent School District, where he supervised over 120 schools and eight area superintendents. He later retired and went on to become the Chairman of Protectors Insurance and Financial Services, LLC as well as the Protectors Health Partners, LLC.

Mr. Jefferson has held leadership positions on various boards and commissions, including President of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Houston Branch, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Houston Housing Authority, Chairman of the Veterans Advisory Committee, Vice President of the Houston Principals Association, Vice President of the Mustang Little League Football Team and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Operation PULL. He has also been a member of numerous boards and commissions, including the Harris County Board of Education, Shell Oil Company Diversity Advisory Board and City of Houston Urban Policy Advisory Board.

Mr. Jefferson's leadership and community service have been consistently recognized by his colleagues. Amongst other honors, Mr. Jefferson has received the State of Texas NAACP Heroes Award, the NAACP Mickey Leland Humanitarian Award, National Baptist Association Humanitarian Award, Houston Lawyers Association Outstanding Services Award and had a day pronounced in the city of Houston in his honor by Houston mayor Lee P. Brown.

Mr. Speaker, I am blessed to have the opportunity to pay tribute to a man who so selflessly acts as an agent for change and a coalition builder. He is an exemplar for all those who aspire to selflessly serve others, and most of all he is a friend.

### RECOMMENDING THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER BE FOUND IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's contempt votes were yet another example of partisan politics and an attempt by House Republicans to discredit the Obama Administration. I could not, in good conscience, participate in such deception and disservice to the American people. To simply vote against the House Resolution does not adequately demonstrate the outrage and disdain that I feel about this unfair and woefully political vote.

### CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF EUGENE SHEA

### HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the life and achievements

of one of my constituents, Eugene Shea of St. Petersburg, Florida. Now 100 years old, Mr. Shea has been blessed to have lived such a long life and he has not wasted any part of that gift. In his youth, he was a world champion speed skater from his native state of New York. Since moving to St. Petersburg, he has built a successful career as a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker Commercial. He continues to work there today. Each day, he sits down at his desk with his trusted typewriter and phone. He is known for his hard work and still closes negotiations worth more than a million dollars. We should all celebrate his century of setting such a fine example.

This illustration is important for today as our expectations of a long and fruitful life continue to grow. Mr. Shea, at age 100, demonstrates for us that it is possible to continue contributing to the community long after age 65. Working as a real estate agent, Mr. Shea is often in stressful negotiations. He handles these situations with the strength of his immense experience and hopes to continue to work at his typewriter for years to come. I hope that this might inspire others to believe that they too can continue to live healthy and productive lives.

For the last century, Mr. Shea has led a life of fine character, working hard and contributing to the community in my district. His success and continued work ethic truly represent the best ideals of his profession and are a source of inspiration for all who meet him. Mr. Shea is an exceptional example of Pinellas County, the state of Florida and the United States. I am proud to congratulate Mr. Shea for his quality and achievements which deserve to be recognized by this chamber and the country.

BETH CHAVERIM'S 30TH  
ANNIVERSARY

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter a statement into the RECORD on behalf of my constituent, Dr. Israel Zoberman. Dr. Zoberman is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He is also the president of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis and Cantors. Dr. Zoberman asked me to enter the following remarks into the RECORD regarding Chanaka. Dr. Zoberman's statement follows:

At the Shabbat morning service, June 30, at 10:30 a.m., followed by a festive luncheon, the family of Beth Chaverim will joyfully celebrate its 30th anniversary which officially falls on July 2. What a milestone in the history of our young congregation that has endured and even flourished during these three eventful decades of accomplishments!

I, a grateful founding rabbi, shall always remember and cherish the transforming birth of what we affectionately called, "the baby." Much love and tenderness has been bestowed upon the fast-growing "baby," remaining the newest synagogue in the exceptional community of Hampton Roads and the only Reform Jewish temple in Virginia Beach. The congregation's name, "Beth Chaverim," was deliberately chosen to reflect the very essence of what we wanted our

temple to be, an embracing "House of Friends," whose birth would always be justified by trying harder than others to create a loving and accepting Jewish home for those choosing to enter our gates and hearts. Admittedly, we have also learned that we are only human and that the perfect vision of our innocent youth was bound to be challenged by a complex and, at times, trying reality.

It is though beyond doubt that our beloved Beth Chaverim has generated multiple blessings onto its immediate congregational family, the larger Jewish community and the general one with interfaith bonds of historical significance. For our first three years we were kindly hosted by the now Heritage United Methodist Church, followed for ten years (1985-1995) at the most gracious Catholic Church of the Ascension, at that time the only such Jewish-Catholic relationship in the world! While at the church I invited in 1993 Muslims to join in the first Jewish-Muslim joint prayer in Hampton Roads, celebrating the beginning of the Peace Process in the Middle East. Currently Beth Chaverim is home to two African American churches, New Jerusalem Ministries led by Dr. Veronica Coleman and Emmanuel Way of the Cross Church led by Bishop Fred E. Hill. Another giant breakthrough! Peace by Piece by Edmarc Hospice For Children and Jewish Family Service of Tidewater meets here as well, along with Boy Scouts Troop #488 that we sponsor.

I profoundly thank you, founding president Dr. Jerry and Paula Levy, and all members of our Founding Generation, for being such an indispensable part of our noble endeavors and dreams, making possible our sacred work in progress. Your faithful participation has nourished and sustained the miracle called Beth Chaverim, a caring, courageous and creative congregation! Our remarkable Bingo Bunch has made a critical contribution. Our inspiring additions in 2006 of the Marilyn and Marvin Simon Family Sanctuary and the Religious School wing have made a significant difference, allowing us to host the notable Yom Ha'Shoah gathering sponsored by the Holocaust Commission of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater.

How appropriate and symbolic that our first "home-grown" rabbi, Sam Rose, Lora's son, was ordained on June 4th, 2012 in Cincinnati, Ohio, at my alma mater, the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, from which I was ordained 38 years ago. We are proud of him, his wife Andrea, Lora and the entire family. Rabbi Rose will serve at Temple Beth Israel in Austin, Texas, as of July 1st.

A heartfelt Mazal Tov & Le'Chaim—To life for a great past and even a greater future as we continue to go and grow from strength to strength. My beloved wife Jennifer, soulmate and helpmate, founding rebbitzin, founding president Dr. Jerry and Paula Levy, president Nate and Janet Rubin, immediate past-president Chris and Dr. Jim Ohlstein, along with past-president Dr. Marty and Judi Snyder, join me in offering heartfelt gratitude on truly a grand Simcha celebration of a very special "baby."

THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
UNITED STATES DECISION ON  
THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF  
THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep disappointment with the recent

United States Supreme Court ruling on June 28, 2012 that upheld the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

The Court's opinion is lengthy and complicated and will require careful evaluation and review. However, we know that the Court affirmed the view that President Obama's law represents a significant tax on the American people, and that it is through the federal government's power to levy taxes that the Court upheld the law as constitutional.

Mr. Speaker, the Court's legal analysis is dubious and cause for concern given the dangerous precedent it sets. Can the government now require Americans to purchase government-approved goods and services or else face the threat of a tax? What we do know, however, is that the Court put restraint on the power of Congress to mandate the purchase of goods and services under the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution.

The Court ruled on the legal issues, not the wisdom of the policy. The American people have already weighed in and overwhelmingly rejected this law. As a whole, the law, which the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office predicts will cost \$1.6 trillion and will result in as many as 20 million Americans losing their existing health care coverage, remains deeply unpopular with the public. This is a stark contrast to the President Obama's repeated promise that, "if you like your health care plan, you can keep your health care plan."

The President's law has also proven to be ineffective at reducing the cost of health care, as it is suffocating small businesses with overbearing regulations and hampering job creation in a time of economic uncertainty. Recent estimates indicate that the law will actually cost 800,000 American jobs, not create 400,000 jobs as NANCY PELOSI claimed in 2010.

By law, beginning in 2014, employers with more than 50 employees will be required to offer health insurance coverage or face financial penalties. In addition, an employer plan must cover a specific set of services determined by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and meet actuarial standards laid out in the law. As a result, employers will be forced to choose whether to meet the new insurance requirements, pay noncompliance penalties to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), or reduce workers' hours so they do not qualify as full-time. I have heard from several small business owners in my home state of Alabama, and across the United States, that will have financial struggles no matter which decision they chose. How can a business owner provide health insurance to his employees if his business is bankrupt?

We can all agree that the Court's preservation of PPACA's employer health insurance mandate is costly, to both employers and to their employees. Rising costs will force employers to consider dropping health coverage



altogether. Recent polls state that 30 percent of employers will “definitely” or “probably” stop offering health insurance after 2014. In the wake of the Court’s ruling, employers will have three options in coming years: maintain coverage and absorb cost increases, maintain coverage and pass on as many costs as possible to workers, or drop coverage and pay a penalty. Despite the court’s ruling, I remain committed to working toward the repeal of this harmful law.

The House of Representatives will vote yet again to repeal the law in early July and immediately begin deliberate work to replace the law with free market reforms that truly improve access to quality and affordable care. Americans and their doctors, not federal bureaucrats and politicians, are in the best position to determine which health care options best meet their individual needs.

300TH ANNIVERSARY OF UWCHLAN  
TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY,  
PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Uwchlan Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania on its 300th anniversary.

Founded by Welsh Quakers in the late 17th century, the first European inhabitants called the area “Uwchlan,” meaning “upland” in Welsh. In 1712, Uwchlan was established as a township, having grown up around ancient Native American trails that today are part of South Village Avenue and Dowlin Forge Road.

Uwchlan existed principally as a rural, farming community well into the 20th century. The end of World War II brought about new changes as suburban developments gradually began replacing farms. A census taken in 1973 counted 6,616 residents, up from about only 500 in 1920. Three hundred years after its establishment as a township, the most recent census presents a robust population of 18,088.

While Uwchlan Township has changed a great deal since its establishment 300 years ago, it still retains much of the charm from its historic past. Now pre-Revolutionary farmhouses stand in close proximity to modern business parks. Today, Uwchlan Township and its citizens continue to make valuable contributions to the quality of the economic and social life of Chester County while preserving the rich and storied heritage of their past.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Uwchlan Township and its remarkable history on the occasion of its 300th anniversary and to extend best wishes for the Township’s continued prosperity and longevity.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. LINDA  
SCRITCHFIELD

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishment of a constituent of mine, Mrs. Linda Scritchfield, and to praise her 25 years of service as Site Manager for the Ravenswood Senior Center.

Linda, whose first day as Site Manager was January 1, 1987, will work her final day on June 29, 2012. When Linda took over the Senior Center, it was located in an old locks building on the banks of the Ohio River and offered few activities. Under Linda’s guidance, the seniors started looking for land in order to build a new center. They held multiple fundraisers, and with the help of Jackson County Commission on Aging, grants, and the city of Ravenswood, the new center opened in November 1997.

Linda was instrumental in raising funds for the services that the senior citizens of Ravenswood enjoy. The new center has a dining area, computer room, billiards room, library, pool area and offices. A therapeutic pool was opened a few years later. The center also provides services for veterans along with offering wigs for cancer patients, flu shot clinics, water aerobics, and open swim classes.

Although Linda has helped the Senior Center make great strides over the years, Linda says her biggest accomplishments in life are the personal relationships she formed with the seniors. They have made such an impact on her life, and she hopes that she has been able to do the same for them.

I thank Linda for her years of service and Ravenswood is fortunate to call Linda one of its own.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JUDGE  
PATRICK F. GALLAGHER

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Judge Patrick F. Gallagher, who spent nearly 20 years as a judge for the Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court.

Born on September 1, 1918, Judge Gallagher was raised in the City of Cleveland. He graduated from St. Ignatius High in 1936. Before enrolling in college, Judge Gallagher served with the U.S. Army for four years in England during World War II. He was discharged, having earned the rank of master sergeant.

Upon returning home, Judge Gallagher graduated from Case Western Reserve University and earned his law degree from Cleveland Marshall College of Law. In 1956, he joined the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court as a legal consultant. He would eventually become the Juvenile Court’s chief clerk.

Judge Gallagher was first elected as a Judge for Cuyahoga Court Domestic Relations Court in 1972. He was subsequently reelected for two additional terms and retired after 18 years on the bench.

I offer my condolences to his wife, Eileen; children, Patrick (Cynthia), Dr. Michael (Catherine), Dr. Timothy (Lynn), John and Captain Colleen Gallagher Thomas; grandchildren, Molly (Kevin), Kate, Mary Catherine, Brian, Kelly, Amy, Jaci, Timothy, Erin, Daniel, Bridget and Brendan; and great-grandson, Jack.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court Judge Patrick F. Gallagher.

COMMENDATION OF GROSSE  
POINTE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL  
GIRLS’ TRACK AND FIELD AND  
TENNIS TEAMS

**HON. HANSEN CLARKE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Grosse Pointe South girls’ track and field and tennis teams for being Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Division 1 champions! I am proud of the Grosse Pointe South athletes’ discipline, motivation, and perseverance.

For the second year in a row, the Grosse Pointe South girls’ track and field team won the Division 1 state championship and demonstrated the power of friendship and teamwork. Track and field team members Ersula Farrow, Haley Meier, Hannah Meier, and Kelsie Schwartz beat the state record in the 3200-meter relay by 17 seconds and set a National Federation high school track and field record with a time of 8 minutes and 48.29 seconds. Grosse Pointe South is the only Michigan team to break the 9-minute barrier in the 3200-meter relay.

The same day, the Grosse Pointe South girls’ tennis team won the highly competitive Division 1 state championship title and finished with 26 points. Maggie Sweeney won the individual championship at No. 4 singles and Amelia Boccaccio and Carrie Lynch won at No. 2 doubles.

I am honored to recognize the Grosse Pointe South girls’ track and field and tennis teams, their standout athletes, and their dedicated coaches for their commitment and hard work.

HONORING L.L. BEAN

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize L.L. Bean on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

It was one century ago that Leon Leonwood Bean sent out his first shipment of Maine hunting shoes. Defects in the shoe’s initial design caused individuals to return 90 pairs of those shoes. Undeterred, Bean provided the purchasers with full refunds, corrected the design flaws and set back to work marketing his products. This commitment to customer satisfaction has been the cornerstone of L.L. Bean’s success throughout the last 100 years. Not only does their customer satisfaction guarantee remain in effect, but L.L. Bean’s store in

Freeport, Maine is still open to visitors 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

L.L. Bean has since grown to become a global retail giant. The company achieved over \$1.52 billion in sales last year while providing over 4,900 full-time jobs. Shoppers can visit any one of the retail or outlet stores located throughout the United States and Japan, or purchase quality products online. Despite its success in appealing to consumers from all over the world, L.L. Bean is beloved for retaining its uniquely Maine character.

From July 4th to 7th, L.L. Bean will be celebrating its 100th anniversary with music, parades, and a fireworks display. I am pleased to be one of the countless individuals throughout Maine who will be congratulating L.L. Bean, and all of its employees, on achieving this impressive milestone.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating L.L. Bean on its tremendous success over the last 100 years.

HONORING SENATOR MARGARITA PRENTICE ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE WASHINGTON STATE SENATE

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Margarita Prentice as she retires from the Washington State Senate after 24 years of distinguished public service. Representing Washington's 11th Legislative District, her constituents included residents of Seattle, Renton, and SeaTac.

Senator Prentice's voice as a healthcare champion has been invaluable and has bettered our community. She previously worked as a registered nurse at Valley Medical Center and in recognition of her career in public service and leadership, the Emergency Services Tower at Valley Medical Center is named in her honor.

The Senator's contributions have been recognized by many throughout the years. She has dedicated countless hours of hard work on behalf of her constituents in the 11th District and all of Washington State. She has been recognized as the 2008 Children's Advocate by the Pediatric Interim Care Center and in 2007 was named by the Community Health Care Network of Washington as their Health Care Champion. She has also been named Legislator of the Year by the Washington State Nurses Association and Washington State Dental Hygienists Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is with respect and great pleasure that I recognize the work Senator Prentice has done for Washington State's 11th Legislative District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for a vote in the House chamber on June 21, 2012. Had I been

present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 411.

I was also unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for one vote on June 26, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 414, 416 and 419 and "nay" on rollcall votes 412, 413, 415, 417, 418, 420, 421, 422 and 423.

HONORING EZEKIEL DEMPSEY

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, the birth of Ezekiel Dempsey in the state of North Carolina in the 1800's began the Dempsey family lineage which has blessed us with descendants that have helped to shape our nation; and

Whereas, the Dempsey Family has produced many well respected citizens and the patriarchs and matriarchs of the Dempsey Family are pillars of strength that have touched many throughout our nation, family members of the past and present such as Rev. Tom Dempsey, Stephen Dempsey, William Dempsey, James Dempsey and Sarah Dempsey; and

Whereas, in our beloved Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, we are honored to have members of the Dempsey family for they are some of our most beloved citizens in our District; and

Whereas, family is one of the most honored and cherished institutions in the world, we take pride in knowing that families such as the Dempsey family have set aside this time to fellowship with each other, honor one another and to pass along history to each other by meeting at this year's family reunion in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Dempsey family;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim June 8, 2012 as Dempsey Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 8th day of June, 2012.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE RACHEL CARSON NATURE TRAIL DESIGNATION ACT OF 2012

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Rachel Carson Nature Trail Designation Act of 2012 to recognize Rachel Carson, an environmental pioneer and inspiration for the development of environmental consciousness and the environmental movement, best known for her groundbreaking book *Silent Spring*. September marks the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of *Silent Spring*, which has been translated into more than a dozen foreign languages. My bill designates a National Park Service trail in the District of Columbia in honor of Rachel Carson.

Ms. Carson was born on May 27, 1907, on a farm in Springdale, Pennsylvania, graduated magna cum laude with a biology degree from the Pennsylvania College for Women (later Chatham College), and received a full scholarship that enabled her to obtain a master's degree in marine zoology from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. A world-renowned environmental scientist, writer, and educator, Ms. Carson worked as a writer, editor, and ultimately Editor-in-Chief for the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Service's publications department.

Ms. Carson lived in a city, not in the wilderness or in rural America. She accomplished much of her seminal professional work as a federal employee at the U.S. Department of the Interior in the District. She often used the Glover Archbold Park in the District as a site from which she drew observations about nature and the environment. She performed research on dangers of pesticides, and her findings were sustained by the Science Advisory Committee, created during President John F. Kennedy's administration. As a result, federal and state legislatures enacted pesticide legislation. Her work paved the way for groundbreaking environmental protection legislation throughout the world.

Ms. Carson was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters and received many other honors. She died on April 14, 1964, in Silver Spring, Maryland, leaving a rich legacy that will continue to benefit present and future generations well beyond the fiftieth anniversary of *Silent Spring*.

My bill serves to commemorate Rachel Carson for her tireless efforts to make the District of Columbia, the United States, and, indeed, the world a better and safer place for us all. The trail designated by the bill, located in the NPS's Glover Archbold Park in the District of Columbia, will be known as the "Rachel Carson Nature Trail." The bill ensures that Rachel Carson's contributions, many of which resulted from observations in Glover Park, will be remembered and treasured for years to come.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I CANNOT SUPPORT A TAINTED PROCESS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I cannot support a tainted process. Congress generally, and the Oversight and Government Reform Committee specifically, has the duty and obligation to provide effective oversight. Congress should not be interrupted in that process, but neither should that process be sullied.

Under the Constitution, Congress has the authority to compel testimony and issue subpoenas. When the President of the United States exercises the right of Executive Privilege and there is a dispute over whether that exercise is a valid one, the matter should then be referred to the courts. I have stated this publicly and frequently. While Congress has the authority to compel the information being protected by the Presidential exercise of privilege, the process by which H.R. 706 has been brought to the floor has been tainted.

I voted for the Motion to Refer brought by Congressman JOHN DINGELL which called for a real investigation. The Majority on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform rejected all Democratic witnesses. They would not allow Michael Mukasey, former Attorney General, and Kenneth Melson, former director of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to testify before the Committee. While Congress has the authority take this to the courts, it is premature to use this authority before a full investigation has been conducted.

Secondly, I cannot support the injudicious context in which H.R. 706 finds its way before us today. This could be a meritorious process, but it has been tainted with partisan vitriol. This takes a fundamental right of Congress and propels it into a realm of partisan action with wild charges and abuse of power. There have been charges of Presidential cover-up, despite the Chairman of the Committee admitting there is no such evidence.

Both parties should have been able to work this out before we got to this situation. This is not how Congress should have proceeded. I cannot dignify a tainted process. I have joined my colleagues in abstaining from voting, on H.R. 706 as well H.R. 711.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LEADERSHIP OF HIGHLAND VILLAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF LONNIE TATUM

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Highland Village Fire Department Chief Lonnie Tatum. Chief Tatum has spent over 42 years in public service; he began his notable career as a Firefighter/Paramedic for the City of Nacogdoches, advancing through the ranks over the next 32 years serving as Driver/Operator, Lieutenant, Captain and Arson Investigator. In 2001, he began his ten year tenure as Fire Chief at the City of Highland Village, Texas.

Chief Tatum is a graduate of the National Fire Academy and attended St. Edwards University, Angelina College and graduated from Weatherford College with a degree in Fire Service Administration. He holds Masters Level Certifications from the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and the Texas Department of Public Safety.

On numerous occasions, he has been recognized for his expertise in fire administration and personal dedication as a firefighter. Chief Tatum was chosen by the Angelina College Board of Regents to establish a Fire Academy and Training Facility at Angelina College in Lufkin, Texas, serving as Director for five years. He also served as Regional Faculty for the American Heart Association CPR training program at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas. In 1992, he was recognized as "Outstanding Firefighter" of the year, and in 1994, he received the department's Medal of Valor.

Under his laudable direction, the Highland Village Fire Department has expanded from all volunteer to a professional full-time staff com-

prised of fifteen Firefighters/Paramedics and additional administrative personnel. The Highland Village Fire Department has garnered recognition reflective of Chief Tatum's capable direction; in 2006, the Highland Village Fire Department was awarded an ISO Classification of 2 and celebrated the grand opening of their new state-of-the-art Central Fire Station in May 2008.

After a decade as Highland Village Fire Chief, Chief Tatum's bravery and dedication to the safety and well being of his community will be greatly missed; his positive contributions will continue long past his retirement. It is my pleasure to recognize Highland Village Fire Chief Lonnie Tatum, and I am privileged to represent the City of Highland Village in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF NORMAN F. LENT

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of a statesman and a friend, former Member of Congress Norman "Norm" F. Lent, who passed away on June 11th.

Norm was born March 23, 1931 in Oceanside, NY on Long Island. He graduated from Hofstra University in 1952 and in 1957 got his law degree from Cornell University. After serving in the Navy for two years and achieving the rank of Lieutenant, Norm worked as a lawyer in private practice in Lynbrook, New York beginning in 1957, and served as an Associate Police Justice in East Rockaway in 1959-60. He then worked as the Confidential Law Secretary (law clerk) to New York State Supreme Court Justice Thomas P. Farley from 1960-62.

After leaving the private sector in 1962, Lent was elected to the New York State Senate from Nassau County, and served from 1963 until 1970, when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

During his long tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, Norm served on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, ultimately becoming the ranking minority member of both committees often being cited as a "key player in environmental and energy legislation."

To Norm's wife Barbara and children, Barbara and Norman we extend our deepest sympathies.

Norm truly made an indelible mark on our nation and he leaves a proud and distinguished legacy. Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing Norman Lents' years of service and dedication to his community, state and our Nation.

HONORING JULIA ANN SNELL

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas, One hundred five years ago a virtuous woman of God was born in Buena Vista, Alabama on July 1, 1907; and

Whereas, Mrs. Julia Ann Snell was born Julia Ann Holt to Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Ilean Holt, she was educated in the local school system in Alabama, married Mr. Tim Wilson in Mobile, Alabama and was a homemaker and a store clerk at their grocery store until Mr. Wilson preceded her in death; She later married Mr. Nathaniel Snell and lived in California until Mr. Snell preceded her in death, after Mr. Snell's passing, she moved back to Mobile, Alabama and eventually to Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, this Phenomenal Proverbs 31 woman has shared her time and talents as a Wife, Sister, Aunt and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to advance the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mrs. Snell has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Snell along with her family and friends are celebrating this day a remarkable milestone, her 105th Birthday, we pause to acknowledge a woman who is a cornerstone in our community in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Snell on her birthday and to wish her well and recognize her for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim July 1, 2012 as Mrs. Julia Ann Snell Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 1st day of July, 2012.

TRIBUTE TO WHEELER COUNTY JUDGE JEANNE BURCH

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize the tremendous, longtime, and diverse public service of a leader who lives and works in the heart of Oregon's Second District, Wheeler County Judge Jeanne Burch. Judge Burch has served as Wheeler County Judge since 1994 but began serving her County long before that. Mr. Speaker, I have enjoyed working with her and I will miss her service and so will Wheeler County.

Judge Burch lives in the town of Fossil, the county seat of Wheeler County which has a total population of around 1,400 people. Wheeler County is one of Oregon's most geographically diverse counties—it's a rugged place home to Oregon's most unique John Day Fossil Beds, two national forests, and the iconic John Day River which runs right through the middle of it. Judge Burch has seen days when her county has thrived from the economic benefits generated by the adjacent forests. And she's been there when things haven't been so good as the forest sector was forced to a halt and those jobs and benefits disappeared. Regardless, good times or bad, Judge Burch has been there to lead her county when they needed her most.

Judge Burch has called Oregon home since 1947. In the early 1950s her father got a job as a railroad conductor in the region and the family moved to Wheeler County. Jeanne was a freshman in high school then, but went on to study at UC-Berkley where she received a degree in accounting. That is where she met her husband, Howard, who worked for oil companies as a drilling supervisor. Howard's job took them around the world—to such places as Nigeria, Iran, Greece, and the Canary Islands. After living and seeing the world, Jeanne moved back to Wheeler County to raise her daughters Belinda and Jennifer.

In 1985, Jeanne began working as the Fossil City Recorder and Finance Director. From there, she was appointed Wheeler County Judge in early 1994. Since then, Judge Burch has been described as a “one woman county,” and it's not hard to see why. She serves as a probate and juvenile court judge, the county administrator, and chair of the County Court. In her years of service she has overseen the complete rehabilitation of the county's courthouse, boosted local tourism, and opened the door for businesses to create jobs in Wheeler County.

As the Chairman of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I am grateful for Judge Burch's remarkable work on telecommunications issues. As a founding board member of Frontier TeleNet over ten years ago, she has helped implement communication services and rural broadband to communities in Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler counties. It began as a need for broadband access and distance learning opportunities to the rural schools in the three counties. Under Judge Burch's leadership as Chair, Frontier TeleNet has expanded service coverage from roughly 4,000 square miles across three counties to 21,000 square miles across nine counties, bringing with it new ways for medical clinics to help their patients and a backbone for public safety communications in these rural counties. Judge Burch understands the important role that modern communications play in rural isolated communities.

Not only a driving force behind Frontier TeleNet's expansion, she spearheaded efforts to bring cell phone coverage to Fossil and the northern portion of Wheeler county, and continues these efforts in Mitchell and the southern end. Accomplishing these feats has not been an easy task and Judge Burch continued to push through. She has brought the knowledge gained from her experiences to other parts of Oregon as Chair of the Telecommunications Committee for Association of Oregon Counties.

Mr. Speaker, one of my fondest memories of Judge Burch is and will remain her long fight to bring modern telecommunications into the county. Years after most rural communities around Oregon had some access to cellular service, Wheeler County and the county seat of Fossil remained a completely isolated island without cell phone service. Judge Burch would often tell me about the number of recreational accidents and “potential drownings” that float down the John Day River through the county every week in the summer, and the need for cell phone service for emergencies and other uses. With this need and Jeanne's stories on my “to-do” list, I took the opportunity to point out to U.S. Cellular that this unserved area was in their coverage territory. Well, the com-

pany took Jeanne's and my message to heart and within weeks U.S. Cellular began analyzing how to cover this county. In July 2008, Jeanne's coordinated and unrelenting efforts culminated with the community celebration of the county's first cell tower.

I can recall that months after the cell service was established, Judge Burch closed a town meeting I held in Wheeler County by giving me a note from a woman whose husband most likely would have died from the heart attack he suffered, expect for the fact that she was able to use her cell phone to call for emergency assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I know you would appreciate Judge Burch's get'r done attitude. It's makes all the travel and work worthwhile to know that someone like Judge Burch was there to help find solutions to real problems.

Although the sun is setting on Jeanne Burch's career leading Wheeler County, I can tell you the sun will never set on the impact she has on this county and region and the people who call it home.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Judge Jeanne Burch and her husband Howard the best as she retires. Judge, thank you for your exemplary service to Wheeler County and to Oregon.

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#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,780,999,920,520.17. We've added \$5,154,122,871,607.09 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

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#### THE 62ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF THE KOREAN WAR

#### HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, the United States and the Republic of Korea have a deep and sustaining relationship built on shared values and shared sacrifice.

June 25th marked the 62nd anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and the early days of an alliance with Korea that has withstood the test of time.

In honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom on the Korean Peninsula, we should affirm our continued support of this trusted ally who has fought alongside the U.S. in nearly every major conflict the U.S. has faced since World War II.

Earlier this year, the United States and the Republic of Korea began the implementation of the U.S.—Korea Free Trade Agreement, the product of years of negotiation and persuasion that will be beneficial to both of our countries and to businesses, workers, and consumers both here and in Korea.

This Free Trade Agreement will stimulate America's economic recovery—without government spending—by increasing U.S. exports and creating jobs in the U.S. According to the Senate Finance Committee, data taken from the independent, nonpartisan U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) suggest that KORUS could create up to 280,000 jobs in the United States. While conservative estimates from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative show a more modest increase of 70,000 jobs, either way you cut it, KORUS means more jobs for Americans, and that's great news for a nation that's suffered one of the longest periods of high unemployment rates since the Great Depression.

In order to level the playing field for American businesses and manufacturers, the agreement has already begun to reduce Korean tariffs on U.S. exports. The ITC estimates that full implementation of KORUS will increase U.S. exports to Korea by nearly 30 percent more than imports from Korea would increase in the U.S., an amount equaling more than \$10 billion.

Even setting aside the great strides we have made by implementing the Free Trade Agreement, the relationship between the United States and Korea could not be stronger.

Economically and politically speaking, Korea is stronger today than at any time in its history, a strength that would have been unimaginable in the dark days after the North Korean invasion 62 years ago.

We have one of the strongest relationships in that part of the world and it will be growing stronger as we have more opportunities to advance our national security interests in the area of nuclear energy cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, let me add that, after 40 years of a really close partnership in nuclear energy, it's now time to renew our 123 Agreement with Korea to strengthen our cooperation in this area. The Korea—U.S. 123 Agreement will create good jobs for Americans in a key industry, nuclear energy.

Clean, safe nuclear energy creates red, white, and blue jobs. I'm talking about evening the playing field for American energy companies that are competing with foreign companies and ensure American global leadership to energy exports of strong domestic energy companies such as Westinghouse, which is one of the most successful employers in Pennsylvania.

Over the past 4 years, Westinghouse has added about 5,000 new employees to sustain its ability to deliver new nuclear power plants in China and the U.S., and provide services and nuclear fuel to the world's existing fleet of nuclear power plants. The majority of these new jobs were added in Western Pennsylvania. In fact, recently Westinghouse has consolidated about 4,000 of the 6,000 employees in Western Pennsylvania in a new facility in Cranberry Township in Butler County. Westinghouse is building products to export to Korea and other countries, and we must assure that all the legal hurdles to these exports are overcome. This includes renewal of our Section 123 agreement that dates to the early 1970s.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, the Republic of Korea has been a partner with us since 1950 in every endeavor we've had—commercially, diplomatically, and militarily.

The Korean people don't wait for the call. They don't wait for somebody saying, we need

your help. They are there. And they stay until it's over.

We have fought side-by-side with Korean soldiers in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and Korea has been a reliable diplomatic ally as we seek peace and stability in Northeast Asia and elsewhere around the world.

Mr. Speaker, that last year I had the opportunity to travel to Korea to meet with political and military leaders and with business executives. The hospitality I encountered was remarkable. My hosts were gracious and informative, and being "on the ground" helped me to understand how the U.S.—Korea partnership works so well and, indeed, how it endures.

I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting our Korean allies on this 62th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. More than six decades have passed but the sacrifices of our American soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines as well as the untold sacrifices of the Korean people have not and will not be forgotten.

IN HONOR OF THE ITALIAN  
CULTURAL GARDEN

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Italian Cultural Garden, a Cleveland landmark that will be dedicating a statue of the great author Dante Alighieri and celebrating the 66th anniversary of the Republic of Italy on June 29, 2012.

The 254 acre piece of land that constitutes Rockefeller Park was donated to the City of Cleveland by John D. Rockefeller in 1896. The Cleveland Cultural Gardens were founded in 1926 to create a memorial area for the diverse ethnic groups that shape the region, and to serve as a space for reflection on peace, cooperation and understanding. The Cultural Gardens are currently a collection of 26 gardens which include African-American, American Indian, British, Chinese, Czech, Estonian, and Slovenian gardens, among others.

The Italian Cultural Garden was established in 1930 "as a symbol of the contribution of Italian culture to American democracy." It lies in Rockefeller Park among 35 other cultural gardens representing the diverse ethnic populations of Cleveland. The Italian Garden is the most-visited of all the gardens and is the venue of various free concerts.

The Italian Cultural Garden has been in the process of a massive restoration since 2007. The garden was enhanced with new historic lampposts, new fountains and new statues. More renovations are planned for the future.

Currently, the garden honors noteworthy figures in Italian history, including Giotto, Michelangelo, and Guglielmo Marconi. The addition of Dante Alighieri, the author of *The Divine Comedy* and a master of the Italian language, will pay tribute to this outstanding Italian and symbolize the contributions of Cleveland's Italian community. The ceremony will be hosted by the Italian Cultural Garden Foundation.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Italian Cultural Garden, a historic landmark and tribute to Cleveland's beloved Italian community.

IN HONOR OF MASTER SERGEANT  
JOSEPH J. DUFFY

**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Master Sergeant Joseph J. Duffy's induction to the Air Force Communications and Information Hall of Fame. His service to this country spanned over 42 years from 1955 to 1997. He started as a Crypto Operator and trained over 75 personnel in Crypto Operations.

While stationed at Tan Son Nhut in Vietnam, he was responsible for the second largest COMSEC account. During his second tour in Vietnam, he was tasked with terminating all communications activities within 90 days; this was completed in less than 80 days. Due to this exemplary performance, he was assigned to RAF Bruggen, Germany as Site Commander; he was the only Tech Sergeant to achieve this distinction.

His final Air Force assignment was at HQ SAC where he attained the rank of Master Sergeant and was the COMSEC Manager for 12 AF Special Security Offices. Thanks to his unique experience and skill set, MSgt. Duffy was appointed as the Foreign Service Communications Officer for the State Department. His first three assignments were high value hardship postings to Moscow, Beijing and Berlin. He followed that up with a tour in Sydney, Australia.

His outstanding performance resulted in him being assigned to State Department HQ as the COMSEC Manager for over 70 overseas significant activities. MSgt. Duffy has earned numerous decorations including the Bronze Star, the Air Force Commendation Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Outstanding Unit Award with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters with the "V" device, the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palms, and State Department Superior and Meritorious Honor Awards.

MSGT Duffy's service to the nation has continued into his retirement. He has spent his retirement volunteering with the Warrior Games. The Warrior Games was created in 2010 as an introduction to Paralympics for injured service members and veterans and has since developed into a premier military program under the United States Olympic Committee. I applaud MSgt. Duffy for his tireless service to our country and I offer my sincere congratulations for his induction to the Air Force Communications and Information Hall of Fame.

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL'S 150TH  
BIRTHDAY

**HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish the Rock Island Arsenal in the 17th District of Illinois a happy 150th Birthday.

An act of Congress in 1809 first established the Rock Island facility as a military reservation. In 1862 Congress officially established Rock Island Arsenal as a facility for the deposit and repair of military materiel in a bill

that President Abraham Lincoln signed into law on July 11, 1862.

This Arsenal has provided equipment for our military in every major conflict since the Spanish-American War. It has supported our Army's readiness in times of both peace and war. I am proud of the work that the men and women at Rock Island Arsenal have done and are still doing because they have played a role in making our military become the best in the world.

In addition to supporting our troops and contributing our national defense capabilities, the Rock Island Arsenal has taken an active role in job creation and economic development in our region. For that reason, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of a resolution by Congressman DAVE LOEBSACK that recognizes and honors this great facility.

I am also proud to have worked hard for the Rock Island Arsenal with Congressman LOEBSACK on getting important provisions in the Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013 National Defense Authorization Acts that will help strengthen this national treasure and recognize the critical manufacturing capability of the organic base. I will continue to support this important facility.

I want to thank the past and current men and women of the Rock Island Arsenal for everything they have done for the Army and our country as a whole and I want to wish them a Happy Birthday. Here is to 150 more years.

RECOMMENDING THAT ATTORNEY  
GENERAL ERIC HOLDER BE  
FOUND IN CONTEMPT OF CON-  
GRESS

SPEECH OF

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 28, 2012*

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am disheartened by the Republican majority's decision to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt and am deeply concerned with the partisan basis of this investigation.

For the first time in the history of the United States House of Representatives, a Cabinet official, in this case an Attorney General has been held in contempt of Congress—simply for doing his job. This act is a deliberate misuse of power which I hope will be challenged.

In the previous sessions of Congress, the Oversight Committee has been a watchdog, ensuring that our Government works as effectively and efficiently as possible. Whether it was investigating our government's failed response to Hurricane Katrina, or investigating our government's role in the financial crisis, the Oversight Committee has been at the forefront of issues that concern the American people.

However, during this 112th Congress, the Oversight Committee's leadership has pressed for an investigation, requesting irrelevant documents, and narrowly focusing his inquiries on the current Attorney General's continuation of a program established long before his tenure.

Attorney General Holder has cooperated with the Oversight Committee's investigation, providing thousands of documents on the operation. However, after finding no wrongdoing, the Oversight Committee's leadership remains

unsatisfied with its investigation into the Department of Justice.

This political showboating has forced the President to get involved and invoke executive privilege, an implied Constitutional power given to the President, because the Framers deemed it important that the President and his Officers were given the freedom to act candidly under certain circumstances, primarily with regard to foreign policy and national security.

Our system of government depends on a separation of powers that allows Congress to enact laws and the President to execute these laws, as mandated by Article 1 and Article 2 of the Constitution. The Republican majority in the House of Representatives has decided to interfere with the authority of the Attorney General, who was appointed by President Obama and confirmed by a bipartisan majority of the Senate, to implement policy.

In addition, the vote to hold Attorney General Holder in contempt indicates that many in Congress are more interested in preventing President Obama and the officials he has appointed from fulfilling their duties than in talking about the issues that matter to the American people.

We are not debating proposals to create jobs today. We are not debating immigration reform. Why? Republicans have decided to investigate the internal deliberations of the Department of Justice, a 15-month investigation that has not revealed any misconduct—an investigation by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with which Attorney General Holder has cooperated. This vote creates a dangerous precedent for the future.

This is not the time for politics or games. We have all taken an oath to serve the American people and today's vote is a disservice to the women and men whose interests have been repeatedly ignored. I am certain that the millions of Americans, who want to restore our economic prosperity, share my disappointment.

With this in mind, I urge all of my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to walk out in opposition to or oppose the vote to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt. Cooperation between Congress and the Executive Branch, as a matter of national security, should not be a partisan issue.

HONORING MARY THERESA  
JOHNSON

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas, Forty-two years ago a young woman accepted her calling to serve in the Health Care System as a Nurse; and

Whereas, Ms. Mary Theresa Johnson began her nursing career in Wilmington, Delaware and this year she retires from nursing at the Shepherd Spinal Center in Atlanta, Georgia, she has served the Health Care System well and our community has been blessed through her service; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents as a Nurse, Mother and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia

a person of great worth, a fearless leader, a devoted professional and a servant to all who want to advance the lives of others through medicine; and

Whereas, Ms. Johnson is formally retiring from her nursing career today, she will continue to promote healthy living because she is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Mary Theresa Johnson on her retirement and to wish her well in her new endeavors;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim May 26, 2012 as Ms. Mary Theresa Johnson Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 26th day of May, 2012.

RECOGNIZING BONNEVILLE POWER  
ADMINISTRATION ADMINISTRATOR  
STEVE WRIGHT AND CEO STEVE  
WRIGHT ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Steve Wright, on his upcoming retirement. He has served as Administrator of the BPA for over a decade and is the second-longest serving administrator in the organization's history.

Mr. Wright joined BPA in 1981 in the agency's conservation office. From this entry-level position he became the permanent BPA Administrator in February of 2002 after serving as Acting Administrator since late 2000.

Mr. Wright began his tenure as head of the BPA at the beginning of the West Coast energy crisis in 2000 and 2001. He successfully avoided electrical blackouts in the Pacific Northwest by reducing spot market purchases, which helped return BPA to financial stability. He also worked to negotiate and preserve the hydropower system and bring more renewable resources to the region.

His leadership of BPA has been based on collaboration and transparency. Steve's work to reach out to customers, tribes, and stakeholders resulted in the highest ever customer, constituent, and tribal satisfaction scores. By opening up the financial and decision-making process to the public he increased transparency and reduced internal inefficiencies, saving millions of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the career of Steve Wright. His leadership and dedication to Bonneville Power Administration has had an astounding impact on the lives of everyone living in the Pacific Northwest. I wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 6, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and was un-

able to record my vote for rollcall Nos. 414–423. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 414: "yes"—On Hoyer of Maryland Motion to Instruct Conferees; rollcall No. 415: "no"—On Black Tennessee Motion to Instruct Conferees; rollcall No. 416: "yes"—Connolly of Virginia Amendment; rollcall No. 417: "no"—McClintock of California Amendment; rollcall No. 418: "no"—Garrett of New Jersey Amendment; rollcall No. 419: "yes"—Capps of California Amendment; rollcall No. 420: "no"—Gosar of Arizona Amendment; rollcall No. 421: "no"—First Broun of Georgia Amendment; rollcall No. 422: "no"—Second Broun of Georgia Amendment; rollcall No. 423: "no"—Fourth Broun of Georgia Amendment.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 85TH  
BIRTHDAY OF MR. LAWRENCE  
WRIGHT JORDAN, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to extend my personal congratulations and happy birthday wishes to Mr. Lawrence Wright Jordan, Sr., who will turn 85 years of age on July 8, 2012. On this day, he will be honored by his family and friends at a celebration at Crawford County Board of Education Auditorium in Roberta, Georgia at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Jordan, the second of nine children, was born on July 8, 1927, to Mattie Lee (Barnes) Jordan and Graham Jordan, Sr. in Roberta, Georgia. He started working at a young age and served as the "house boy" for the family whose land his own family lived on.

As he grew up, Mr. Jordan had a great desire to serve his country and wanted to enlist in the United States Army at age 18. However, he was required to wait as his older brother was in the Navy and his mother did not want two sons in the military at the same time. He was finally able to enter the Army at the age of 25.

In the 1950s, Mr. Jordan served two tours of duty in the Korean War before receiving honorable discharges from the Army. He is one of the very few Korean War Veterans still alive today.

On October 11, 1958, Mr. Jordan married Anola Preston, also of Roberta, Georgia. They would go on to have six beautiful and loving children: Barbara Ann (Jordan) Snowden, Lawrence Wright Jordan, Jr., Linda Joyce Jordan, Sam Edward Jordan, Tammy Renee (Jordan) Jones, and John Howard Jordan as well as Shirlene Tennyson, who, sadly, passed away. Additionally, Mr. Jordan has 18 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

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." Mr. Jordan has advanced so far in life because he kept these lessons with him throughout his childhood, his service in the Army, and his adult life.

The race of life isn't given to the swift or to the strong, but to those who endure until the end. Mr. Jordan has run the race of life with



grace and dignity and God has blessed him over his lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Mr. Jordan, a distinguished veteran and beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION, WALT DISNEY COMPANY, AND THE "D23 PRESENTS TREASURES OF THE WALT DISNEY ARCHIVES"

### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and the Walt Disney Company's D23, the Official Disney Fan Club, as they present an historic exhibit at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, California, titled, "D23 Presents Treasures of the Walt Disney Archives."

The exhibit, which opens on July 6, salutes Walt Disney, one of America's most revered men of imagination. D23, the Official Disney Fan Club will showcase the largest-ever exhibition of iconic props, costumes, artwork, and artifacts at the Presidential Library of our 40th president, who believed there are no limits to growth and human progress when men and women are free to follow their dreams.

Ronald Reagan and Walt Disney were American originals and eternal optimists who shared a belief in the essential goodness of the American way of life. Both grew up in the heartland of America during the early 1900s with hardworking, patriotic parents who believed that everything was part of God's plan. Next to his photograph in his high school yearbook, Reagan's outlook is captured in the expression: "Life is just one grand song, so start the music."

Both men moved to California in their 20s to pursue careers in entertainment. With deeply shared values and abundant talent, the friendship of the pioneering imagineer and actor/broadcaster began decades before Reagan went to Washington. In July 1955, Disney revolutionized family entertainment when he unveiled the Magic Kingdom, Disneyland, and asked Reagan to co-host ABC's television coverage of the historic event.

Disney joined the "Friends of Ronald Reagan" to encourage and promote Reagan's ideas about limited government and individual liberty during Reagan's first gubernatorial race in 1966. Reagan was hoping Disney would join his finance team in Sacramento but, sadly, Disney died just 16 days before Reagan's inauguration. In tribute, Governor Reagan successfully petitioned the U.S. Postal Service to create a stamp in Disney's honor.

During his presidency, Reagan visited Walt Disney World in Florida twice. In 1983, he promoted the President's International Youth Exchange Initiative in tandem with the World Showcase Fellowship Program, and encouraged students to "soar on the wings of invention and the winds of change."

In 1985, President and Mrs. Reagan celebrated a first at Walt Disney World by holding a "make-up" inaugural parade after the origi-

nal parade was cancelled due to severely cold weather. During his speech at that event, President Reagan honored the immense force for good that is found in the imagination of those who live in freedom and reminded us that Walt Disney personified the spirit of America, leading us to invent, to build, to envision, and to learn.

After leaving the Oval Office, one of President Reagan's first public events was a return to Disneyland, where he officiated at the park's January 1990, 35th anniversary celebration, proclaiming it "one of America's treasures."

It is a tribute to both men that this exhibition of Disney treasures will be open at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in honor of the bond between President Reagan and Walt Disney.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Iger, the chairman of The Walt Disney Company, which partnered with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Library, continues Walt Disney's legacy. As chairman of Capital Cities/ABC television, he was an architect of the merger with Disney—a combination that has shaped and transformed the global media landscape. He has dedicated himself to fostering the creative vitality of the Disney organization and under his guidance The Walt Disney Company has become the world's largest media company.

Ronald Reagan was the first president I served under as a Member of Congress and his Presidential Library is less than a half-mile from my home. On a plane ride back to California, I met actor Fess Parker, who was catapulted to fame by playing Disney's Davey Crockett and was returning home after spending time with his friend Ronald Reagan at the White House. Fess Parker became a lifelong friend as well. Personally and as an American, I have a strong connection to this exhibit and the men it honors.

"D23 Presents Treasures of the Walt Disney Archives" celebrates the leadership, the accomplishments, the creative spirit and powerful legacies of two great American pioneers. Ronald Reagan ended the Cold War and reshaped the world. Walt Disney changed the face of family entertainment. And both men had a keen understanding of what you'd find at the "shining city on a hill": harmony, decency, wholesomeness, and homespun values that never have, and never will, go out of style.

IN TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS MATTHEW BRADFORD "BRAD" THOMAS

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 20, 2012, Sergeant First Class Matthew Bradford "Brad" Thomas, of Easley, South Carolina, was killed in action while serving in the South Carolina Army National Guard in Afghanistan. SFC Thomas attended Greenville Technical College after graduating from Travelers Rest High School.

SFC Thomas paid the ultimate sacrifice and served our country in the most honorable way. Without the dedication of our brave men and women serving in our Armed Forces, we

would not be able to enjoy the freedoms we hold so dear. SFC Thomas served to the highest standards of military service.

My thoughts and prayers are with wife, Jana, and their son Cayden, as well as his parents Charles "Bud" and Marsha Thomas. As a Guard veteran myself with four sons currently serving in the military, I particularly appreciate your extraordinary military family. Freedom is not free.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF THOSE FIGHTING THE WALDO CANYON FIRE

### HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the heroic men and women who are battling the Waldo Canyon Fire. 1,200 firefighters from all over Colorado's 5th District and the nation have been fighting this fire around the clock since Saturday. They have been assisted by numerous law enforcement agencies who have managed an orderly and injury-free evacuation of 32,500 citizens.

The cooperation between all levels and branches of government has been seamless, coordinated, cooperative, and effective. One example is the use of military assets, such as C-130 MAFFS firefighting aircraft. These planes have dropped over 73,000 gallons of slurry on this fire in coordination with the highly skilled firefighting teams on the ground. Additionally, Fort Carson, Peterson Air Force Base, and Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station have contributed firefighters, support personnel, and air and ground equipment to assist in fighting and containing the fire along Highway 24 and on the Air Force Academy grounds.

The community response has been equally impressive. Shelters, food banks, and other charitable organizations have been overwhelmed by the generous donations of food and manpower. The Care and Share Food Bank has received hundreds of thousands of pounds of food and the Red Cross is doing extraordinary work at the shelters they are running throughout the District. Many homes have been lost and much work remains, but I know that we have the people and the resources we need to win this fight.

THE TUAREG REVOLT AND THE MALI COUP

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this morning, my subcommittee held a hearing to examine current U.S. policy and U.S. policy options in response to the recent military coup in Mali and the larger revolt of the Tuareg people in northern Mali.

The Tuaregs have been in conflict with the central government in Bamako, Mali, for many years, but following the service of some Tuaregs as mercenaries for the late Muammar Qaddafi in Libya, the acquisition of more sophisticated weapons from the Libyan conflict

and increasing ties to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, they now pose a danger not only to Mali, but also to Algeria, Niger, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and perhaps even Nigeria.

Meanwhile, Mali, in recent years a model of African democracy, now finds itself struggling to resurrect democratic governance and put the military back in its proper role as part of government. The downfall of Mali's democracy could have a negative impact on the future of Mali, as well as the entire Sahel region of Africa.

Amadou Toumani Touré—popularly known as ATT—led a military coup in 1991 that created a transitional government and resulted in democratic elections in 1992. Mali's growing reputation for democratic rule was enhanced in 2002, when President Alpha Oumar Konaré, having served the two terms permitted under the constitution, stepped down, and ATT, running as an independent and leveraging his reputation as Mali's "soldier of democracy," was elected president.

Unfortunately, two issues eroded ATT's initial popularity. The first was a political system in which there appears to have been incentives for corruption. Certainly there was a growing public perception that the system was corrupt. The second was popular anger toward the government's handling of the Tuareg rebellion in the North. Weeks of protests at the government response to the northern rebellion dropped ATT's popularity to a new low.

On March 21, mutinying Malian soldiers, displeased with the management of the Tuareg rebellion, attacked several locations in the capital, Bamako, including the presidential palace, state television, and military barracks. The soldiers said they had formed the National Committee for the Restoration of Democracy and State and declared the following day that they had overthrown the government. This forced ATT into hiding.

As a consequence of the instability following the coup, Mali's three largest northern cities—Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu—were overrun by the rebels on three consecutive days. On April 5, after the capture of the town of Douentza, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) said that it had accomplished its goals and called off its offensive. The following day, it proclaimed independence of their homeland Azawad from Mali. The Islamist group Ansar al-Dine was later a part of the rebellion, claiming control of vast swaths of territory, although this control was disputed by the MNLA. On May 26, the MNLA and Ansar al-Dine announced that they had signed a pact to join their respective territories and form an Islamic state.

Will this alliance last? Perhaps not. The MNLA is an offshoot of a previous nationalist political movement and is dedicated to a separate homeland for the Tuaregs and Moors who comprise its membership. Ansar al-Dine, whose name means "Defenders of Faith," is an Islamist group believed to have links with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and other Islamist groups. Ansar al-Dine is dedicated to establishing sharia law—not only in Azawad,

but also in the rest of Mali as well. Disputes between the two groups already have resulted in gunfire involving the supposed allies.

As we held this hearing today, the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union and the United Nations were discussing the viability of a peacekeeping mission in Mali. Such a mission would look to secure and protect civilian institutions and help restructure the Mali military. However, it also will focus on the situation in the North, which will be a tremendously sensitive matter, especially if the mission of the peacekeeping force is to retake territory from the MNLA and Ansar al-Dine.

To add further to the problematic nature of a response to the Mali coup and the Tuareg revolt, there is the matter of providing humanitarian aid to the 210,000 Malian refugees in Niger, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Algeria. Another 167,000 Malians are internally displaced. Many of them are in remote areas and are difficult to reach with food and medical supplies. There is the question of how effective our aid efforts will be in such a challenging situation.

But no matter how difficult this matter is to address, there are too many people affected for the United States to fail to provide leadership in the effort to solve this political-social crisis.

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THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ARIZONA'S TGEN ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JEFF FLAKE**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the achievements in the field of biomedical research of the Translational Genomics Research Institute, known as TGen, over the last decade.

Located in Phoenix, TGen applies the science of genomics, or the study of the human genetics, to finding cures for neurological disorders and diseases such as cancer and diabetes.

When TGen was founded in 2002, Arizona's state and local leaders were excited by the promise of the many novel scientific discoveries that could be made through TGen.

But what was most exciting was that these discoveries made possible through further research into the human genome would translate into immediate and effective benefits for doctors and especially patients.

By partnering with entities at the forefront of medical discoveries like the Mayo Clinic and Scottsdale Healthcare, TGen for 10 years has focused on utilizing genomic analyses to improve patient treatments. Whether it's sequencing anthrax or the plague; finding new clues to Alzheimer's disease; or leading new research partnerships addressing pediatric

and canine cancers, TGen's research has changed patients' lives.

In addition to making critical contributions to the scientific and medical fields, over the past 10 years, TGen has made many contributions to Arizona's economy in the forms of investment and private-sector job creation. Investment into TGen and the biosciences spurred growth across the state, and spurred the launch of the Critical Path Institute and Bio5 in southern Arizona; Arizona State University's Biodesign Institute and a northern Phoenix bio campus; TGen North; and expansion of W.L. Gore in northern Arizona.

On its 10th anniversary, I applaud TGen's president, Dr. Jeffrey Trent, and the scientists at TGen for their commitment to make a difference for medical patients and their contributions to creating innovative research for Arizona.

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HONORING MARIE ROBINSON

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas, Ninety years ago a virtuous woman of God was born in Henry County, Georgia on July 21, 1922; and

Whereas, Mrs. Marie Robinson was born Marie Morris to Mr. Wil and Mrs. Mary Gay Morris, she was educated in the local school system in Georgia, married Mr. Moses E. Robinson and through their union was blessed with nine children, thirty-five grandchildren, sixty-six great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren; and

Whereas, this Phenomenal Proverbs 31 woman has shared her time and talents as a Wife, Mother and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to advance the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mrs. Robinson has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Robinson along with her family and friends are celebrating this day a remarkable milestone, her 90th Birthday, we pause to acknowledge a woman who is a cornerstone in our community in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Robinson on her birthday and to wish her well and recognize her for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim July 21st, 2012 as Mrs. Marie Robinson Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 21st day of July, 2012.