

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO LEON AND JOYCE HENRY

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Leon and Joyce Henry are celebrating fifty (50) years in marriage today in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, on June 18, 1962, because of their union then, our community today has been blessed with a family that has enhanced our district, they both are instruments in our community that uplift the spiritual, physical, economic, and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God and this phenomenal and virtuous Proverbs 31 woman have been blessed with a wonderful family: Leon, Jr., Jasmine, Jaden, Shelia, Jaxson, Cheryl, Anthony, Kingston, Brooklyn, Monique, Ebony, Elijah, Amy, TJ, Dion, Nahtiah, and "baby Ava"; and

Whereas, Leon and Joyce Henry are distinguished citizens of our district, they are spiritual warriors, persons of compassion, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their family, but with our District their passion to improve the lives of others; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Leon and Joyce Henry as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary, fifty (50) years in marital bliss;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim June 18th as Leon and Joyce Henry Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

"WASHINGTON'S MOST WANTED" 300TH FUGITIVE

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Q-13 Fox, the Fox network's affiliate in Seattle, and its program "Washington's Most Wanted" for playing an integral role in the capture of 300 fugitives in Washington State and Oregon.

"Washington's Most Wanted" partners with Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound to produce local television alerting viewers to fugitives from justice in their communities, Mr. Speaker, and those communities have responded in a big way: since the show began in November of 2008, viewer tips and the hard work of the law enforcement community has led to 300 criminals—murderers, rapists, unregistered sex offenders, thieves, and burglars—getting off the streets and out of communities.

Mr. Speaker, dynamic and productive partnerships exist between law enforcement, com-

munications professionals, and concerned citizens all over the United States. I'm proud that such a partnership exists in the Northwest, Mr. Speaker, and I applaud Q-13, Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound, the alert and thoughtful citizens of the Northwest, and our brave and dedicated law enforcement officers for staying vigilant in the fight against dangerous fugitives and crime.

I've been fortunate enough to help in this effort to get fugitives out of our communities and the amount of success this effort has had since 2008 is no surprise—hard work and dedication pay off.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, during consideration of H.R. 5972, I inadvertently switched my votes for consecutive amendments. I would like the record to state the following:

Rollcall vote 434: I would like the record to reflect my vote of "aye" was intended to be "no" on Rep. MCCLINTOCK's amendment to zero out funding for the Community Development Fund including the CDBG program and apply the savings to the deficit reduction account.

Rollcall vote 435: I would like the record to reflect my vote of "no" was intended to be "aye" on Rep. MCCLINTOCK's amendment to zero out the funding for the Community Development Loan Guarantees Program Account and apply the savings to the spending reduction account.

HONORING STEPHEN ARTHUR DYMARCIC, SR.

HON. BENJAMIN QUAYLE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. QUAYLE. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor Stephen Arthur Dymarcik, Sr., who honorably served our country in the Army from 1966–1967 in Vietnam. The son of Polish immigrants, his family remembers him as a deeply patriotic and proud American who taught them to be proud of their Polish heritage, while being grateful for the opportunity to live in America. He told his son, "America is the greatest country in the world. We aren't perfect . . . but we are pretty close." Mr. Dymarcik was rated 100 percent service-connected disabled by the Veterans Administration and passed away in August 2003. His loyalty to his country, patriotism and integrity are not forgotten by his family. To Mr. Dymarcik and his family, and to so many others who have honorably served our country, we appreciate your bravery, your service and your sacrifices.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE JAIN CENTER OF NEW JERSEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jain Center of New Jersey as its constituents gather to celebrate their newly constructed temple in Franklin Township, New Jersey. Their dedication to further enhance the environment for members of the Jain community is worthy of this body's recognition.

The Jain Center of New Jersey, JCNJ, was founded in 1981 and remains one of the oldest Jain organizations in North America. For thousands of years, Jains have believed in meditation, vegetarianism, environmentalism, equal rights for women, respect for other cultures and forgiveness. The Jain community in New Jersey has continued to grow exponentially and has further developed the need to construct the first all-marble temple in North America. The new temple, constructed with architectural designs from famous temples throughout India, continues to promote the positive themes of truth, non-violence, love, peace and proper conduct. The new worship site will also continue to provide opportunities for members of the community to faithfully commit to the Jain lifestyle that encourages happiness, challenge, discovery and spiritual growth. The construction of the new temple will provide culturally enriching experiences for the community and further disseminate the message of peaceful cooperation amongst others.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in recognizing the Jain Center of New Jersey and congratulating its members on the inauguration of their new temple.

SIMON CALDWELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Simon Caldwell, of Savannah, Missouri, for his admirable leadership and dedication to the community through the Savannah Lions Club. Simon joined the Savannah Lions Club in 2008, where he has served as the third, second, and first vice president before being elected president of the chapter in 2011.

Throughout his terms, Simon has assisted with many projects including hanging flags on holidays, a fishing derby for kids, and serving at fundraiser meals. Simon has also actively

• 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.

participated in Special Olympics events, promoting their efforts within the club. As his leadership experiences increased, his confidence in speaking with others grew, and he now proudly conducts the chapter's meetings on a regular basis.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Simon Caldwell, whose commendable public service and dedication to the Lions Club has made him an inspiration for many. His strong moral character and earnest concern for my people makes it an honor to serve him in the United States Congress.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACCREDITATION BOARD

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Accreditation (FLETA) Board as they celebrate their 10th anniversary on June 5, 2012. The FLETA Board of Directors is comprised of 21 senior officials from federal law enforcement agencies, academia, and professional organizations. Since the FLETA Board's inception, fifteen federal law enforcement academies and over 60 individual law enforcement training programs have voluntarily presented themselves to be assessed through the FLETA process and receive accreditation.

The FLETA Office of Accreditation is one of the smallest entities in the Federal Government with only seven government employees, yet the impact on federal training and operations is extensive. FLETA assists law enforcement agencies in virtually every department of the Federal Government to improve operations through more effective and efficient training. The mission of FLETA is more important now than ever before. This agency's efforts are demonstrative of good government in action, accountability through self-regulation, and exhibit the transparency that Americans expect of their government.

I would like to congratulate FLETA on their 10th anniversary and wish them much success in the future as they continue to assist federal law enforcement operations through training.

TRIBUTE TO DR. KENNETH L. SAMUEL

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Victory for the World Church has been and continues to be a beacon of light to our county for the past twenty-five years; and

Whereas, Dr. Kenneth L. Samuel, Pastor and Organizer and the members of the Victory for the World Church family today continues to uplift and inspire those in our community; and

Whereas, Victory for the World Church family has been and continues to be a place where citizens are touched spiritually, mentally

and physically through outreach ministries and community partnership to aid in building up our District; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious Church of God has given hope to the hopeless, fed the needy and empowered our community for the past twenty-five (25) years by preaching the gospel, teaching the gospel and living the gospel; and

Whereas, Victory for the World Church has produced many spiritual warriors, people of compassion, people of great courage, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their Church, but with DeKalb County 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 the Victory for the World Church family for their leadership and service to our District on this the 25th anniversary of their founding;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim May 23, 2012, as Victory for the World Church Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

UNITED WAY

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the world's largest privately supported not-for-profit organization, which now serves 1,800 communities in 41 countries and territories. The United Way is an organization created by a diverse group of leaders in 1887 in Denver, CO, with a goal of creating opportunities for a better life in their communities. Today, the United Way raises nearly \$5 billion dollars annually with a mission to "improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the world to advance the common good." In 2008, the United Way set in motion three specific goals of improving education, promoting healthy lives, and helping people achieve financial stability.

Crisis response after the tsunami struck South Asia in 2004 and a youth-led program to rebuild the Gulf Coast after the hurricanes in 2006 are just a few examples of how the organization has been committed to people in need both in the United States and internationally.

Within the fifteenth district of Texas, the United Way has served more than 200,000 people and funded more than 100 programs in two counties. These programs vary from women's programs to Boy Scouts, and include community projects such as the purchase of school supplies to low income children. I hope that you will take a moment with me today, on the official United Way founder's day, to recognize and remember the great contribution the United Way has made to our community in the last 125 years.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. DONALD BARNES

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special occasion—the 25th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Barnes of Urbana, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Barnes have been long time close friends of mine and I relish this opportunity to congratulate them on this important milestone in their life.

I salute this lovely couple on the 25th year of their life together and join their family in honoring them on this special occasion. May their union be an inspiration for future generations.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 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 \$15,879,528,608,975.11. We've added \$5,252,651,560,062.03 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.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ANDY GRIFFITH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of one of the most beloved television personalities of all time, Andy Griffith. For over five decades he entertained us with the wholesome and charismatic energy he was known for. Mr. Griffith's career is the very definition of legendary, and he will be sorely missed.

Mr. Griffith came from humble beginnings. Born in Mount Airy, North Carolina, in 1926, he started out his entertainment career in minor comedic roles and obtained notoriety with his hit monologue "What it Was, Was Football". He went on to star in his first dramatic role in the movie "A Face in the Crowd". The character he played was a country boy who manipulated his way to political power. The movie taught all of us the lesson that power corrupts, and corrupts absolutely.

Although this was his only real big screen success, Mr. Griffith's television roles are what we will remember him for. "The Andy Griffith Show" was an instant success. Mr. Griffith starred as the lovable Sheriff Andy Taylor, and while he never received a writing credit, he was also involved in the development of every script. Overlooked year after year for an Emmy Award, Mr. Griffith congratulated his

costars and crew with graciousness and humility.

It was not until 1987 that Mr. Griffith was recognized with a People's Choice Award for his work on the television show "Matlock". He was able to show his diversity as the righteous lawyer Ben Matlock, best known for always coming out on top. Most impressively, Mr. Griffith showed the strength of his character by overcoming leg paralysis from Guillain-Barre Syndrome right before taking part in the show.

Throughout the rest of his career Mr. Griffith never stopped surprising his audience. He released many different albums, and his 1996 release "I Love to Tell the Story: 25 Timeless Hymns" went platinum.

In 2005 he was honored by President George W. Bush with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Mr. Griffith truly personified grace and decency, his memorable performances brought millions of Americans joy while demonstrating the finest qualities of our country. Even today, that trademark whistle still makes us think of a sense of neighborliness and small town charm of years past.

Andy Griffith was a true jack-of-all-trades, who demonstrated talents both on screen and off. He started his own production company, completed an award-winning gospel music album, and later became involved in political activism. Yet audiences could be sure that Mr. Griffith would bring the same infectious energy and charisma to each endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Andy Griffith's family and loved ones. I hope they can find some comfort in knowing the incredible legacy he leaves behind in hearts across the nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF MARC TITUS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, President Kennedy said, "A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers," and I rise today to remember and honor my dear friend, and a model public servant, Marc Titus.

Marc Titus was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1966. A Warren G. Harding High School graduate, he attended Youngstown State University, and served in the United States Marine Corps as a Nuclear Biological Chemical Specialist.

In April of 1991, Marc continued to serve his community by joining the Warren City Fire Department and becoming a member of the Honor Guard. For the last 21 years, Marc has been a respected leader and role model for new firefighters joining the force.

Over the years Marc has received numerous awards for his service. In 2009, he received the State Fire Marshal's Award for Heroism after pulling 4 people from a burning group home in Warren, Ohio.

Marc served as the president of the International Association of Firefighters Local 204 during the last 8 years of his life. During the recent Issue 2 campaign, Marc showed leadership and dedication to his profession and to his fellow firefighters with tireless work on their behalf. He always went above and beyond the call of duty striving to continually keep the Warren City Fire Department moving forward.

Marc Titus passed away on June 7, 2012 at the age of 46. Marc was a great friend of mine and taught those of us that worked with him that our lives were supposed to be spent serving others. Marc spent his life teaching us that real heroes are the ones that use their time and talents improving the lives of those in their family, community, and country. Marc did this and it was most apparent with how he dedicated his life to his 3 daughters: Jennifer, Julia, and Lindsey. We offer our condolences to them and to Marc's parents. Although his life was short, he taught us much. This hero will be sadly missed.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BE-
LOVED JAMES "J.E."
BLANKENSHIP

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Northwest Florida's beloved James "J.E." Blankenship. Mr. Blankenship served the Northwest Florida community for more than 40 years in the Holley-Navarre Fire District. In addition to his service to the community, Mr. Blankenship was also a loving and dedicated husband, father and grandfather; he is survived by his wife, Kathey (Taffy), his sons, Jeremy and Jody (Carisa), and his grandchildren, Dakota, Haleigh, Morgan and Caden.

Mr. Blankenship was born in Troy, Alabama on July 17, 1949. In 1963, he became one of the original members of the Holley-Navarre Fire District volunteer force, while working at the manufacturing company Solutia, where he retired from in 2005 to start his own small business. Mr. Blankenship continued to serve the people of Holley-Navarre as the Fire District transitioned from a volunteer to a professional force, and he did not take his duties to protect the community lightly. J.E. was an inspiration to his fellow firefighters, and he worked tirelessly to ensure that the Holley-Navarre Fire District had the necessary training and tools to serve the community. Through his tireless work on behalf of the Holley-Navarre community, Mr. Blankenship rose to become Assistant Fire Chief, and in 2003 he became a Fire Commissioner. His position as a Fire Commissioner ensured that Mr. Blankenship was able to continue his work serving the community by overseeing the budget and operations of the department.

To some, J.E. Blankenship will be remembered as a man of conviction and a steadfast advocate for fire safety in his community. To others, he will be remembered as an inspirational leader who fought to ensure that the fire department was equipped to meet its mission. To his friends and family, he will be remembered as a devoted husband, loving father and proud grandfather. His immense contributions to the Northwest Florida community will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress it is an honor to recognize the life of J.E. Blankenship and his living legacy. My wife Vicki and I offer our sincere condolences to the entire Blankenship family.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4348,
MOVING AHEAD FOR PROGRESS
IN THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to voice my support for the transportation reauthorization conference report. While I was disappointed in how House Republicans broke with the tradition of working in a bipartisan fashion on transportation policy, I appreciate the Senate's bipartisan approach, which is responsible in large part for the bill we have today. In addition to the transportation reauthorization, we have been able to come together to prevent student loan interest rates from increasing, and secure a five-year reauthorization of the Flood Insurance program. It is my hope that moving forward we can look at this conference agreement as a model of what can be accomplished legislatively by seeking bipartisan, bicameral common ground.

But as with all legislation, there were many compromises, and there were several aspects of the report which I believe could further be improved. On balance, however, the conference report contains needed policy direction and authorizations that warrant support.

Most importantly, transportation reauthorization will provide much needed stimulus to local economies, and get those in the construction and manufacturing industries back to work. This bill will create or save more than 2 million jobs, and authorize highway and transit programs for more than two years. The bill will also make key reforms in consolidating transportation programs, cut red tape, and leverage federal resources to expand public-private partnerships in transportation.

This is also a good bill for Texas. Under this agreement, Texas is slated to receive more than \$3 billion annually in highway formula funds. Unlike the original House legislation, H.R. 7, this conference agreement preserves mass transit funding through the Highway Trust Fund. Funding for mass transit is critical for my district, and Texas as a whole, as we work to develop solutions to alleviate congestion and alternative modes of transportation to accommodate a growing population. Texas has also been very successful in utilizing Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, TIFIA, funding, and will continue to benefit under the conference agreement, which increases funding for the TIFIA program to \$750 million for FY 2013 and to \$1 billion for FY 2014. It also increases the maximum share of project costs that can be funded through the TIFIA program from 33 percent to 49 percent. This agreement will give the Texas Department of Transportation, local transit agencies, and contractors some much-needed certainty as they plan transportation projects.

This agreement will also give 461,533 Texas students relief from the impending student loan interest increase. I am very pleased that provisions blocking the rate hike are included in the conference report. In Texas and all across the country, students and recent college graduates are now facing the highest

unemployment rate of any other group. Without action, the loan rates for 7.4 million college students would have doubled, adding \$6.3 billion to students' debt burden in one year alone.

As the Ranking Member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I recognize that the long-term viability of our transportation system requires a continued commitment to quality research and the development of new transportation technologies and materials that will make our transportation infrastructure—and the vehicles traveling on that infrastructure—safer, stronger, and more sustainable. I am pleased that the conference report acknowledges the important role of research and development across the Department of Transportation.

Specifically, we cannot deny that our current transportation system places an enormous burden on the environment and public health, and therefore, I am pleased that the conference report authorizes a separate environmental research program within the Federal Highway Administration. At a time when many metropolitan regions are still struggling to meet basic health standards for air pollution, we cannot afford to stop research that will lead to a cleaner, safer, and more efficient highway system. The research conducted under this program will ensure that State and local transportation officials have the tools they need to make informed and effective decisions about local transportation projects and the environment.

I also want to express my satisfaction that the conference report provides the framework and guidance necessary to allow us to begin to really understand and, more importantly, mitigate the long-term impacts of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill on the Gulf Coast States. Regardless of whether you live in the coastal communities of Texas, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, or Florida, the Gulf of Mexico provides a wealth of products and services that benefit the entire nation. The Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund will provide the resources necessary to restore the health of this unique ecosystem and revitalize the region's economy.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues for working with me to fix a technical error in the authorization levels for the research programs under the Federal Highway Administration. In the conference committee's haste to put together the report, it appears that the authorization levels in the Research and Education Division were not updated accordingly, but thankfully this oversight has been addressed.

CBS PRODUCER: "I'M DONE"
DENYING LIBERAL MEDIA BIAS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, former CBS producer Greg Kandra recently highlighted the continued existence of the national liberal media's bias.

As a result of the national media's use of selectively edited clips to push its liberal agenda, he stated that he has "grown weary trying to defend" the national media. Kandra de-

clared that he cannot and will not defend his former colleagues against claims of liberal bias.

He writes that the national media has "successfully eroded any confidence" the public has in the news. And that the national media has "done a [great] job of diminishing what was once a great profession and undermining one of the underpinnings of democracy, a free press."

According to a recent Gallup poll, Americans' confidence in the national media is at an all time low. Americans' lack of confidence in the national media will continue until the national media provides the American people with fair and objective coverage of the news.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CONTINUATION OF CURRENT SUGAR PROGRAM

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Louisiana has produced sugar-cane for more than 200 years.

Whereas, Louisiana's sugarcane industry employs more than 16,000 people and contributes \$3.5 billion to the state's economy.

Whereas, Louisiana's sugar producers were harmed by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and a strong domestic sugar market is a critical component to continued recovery efforts.

Whereas, the state's sugar producers depend on the sugar policy created in the 2008 Farm Bill for survival.

Whereas, this sugar policy has kept sugar prices affordable for grocery shoppers, has operated at no-cost to taxpayers, and has strengthened the country's food security.

Whereas, this sugar policy has allowed America to become the largest sugar importer in the world; it benefits and is embraced by many developing countries; and it is legal under international trade rules established by the World Trade Organization.

Whereas, domestic confectioners have increased candy and chocolate production under this Farm Bill, have expanded operations and added jobs, and have seen impressive profits.

Whereas, food manufacturers from other developed countries pay more for sugar than their U.S. counterparts.

Whereas, industrial sugar users have proposed eliminating current sugar policy in favor of a program that leaves America dependent on imports.

Whereas, the European Union adopted a similar import-dependent model and have suffered sugar shortages. Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That: the St Mary Parish Chamber of Commerce supports the continuation of the current U.S. sugar program and encourages Congress to work with Louisiana sugar producers to adopt a strong sugar policy in the 2012 Farm Bill.

TRIBUTE TO VIOLA REED

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, the union of Viola Reed and John Walker has blessed us with descendants that have helped to shape our nation; and

Whereas, their union produced many well respected citizens, today we honor all of the matriarchs and patriarchs, who are pillars of strength for the Thomas, Walker and Wilson families; and

Whereas, in our beloved Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, we are honored to have many members of the Thomas, Walker and Wilson families, whom are some of our most productive 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 Thomas, Walker and Wilson families 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 Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Thomas, Walker and Wilson families;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim, June 29, 2012, as Thomas, Walker and Wilson Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

HONORING THE LOS ANGELES KINGS, 2012 STANLEY CUP CHAMPIONS

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Los Angeles Kings, the 2012 Stanley Cup Champions.

In 1967 the city of Los Angeles was awarded a National Hockey League team. 45 years later, the L.A. Kings have finally been crowned champions, having defeated the New Jersey Devils in the Stanley Cup Finals.

The Kings began the Stanley Cup Finals ranked 8th, going on to defeat the top three ranked teams in their conference while breaking numerous records along the way. Under the leadership of team coach Darryl Sutter and Captain Dustin Brown, the team beat the odds and became the only 8th seeded team to ever win the Cup.

The Kings stand as a symbol of determination and perseverance for the city of Los Angeles. Congratulations to Coach Darryl Sutter, Captain Dustin Brown, Conn Smyth winner Jonathan Quick, the players, staff and all of their dedicated fans who in 45 years, never stopped believing.

CELEBRATING LINK'S 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize LINK, which celebrates 40 years serving the Herndon, Sterling and Ashburn communities in northern Virginia this month.

LINK began as a number of congregations came together to start a food pantry for those in need. Today, LINK is comprised of a strong group of churches from different backgrounds and partners with local businesses, schools and individuals efforts to serve the emergency food needs in our community.

In 2011, LINK utilized over a thousand volunteers to serve over 2,700 families with food, clothing and toys for children. LINK has also been working with public schools in Fairfax County to distribute unused cafeteria food to families in need.

I have had the privilege of working with LINK, and its excellent leadership and volunteers, many times over the years. It is a wonderful organization and I extend my sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude to the volunteers for their many years of hard work to address the serious challenge of hunger in our community.

I submit the following article from the Herndon Patch honoring LINK's 40 years of service.

[From Herndon Patch, June 22, 2012]

LINK CELEBRATES 40 YEARS SERVING THE COMMUNITY

(By Leslie Perales)

This July LINK Against Hunger will celebrate 40 years serving the Herndon, Sterling and Ashburn area communities.

The organization began with a number of congregations combining their efforts to start a food pantry for those in need. Though it's grown and changed over the years, LINK's mission is the same: Christians linking their neighbors to food and financial assistance.

The entire LINK organization is run by volunteers. Patch sat down with three of LINK's volunteers that have spent many years serving their neighbors through the organization.

Bob Ashdown has been volunteering with the organization for about 35 years and is the food pantry manager. He picks up donations from area bakeries, grocery stores, farmers markets and even schools, and oversees the pantry.

Jim Butts is the website manager for LINK and has volunteered with the organization since before it existed. He did much of the organization's paperwork on a daily basis for a time, and helped work with the furniture mission when LINK operated one.

LINK President Lisa Lombardozzi has been working with the organization for about 15 years, beginning when she began staying home with her children. She began as a food coordinator, then worked with the food basket program.

Lombardozzi said the biggest change she's seen in her years with LINK is more involvement from the community, and how the church demographics have changed.

She said with so many area organizations that people can volunteer with, LINK has to fight a little more to stay on people's radars, but at the same time they have been able to expand and respond to the increased need in the community.

Ashdown said in the past few years, during the recession, the community has become more aware of the need and responds very well. Social networking has had a big impact on community response, he said.

When LINK was running low on food for its holiday basket program, volunteers sent out a message on Facebook and people shared the message and responded to the need, Ashdown said.

He said the holiday basket program used to have three to four dedicated volunteers packing food over two to three weeks, but

now more than 40 volunteers will come take shifts to pack the baskets.

Butts said he's seen the organization start with a food mission, add a furniture and bed mission, then eventually phase it out again. They also had a clothing mission, which eventually combined with and became The Closet, located in downtown Herndon.

LINK is unique in that it's the only organization that brings the food to its clients instead of having clients come to the pantry, Butts said. When someone in need contacts LINK, volunteers with the organization are usually able to deliver food to them within 24 to 48 hours, he said.

Butts said another unique aspect of LINK is how volunteers are able to assist stranded travelers at Dulles International Airport. He said they can respond within 24 hours to make sure they have what they need if they get stuck in the area while traveling.

Butts said in the first 25 years at LINK they had about 15 to 20 churches rotating responsibilities. Since then some have dropped out and others have joined.

Ashdown said the organization has received a lot of support from government organizations and elected officials, though none of it monetary. Local representatives hold food drives for the organization.

Lombardozzi said LINK has been consistent in its leadership, but has seen many different volunteers. A lot of volunteers come to the organization around Christmas and end up staying when they find they enjoy the work, she said.

Butts said in the near future he sees LINK working to improve communications with other area food pantries and banks. He said he's also working on one phone number for those in need of food to call so based on their location they can connect them with the closest location.

Ashdown said he enjoys getting to meet new people and work with them through LINK, and at the same time the volunteers get to share the gospel and live out Christianity.

LINK gives people the chance to be the hands and feet of Jesus, Lombardozzi said. When they serve clients they get to know them, pray with them and sometimes find other ways to help them, she said.

Lombardozzi said she likes that an organization that includes many faith backgrounds has been able to collaborate to serve their community for 40 years, working together for something they believe in.

To learn more about LINK or how to get involved, visit LINK's website here.

IN OPPOSITION OF REPRESENTATIVE BISHOP'S AMENDMENT—
H.R. 2578

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition of Representative BISHOP's amendment in H.R. 2578, the Conservation and Economic Growth Act.

This amendment would give the Department of Homeland Security unrestrained authority over more than 49 million acres of land encompassing major regions heavily populated by Latinos.

These new "operational control zones" would harm communities economically, socially, and environmentally.

DHS would be explicitly exempt from complying with dozens of environmental, public

health, and safety laws within 100 miles along the Mexican and Canadian borders.

Even Secretary Napolitano and the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol indicated that environmental protections do not hinder their ability to secure our borders.

This amendment proves to be unnecessary and a threat to our public health.

Also, it jeopardizes the natural parks and public lands that many people use as recreation across our nation.

I understand our nation faces many challenges, but this is no way to enhance border security.

We must respect the liberty of all Americans, enjoy our natural landscape, and ensure every person's right to a healthy life.

I urge my colleagues to vote against Representative BISHOP's amendment.

IN HONOR OF LOUIS A. MITCHELL

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I honor the life and work of Lou Mitchell on the occasion of his passing from this life to the next.

Lou Mitchell's connection to central Ohio reached back several generations and his roots ran deep in our community's soil. His family has lived and contributed to our area for generations. For example, his great-grandfather graduated from Dennison University after returning from his service in the Civil War.

Irrespective of his family's illustrious history, Lou strived to place his own stamp on the place that helped shape him. As a very successful businessman, he could have lived anywhere he wished. He wished to live in central Ohio. He wanted to live among people like himself—people who enjoy and respect hard work and honest dealings. He wanted to give back to the people and community that gave him an education, a career and common sense values.

Lou did give back in many ways over his life. As president of the Board of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Ohio, a member of the Boards of the Ohio Historical Society Foundation and I Know I Can, and a Denison University Life Trustee, his wisdom and spirit influenced the direction and missions of these agencies. Lou gave to causes dear to his heart such as the Licking County YMCA, where the Mitchell Family YMCA Recreation Center was dedicated in 2005, his beloved Dennison University to build the Mitchell Athletic and Recreation Center in 1994, and the non-profit organization he started known as "A Call To College Program," which provides college scholarship money to Newark High School students. In addition, he privately helped countless individuals who he learned had experienced setbacks in life such as large medical bills or educational expenses beyond their means. He did not seek publicity or notoriety for these acts; he did them because he could and he believed it was right.

I offer my deepest sympathies to his family. Their sense of loss is shared by many of us who knew and loved Lou Mitchell. His legacy will stand as an example for all, and he will be dearly missed.

HONORING THE UNITED WAY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the United Way of Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District on the occasion of the 125th anniversary.

Founded in Denver, Colorado in 1887 by five religious men and women, the United Way strives to improve public health and welfare through charitable donations, wellness programs, and education initiatives.

Today, the United Way stands as a well known and world-renowned organization promoting good health, sound education policy, and financial stability in communities across the globe. The United Way is one of the leading not-for-profit organizations and forces for good in the world.

I would especially like to honor the men and women who work for the United Way organizations located in Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District for their good work: United Way of Bradford County, Lycoming County United Way, United Way of the Capital Region, United Way of Mifflin-Juniata, United Way of Wyoming Valley, Danville Area United Way, Lower Anthracite Region United Way, Schuylkill United Way, United Way of Susquehanna County, and United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the United Way of Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District, and ask my colleagues to join me in praising their commitment to country and community.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NIH RELEASE OF THE WOMEN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago today, on July 9, 2002, the National Institutes of Health released groundbreaking research findings from the Women's Health Initiative—the largest preventive women's health study ever conducted in the United States. The researchers found that the hormone therapy regimen women were using at and after menopause increased a woman's risk of heart disease, rather than decreasing it, as many had believed, and that it also increased her risk of getting breast cancer.

For decades before this, hormone therapy had been heavily marketed and routinely prescribed to women during menopause, making it one of the most prescribed drug regimens in the country with more than 90 million annual prescriptions written in 1999. But after learning about these research findings, women voted with their feet and hormone therapy prescriptions dropped quickly. This was followed by the first significant drop in breast cancer rates in United States history—there are 160,000 women who were not diagnosed with breast cancer over the last 10 years because they

avoided unnecessary exposure to drugs that would have caused it.

Many people deserve credit for this remarkable public health achievement—the researchers at the National Institutes of Health who led the effort, including the late Dr. Bernadine Healy, the first female director of NIH, who spearheaded the launch of the WHI; the women who volunteered to enroll in the WHI as research subjects to advance science for the benefit of all women; women's health advocates like the National Women's Health Network which built public support and demand for research into the pressing health issues of concern to women; and the women in Congress who led the charge in 1991 to increase the nation's investment in women's health research.

The Women's Health Initiative involved more than 27,000 post-menopausal women at 45 clinical centers across the nation. It remains unsurpassed as the largest women's health research study of women in this age group. Despite this historic significance, however, unfortunately women are still underrepresented today in health research. For example, women make up just 34 percent of heart disease prevention trials and less than 40 percent of clinical cancer research. I rise today to call on my colleagues to support a more equitable allocation of resources and to address the vital need for more investment in research on women's health.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR CAROLINE LEACH

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, forty years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the clergy upon graduation from Columbia Seminary in May 1972; and

Whereas, Pastor Caroline Leach began her work in the ministry after being ordained the 21st woman pastor in the former Southern Presbyterian Church, and today retires as Co-Pastor of Oakhurst Presbyterian Church in Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents, giving the citizens of our District not just a friend who helps those in need, but a fearless leader and a servant to all who ensures that the gospel touches everyone mentally, spiritually and physically; and

Whereas, Pastor Caroline Leach is a cornerstone in our community who 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 Pastor Caroline Leach upon her retirement and wish her well in her new adventures and endeavors;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim June 23, 2012 as Pastor Caroline Leach Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

HONORING WOODROW RAYMOND DUHON

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Woodrow Raymond Duhon, member of the Montford Point Marines. The Montford Point Marines were the first group of African Americans to serve in the Marine Corps following Franklin Delano Roosevelt's 1941 Executive Order allowing African Americans to serve in the military.

Mr. Duhon attended a segregated basic training camp at Montford Point, a facility at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, with approximately 20,000 other men. While serving in the Marines, Mr. Duhon fought in World War II and the Korean War in the Seventh Regiment of the First Marine Division to protect and defend American civil rights, despite being denied them himself.

Soldiers who trained at Montford Point were honored at a Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony on June 27 at the U.S. Capitol. I am proud to say Mr. Duhon is among those to be recognized.

It is the brave sacrifices of soldiers like Raymond Duhon that helped the U.S. Marine Corps to grow and advance. Their contributions helped many Marines realize and achieve their dreams. I thank Raymond Duhon for his commitment to our country and his service.

EXTENSION OF THE FEDERAL WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the City of North Saint Paul's Mayor Mike Kuehn for hosting the federal Wind Energy Production Tax Credit Press Conference on July 2, 2012. The press conference brought together business leaders from Minnesota's wind sector. The Wind Energy Production Tax Credit supports clean energy developers, manufacturers, and construction companies in Minnesota and across the country. I am submitting for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD four Minnesota business leaders' comments on the need for passage of the federal wind energy production tax credit.

STATEMENT BY Ms. SHANELLE MONTAN OF ENXCO

It is a pleasure to be here and I would like to thank Congressman Ellison and Congresswoman McCollum for being here and supporting the PTC. I grew up on a farm in rural Minnesota and have seen first-hand the economic effect of the wind industry in rural Minnesota. It is my pleasure to work for enXco and to work in an industry that has done so much for communities across Minnesota.

enXco have developed projects in Minnesota for more than a decade. Thus far we have 900 MWs of wind energy from western to eastern Minnesota. Additionally, we have hundreds more MWs in development in the state. As many of the presenters stated

today, wind does not happen overnight. Bringing a wind project to fruition requires meticulous studies, surveys, permitting, and other development activities. The careful placement and development of wind can take years.

We are proud that our projects have boosted the economies of small towns and rural communities across the state. Landowner payments and additional tax revenue for communities provides funding for new roads, schools, and other infrastructure across the community. Farming is sporadic. Today crop prices are high, however, we do not know what prices will be tomorrow. A sustainable income for farmers means more investment in equipment, technology, and the family farm.

Without the PTC extension our pipeline of projects will be at risk. Hundreds of MWs of wind development will be stalled. This lapse will interfere with permitting, interconnection, and other development activities. Developers in Minnesota need a stable market. We look forward to further development across the state. With an extension of the PTC we will be able to ensure the livelihood of rural communities and increase Minnesota leadership within the wind industry.

STATEMENT BY MR. MARK AHLSTROM OF
WINDLOGICS

Wind farms are power plants that use wind as their fuel, so careful analysis is needed to find good locations and understand the wind patterns. WindLogics is a Saint Paul company with 52 people here in Minnesota and we provide these weather analysis services to project developers throughout the country. We were bigger. Because it takes time to collect and analyze the weather data to create good projects, we felt the impact of the Production Tax Credit expiration more than nine months ago and had to reduce our staff by 10 people.

It takes 18 months to plan and build a wind project even under the best of circumstances, and companies cannot plan and finance wind projects with uncertainty around the tax credit. So because we work early in the project development cycle, what we saw last fall was that project planning for 2013 essentially stopped.

This is a terrible shame because we have clients who want to invest billions of dollars in new wind projects. The industry has scaled up to the point where it can contribute \$20 billion a year in private investment to the U.S. economy, with U.S. manufacturing and jobs, but this is on hold until the Production Tax Credit is renewed. New projects can't just stop and start instantly, so any delay on renewing the tax credit just puts us that much further behind.

Wind energy is a great business that I love, and I want WindLogics to get back to helping people build new projects. We need a prompt renewal of the Production Tax Credit to make that happen.

STATEMENT BY MR. TIM MAAG OF MORTENSON
CONSTRUCTION'S RENEWABLE ENERGY

I'll echo the others in emphasizing the importance of this PTC extension. Due to the undeniable success of the PTC, businesses like Mortenson have been able to provide stable jobs for American families.

Mortenson Construction is a Minneapolis-based, family-owned construction company, with over 2,200 full time employees. Mortenson has offices in Chicago, Denver, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Phoenix, and Seattle with international operations in Canada and China. Ranked as the 19th largest contractor in America, according to Engineering News-Record, a large portion of Mortenson's business is generated from the wind industry—nearly 30% of the company's annual revenue. Over 800 craft workers and

350 salaried professionals work in Mortenson's Renewable Energy groups and are focused on constructing renewable energy and transmission & distribution projects. The PTC has contributed greatly to our organization's positive growth in the renewable energy sector.

In 1995 Mortenson constructed our first wind project in Adair, IA, and have constructed over 120 wind projects across North America to date. We've witnessed technology advancements over the past seven years, driven by the PTC, that have helped to make wind energy more affordable and projects more cost competitive. Our construction projects have grown from a handful of turbines to large, multi-phase projects spanning hundreds of square miles.

Right now, Mortenson is building 18 wind projects in 10 states, all scheduled to complete before the end of 2012. Each project constructed in the US bolsters our country's larger economy while playing a vital role in sustaining smaller local economies across America. We've seen firsthand the significant and revitalizing impact on rural communities surrounding wind projects. Over the construction period, jobs are made available to the local labor force, major construction contracts are awarded to local businesses and suppliers, while fabrication, maintenance, and repair shops all see increasingly positive economic impacts due to the wind project. Throughout the life of a project, more than \$500,000 may be infused into an area's hotels, restaurants, and living facilities due to construction traveler spending alone.

While Mortenson maintains an aggressive and busy 2012, those here who have spoken before me, are the leading indicators for the likelihood of future project construction. Due to the lack of a PTC extension, we're seeing a decline in turbine orders and hesitation to develop projects. Mortenson is uncertain of the number of US wind farms we will construct in 2013. This will impact the livelihood of hundreds of employees, subcontractors and other industry partners across the country.

The uncertainty surrounding the PTC extension threatens the success of and further development of the wind industry, and thereby the American economy. Because of the long-term nature of the planning and permitting process, short-term extensions of PTC are insufficient for sustaining consistent, long term growth of the industry. In conjunction with those here today, we implore our legislators to reinstate the PTC. A long-term (2-4 year) extension is crucial to averting the damaging impact to America's labor force and the long-term growth of our industry, which holds so much promise to our future generations.

STATEMENT BY MR. DOUG FREDRICKSON OF
BLATTNER ENERGY

Blattner has been in the wind industry for 15 years. We have seen the PTC expire before. But there is so much more at stake now than earlier.

There are 500 US manufacturing facilities building components for the wind industry. Once those facilities close, a stable enough wind industry environment may never exist for them to be recaptured. They will be outsourced again overseas. Construction may be an industry that has little fear from job loss due to "outsourcing". But you can still lose your job and that's why we're today. The PTC is going to expire and with it tens of thousands of good jobs will be lost. Blattner Energy is a 105 year old Minnesota construction company. We worked on our first wind farm at Lake Benton, Minnesota in 1997. We were significantly smaller than. But that first opportunity positioned us to

grow with the wind industry nationwide. Today Blattner and Mortenson are the two largest builders of wind farms in North America.

At Blattner we employ approximately 1,500 people directly in wind and more through our subcontractors and suppliers. Of course our role in a wind project is the last one. Consequently, our employees will be busy right up until December 31 of this year. But as was mentioned earlier, new wind work in 2013 is unlikely and reduction will have to occur.

Blattner has been in the wind industry for 15 years. We have seen the FTC expire before. But there is so much more at stake now than earlier. There are 500 US manufacturing facilities building components for the wind industry. Once those facilities close, a stable enough wind industry environment may never exist for them to be recaptured. They will be outsourced again overseas. Those jobs are beginning to diminish right now because there is no positive signal that a stable tax policy will be in place in the future. We ask Congress to continue its bi-partisan support for the FTC. Keep people working and extend the FTC now before your recess.

BB-USS TEXAS 35

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a kid growing up in Spring Branch, I always looked forward to the long days of the hot Texas summers. Long days meant more time to play outside. I didn't know that summers in the other parts of the world were not steamy like here in Houston. (I now tell my friends in Washington that are from the north, that Houston has two seasons: Summer and August.) Like most kids in the neighborhood, my sister, Jayne, and I played outdoors a good portion of the day and didn't come in 'til dark. We knew that when the porch light came on, we had to be home within five minutes of seeing the "beacon" or there would be consequences. Occasionally, we got to take summer excursions with the family to the battlegrounds, the Monument and, of course, the Battleship Texas.

My fondness for the USS Texas began in those days and has stuck with me throughout my life and career. As kids, we thought it was "cool" that Texas had its own battleship. We would pretend to shoot the guns on the ship, run through the countless corridors, hide in the nooks and crannies, and generally live in the disappearing past of the history of the great battlewagon. My best friend, Pete Cliburn, and I would climb from top to bottom of the "Mighty T," firing every gun and squeezing down every open hatch along the way. We explored the many decks and climbed the ladders of the upper decks as high as we could go. When you reached the top of the ladder of the highest point, you better remember that the metal deck you were about to lay your forearms on was as hot as a cast iron skillet! But, as kids we couldn't care less, we were fighting on the greatest battleship to have ever sailed.

As I got older I learned more about the amazing legacy of BB 35. The USS Texas is the last survivor of the great Dreadnought Battleships. She participated in the most important battles of the first half of the Twentieth

Century, including both World Wars. She was launched 100 years ago this year and commissioned on March 12, 1914. She was the most powerful warship that the world had seen, and she participated in the invasion of North Africa, Normandy, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Her most notable contributions came in WW II, firing at Nazi defenses during the D-Day invasion at Normandy. Called the “smartest man o’war afloat,” the Texas was an integral part of many US victories. As the flagship of the US fleet on D-Day, the Texas was the first of her kind to mount anti-aircraft guns and the first US battleship to launch an aircraft. At the end of the War, she made three trips, bringing American servicemen home.

On the anniversary of San Jacinto Day, April 21, 1948, the Texas was decommissioned. Her place in history took root right here in our backyard. School children across Texas saved their nickels to help pay to dry dock the Battleship at the site of the Battle-grounds on the San Jacinto River. As a kid, it was obvious to me why General Sam routed Santa Anna—we had a Battleship! After all she was retired on San Jacinto Day. It took me awhile to figure out that the Texas Revolution was in the 1800s, and the Battleship Texas was used in the 1900s. While that all made perfectly good sense to me back then, my love for Texas history in the years to come taught me that they were not the same war and General Sam’s accomplishments became far more impressive.

During my tenure as a judge, the “Mighty T” found its way back into my life and into the lives of offenders that I ordered to be “enlisted” in the “Texas Navy.” I ordered probationers who were skilled welders, painters, plumbers and electricians to help in the restoration efforts of the Battleship. As one of many creative sentences, this became another effective tool that both served the public and the probationer—a few even went on to be hired by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The probationers became a part of the history of the great ship. After being dry docked in Galveston in the 80’s, many much needed repairs were made by different organizations and thousands of volunteers. The Battleship is now moored in its present location.

During my first term in Congress, I joined efforts with Congressman GENE GREEN in securing federal funding to permanently dry dock and display the USS Texas so that my grandchildren and generations to come could climb all over one of the world’s finest fighting vessels. My DC staff visits the ship, usually in August, and I act as the Texas historian, along with help from the real experts, the Battleship staff from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Today, the Battleship Texas serves as a museum and a reminder of wars long past. In 1948, she was designated a National Historic Landmark. Today, the Texas has an onboard museum that details her efforts in our fight for freedom and a history of the sailors that called her their own.

But, all is not well with the Texas. What her enemies in battle could not do to her, nature has. She is old and is taking on water. She is covered with rubber patches and aluminum plates, and about one thousand gallons of water pour through her body every day. Last week, visitors were turned away from this Na-

tional Historic Landmark. The grand lady of the seas is closed until further notice. Visitors have been told the ship is closed while workers battle her leaks. Her recovery could cost an estimated 50 million dollars. In a 2007 bond election, voters approved \$25 million for her repair. This isn’t enough. And, as much as it will help, the money won’t be released until September. Texas is not just a National Historic Landmark, she is a state treasure to Texans and a monument to American sailors who first sailed her 100 years ago. The Texas needs volunteers and money to honor the ship and all who sailed her. Time is not on the side of the ship. Texans must save the ship now.

Otherwise, as we approach the sweltering heat of the “season” of August, we may see the beginning of the permanent demise of the USS Battleship Texas. Texans cannot allow the great Texas to sink from neglect and disappear beneath the water of history. And that’s just the way it is.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. ROBERT JOHN “BOB” MESLER, AS PRINTED IN THE MIDLAND DAILY NEWS ON JUNE 21, 2012

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, Robert John “Bob” Mesler, Jr., 87, longtime Midland resident, World War II veteran and retired Manager of Emergency Response for The Dow Chemical Company, passed away Wednesday, June 20, 2012, after a lengthy illness. Bob was born on January 4, 1925, in Cass City, Michigan, to Robert John Mesler, Sr. and Ethelyn Louise (Smith) Mesler. The Meslers moved to Midland from Saginaw in 1941. Bob was a January, 1943 graduate of Midland High School, where he played football and ran track. He began his career at The Dow Chemical Company immediately after graduation. Less than six months later, Bob was drafted into the U.S. Army, and after basic training, was assigned to the Army Specialized Training Program at Hendrix College, Arkansas.

Bob married his high school sweetheart Margery Keicher on August 16, 1944, a month before shipping out to England, then to Belgium where he served in the U.S. infantry. During the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945, Sergeant Mesler was taken prisoner, escaping his captors at the end of April 1945, a few weeks before V-E Day. He was initially reported missing, and it wasn’t until he had escaped that his family learned he’d actually been a POW.

“At the present, we live for the future, but we will long remember the past,” he wrote home in an April 8, 1945 letter to his bride that vividly described his capture and treatment at the hands of his German captors, long marches and strafing by friendly fire. He was serious about remembering the past. Whatever it cost him in painful memory, he talked about those wartime experiences with generations of inquiring middle and high school students, as well as with those now-grown children of his fellow World War II veterans who perhaps hadn’t shared their stories as can-

didly. Though he rarely claimed the distinction, Bob was proud to have served as a member of “The Greatest Generation.” With Marge by his side, he revisited the Ardennes battlefield in 1989, where he was impressed by a local memorial to his fallen comrades. “It kind of finished off some unfinished business I had,” he said upon returning home. Fifteen years later, Bob and fellow Midland veterans Max Bottomley and Bill Kennett—father of Midland Daily News reporter John Kennett—joined their fellow honorees in Washington, D.C. at the dedication of the National World War II Memorial.

With his war service completed, Bob attended Central Michigan University, graduating in 1949, with a B.S. in Biology. He resumed his career at The Dow Chemical Company, capping his 40-year career there by retiring as Manager of Emergency Response. Always active in his church and community, Bob’s civic efforts included two terms on Midland’s Parks and Recreation Commission, the presidency of the Jaycees, and being district manager for then-Congressman William Schuette. A talented craftsman, Bob also worked on the crew that restored the Midland County Courthouse. Until recently, Bob was the Buildings and Grounds committee chair for St. John’s Episcopal Church in Midland, where he had previously served terms on the church vestry as both the senior and junior warden, as well as being a Sunday School teacher and youth leader.

An avid sports booster, Bob coached and refereed Little League baseball as well as coaching Pee Wee Football. Bob and Marge raised two sons; Jeff (Sheila) Mesler and Greg Mesler, both of whom survive him, as does Jeff and Sheila’s son Kyle Robert Mesler. Bob’s brother Garry (Jean) Mesler also survives him, along with nieces and nephews Kim, Liz, Kevin, Patti, Jim, Ethelyn, Mike, Lyn, John, Janette, Sherry, Mary and Bill.

Bob was “stand-in grandfather” to Anna, Maria, Cate and Matt. His extended family, the “Gang,” includes Niki (Don) Beckwith, Max and Martha Bottomley, Gloria and Pete Lehman, Bill and Bonnie Kennett, Grace and Mike Merrell, Janet (Larry) Lang, Helen (Bob) Ward and Caroline (Al) Gunkler. Bob was preceded in death by his parents; and two brothers, James Russell Mesler and James Richard Mesler.

Memorial Services will take place at 11 a.m., Monday, June 25, 2012, from St. John’s Episcopal Church, The Rev. Rob Skirving and The Rev. Mike Wilson will officiate, with inurnment to take place in the church mausoleum. Bob’s family will receive friends at the Ware-Smith-Woolever Funeral Home, 1200 West Wheeler Street on Sunday from 2–4 and 6–8 p.m. Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider the Toni and Trish House or Shelterhouse. Full military honors will be presented by the Midland Area Veterans and the Department of the U.S. Army.

The family would like to give special thanks to Bob’s Midland doctors, to Dr. Washer of the University of Michigan, and especially Dr. Hafez of the University of Michigan, for all the special care they gave Bob. Thanks also to the staff of MidMichigan Home Care (Hospice) and Bob’s special nurse Raime.

IMPORTANCE OF FUEL
EFFICIENCY

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss fuel efficiency, an issue that is near and dear to the heart of all hardworking Americans. As Members of Congress, it is our mission to do all that we can to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil for America's families. We must work hard to create and incentivize ways to produce alternative fuels and reduce gas prices here at home. And we should continue to work with our auto industry to promote the manufacturing of more fuel efficient vehicles right here in America. America's auto industry is hard at work manufacturing and developing the technology to manufacture more fuel efficient vehicles.

My congressional district and the State of Alabama is home to many auto manufacturers and suppliers that are achieving that goal and are even working hard to exceed it. All Americans can contribute to promoting energy independence and environmental sustainability by taking a few simple steps. And as we head into the major summer driving season, it's important to remember that we all can improve fuel efficiency right now.

For example, using cruise control will help drivers maintain a steady speed and save fuel. Studies have shown that tuning your car and keeping tires inflated can increase your fuel economy by 3 or 4%. Driving responsibly and at the speed limit also helps to improve fuel economy.

The EPA's website provides information about fuel efficient driving and there are numerous agencies and organizations that provide information and resources about how to drive more efficiently. Auto manufacturers and associations have also undertaken efforts to increase awareness and educate us all about fuel efficiency, and I support and applaud those efforts.

In closing, I encourage all of us to take the time to learn how to drive more efficiently and maximize our fuel economy. These techniques will save Americans fuel, decrease emissions and help us achieve energy independence.

HONORING KAY A. CALAS

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mrs. Kay A. Calas, who passed away on Monday, June 18, 2012 at the age of 88.

We often hear the term "founding fathers" used to describe the framers of this country. Kay Calas was one of the founding mothers of the City of Carson, California, and as a 29-year member of the Carson City Council, she was truly a legend in her own time.

Kay Calas was not only one of the longest tenured elected officials in Los County's history, she was also one of the most effective and revered council-members of her time. She is credited with helping to shape a thriving city

from what was once a collection of waste dumps, vacant land patches and oil production facilities in the eastern section of Los Angeles County's South Bay region.

The creation of the City of Carson happened during the time that my father, L.A. County Supervisor Kenny Hahn, presided over that previously unincorporated area. My father's great respect for Kay Calas and her husband John, himself a great community leader and former Carson Mayor, stemmed from their shared vision of an ideal city in which people from all walks of life could live and do business harmoniously. That shared vision made Kenny Hahn a John and Kay Calas ally for life.

Once the loftier goal of incorporating Carson had been accomplished, Kay Calas relentlessly pursued her passion: that is the business of serving the people. Kay was always a champion for the senior citizens, and she had a deep love for fine arts. The Carson Symphony Association had a yearly concert for 3,000 school children, and Kay would routinely pay for the buses to bring the children to the event. She spearheaded the effort to extend Del Amo Boulevard over the San Diego (405) Freeway creating an important thoroughway to ease rush hour street traffic in the middle of town. The bridge now bears her name, while a park on East 220th Street in Carson is named after her late husband John Calas.

Above all else, Kay Calas was a public servant of the highest possible integrity. Current Carson Mayor James Dear, who served as Mayor with Mrs. Calas during two of her eight terms in office, described Kay Calas' character as "above reproach".

I extend my deepest condolences to her three surviving sons, Frank, James and Thomas, and Kay's numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Though Kay Calas is no longer with us, her legacy lives on in the lives of her family and in the community that she served so tirelessly throughout her remarkable life.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ANNIE
JOHNSON-SINKFIELD

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, reaching the age of 80 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Annie Johnson-Sinkfield was born on June 14, 1932 and is celebrating that milestone; and

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

Whereas, Mrs. Sinkfield is celebrating her 80th birthday with her family members, church members and friends here in DeKalb County, Georgia, on June 16, 2012, she celebrates a life of blessings; as a wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great great grandmother; and

Whereas, the Lord has been her Shepherd throughout her life and she prays daily and is leading by example a blessed life; an advocate, faithful church member at Poplar Springs Baptist Church in Ellenwood, Georgia, and a community leader; and

Whereas, we are honored that she is celebrating the milestone of her 80th birthday in the 4th District of Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Annie Johnson-Sinkfield for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all,

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim June 14, 2012, as Mrs. Annie Johnson-Sinkfield Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LAKEWOOD
CALIFORNIA'S BRUCE DUBOIS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of one of Lakewood California's most prominent residents, Bruce DuBois. Mr. DuBois was born in my own district in 1935 at Seaside Hospital in Long Beach. He attended school in Compton until transferring to Downey High School. He could not stay away from the 37th district for long, and after enlisting in the Army and serving in France, he returned to attend Compton College.

It was during his time in college where Mr. DuBois met the love of his life and the woman he would spend the next five decades with. Diane DuBois was also a student at Compton College, and after the two met at a party it was only a year until they were married. Mrs. DuBois would later go on to become mayor of Lakewood, always with the proud support of her beloved husband.

While being an avid family man, Mr. DuBois dedicated his life to serving the community. He was very active with the Jaycees, a service group that provides leadership training through community service for adults ages 18-40. He met many of his best friends through this organization.

After retirement Mr. DuBois continued his volunteer work with the organization Meals on Wheels. At least once a week he would deliver meals to his community's shut-ins and elderly. His wife stated that he took great pride in this work, and met many friends along the way.

Mr. DuBois' life can be remembered as full of service to his community, friendship and family. He was a man we could all look to for warmth and kindness, and his presence will be sorely missed. He leaves behind his wife, two daughters, four grandchildren and a sister.

HONORING NATIONAL PARK
CLIMBING RANGER NICK HALL
AND OTHER CLIMBING RANGERS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a hero who died last month leading an effort to save four climbers on Mt. Rainier in Washington State.

On June 21 four climbers fell into a crevasse on a glacier on Mt. Rainier. National

Park Climbing Ranger Nick Hall and other Climbing Rangers braved the elements and terrain to rescue the climbers and get them the medical attention they desperately needed. Mr. Hall, a 33-year-old four-year veteran of Mt. Rainier's Climbing Ranger team, tragically fell more than 2,500 feet down the side of the mountain. The Climbing Ranger team was unable to communicate with Mr. Hall after his fall and continued their heroic efforts to save the four climbers. All four climbers were saved and all suffered non-life threatening injuries. I applaud the heroic efforts of the rescue team.

Rangers did reach Mr. Hall hours after the rescue mission began, but, sadly, determined that he had died as a result of his fall. Because of heavy snow, clouds, and the threat of an avalanche, Mr. Hall's body could not immediately be recovered. Finally, on Thursday, July 5, Mt. Rainier National Park personnel were able to confirm that Mr. Hall's body had been recovered.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a tough year at Mt. Rainier. On January 1 Park Ranger Margaret Anderson was gunned down at Mt. Rainier by a fleeing gunman. Now Nick Hall has lost his life saving climbers on the mountain. I grieve with the friends, family, and colleagues left behind.

The week of July 15 has been declared "Stand With Those Who Serve Week" in Washington. Nick Hall is the latest example of someone willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice in service to others. Today I stand with members of the Park Service, Mt. Rainier Superintendent Randy King, and the supportive communities around the mountain.

GOVERNOR PERRY'S LETTER TO
KATHLEEN SEBELIUS

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
July 9, 2012.

Hon. KATHLEEN SEBELIUS,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY SEBELIUS: In the ObamaCare plan, the federal government sought to force the states to expand their Medicaid programs by in the words of the Supreme Court putting a gun to their heads. Now that the "gun to the head" has been removed, please relay this message to the President: I oppose both the expansion of Medicaid as provided in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the creation of a so-called "state" insurance exchange, because both represent brazen intrusions into the sovereignty of our state.

I stand proudly with the growing chorus of governors who reject the PPACA power grab. Thank God and our nation's founders that we have the right to do so.

Neither a "state" exchange nor the expansion of Medicaid under the Orwellian-named PPACA would result in a better "patient protection" or in more "affordable care." What they would do is make Texas a mere appendage of the federal government when it comes to health care.

The PPACA does not truly allow states to create and operate their own exchanges. Instead, it gives the federal government the

final say as to which insurance plans can operate in a so-called "state" exchange, what benefits those plans must provide, and what price controls and cost limits will apply. It leaves many questions to be answered later through federal "future rulemaking." In short, it essentially treats the states like subcontractors through which the federal government can control the insurance markets and pursue federal priorities rather than those of the individual states.

Through its proposed expansion of Medicaid, the PPACA would simply enlarge a broken system that is already financially unsustainable. Medicaid is a system of inflexible mandates, one-size-fits-all requirements, and wasteful, bureaucratic inefficiencies. Expanding it as the PPACA provides would only exacerbate the failure of the current system, and would threaten even Texas with financial ruin.

I look forward to implementing health care solutions that are right for the people of Texas. I urge you to support me in that effort. In the meantime, the PPACA's unsound encroachments will find no foothold here.

Sincerely,

RICK PERRY,
Governor.

CALLING FOR THE FIRING OF U.S.
AMBASSADOR TO VIETNAM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a letter I sent to President Obama and Secretary Clinton calling for the firing of the U.S. ambassador to Vietnam.

Ambassador David Shear should be removed because he has repeatedly failed to advocate for human rights and speak out for the voiceless in Vietnam. I recommend that he be replaced by a Vietnamese-American.

I am particularly upset by Ambassador Shear's failure to invite more dissidents and human rights activists to the U.S. Embassy for a July 4 celebration after promising that he would.

Further, I have been disappointed in Shear's handling of the case of Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, a Vietnamese-American democracy activist and U.S. citizen presently being held by the communist government of Vietnam.

As I stated in the letter, "America must be a voice for the voiceless. The U.S. Embassy in Vietnam must be an island of freedom, headed by a bold American ambassador. Ambassador Shear is not that man."

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
July 9, 2012.

Hon. BARACK H. OBAMA,
The President, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On May 15, 2012, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, which I co-chair, held a hearing on human rights abuses in Vietnam. As you undoubtedly know, the State Department's own annual human rights report aptly describes Vietnam as an "authoritarian state." During the hearing, several of my colleagues and I heard testimony from Mrs. Mai Huong Ngo, the wife of Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, a Vietnamese-American democracy activist and U.S. citizen. Upon his arrival at Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Ho Chi Minh City on April 17, he was arbitrarily detained and has been in prison ever since. Dr. Quan's

wife was invited to testify in light of her husband's plight.

Assistant Secretary Michael Posner was also invited to testify at the hearing on behalf of the State Department. At the time I expressed my shock and dismay that no one from the department, not even the U.S. ambassador to Vietnam, David Shear, had been in touch with Dr. Quan's wife since his detention. Only at my urging did Ambassador Shear initiate contact with Mrs. Ngo to update her on her husband's situation.

This was disturbing on a number of levels. I have long believed that U.S. embassies should be islands of freedom—especially in repressive countries like Vietnam. Under Ambassador Shear's leadership it didn't appear that the U.S. embassy in Hanoi was embracing this important task. But even more troubling is the fact that Dr. Quan is an American citizen, and yet there appeared to be little urgency to securing his release.

In speaking by phone with Ambassador Shear following the hearing I expressed my concerns and urged him to host a July 4th celebration at the embassy, where the guest list was comprised of religious freedom and democracy activists in Vietnam. I stressed that he should fling open the doors of the embassy and invite Buddhist monks and nuns, Catholic priests and Protestant pastors, Internet bloggers and democracy activists. Such was the custom during the Reagan Administration, especially in the Soviet Union. This practice sent a strong message that America stood with those who stand for basic human rights. In many cases it afforded these individuals protection from future harassment and even imprisonment.

Ambassador Shear said that he intended to honor this request. Following my conversation with him I received the enclosed letter from the department indicating that, "Ambassador Shear continues to engage with civil society advocates, promoters of rule-of-law, and democracy activists and will welcome them to the Embassy's July 4th celebration." I took Ambassador Shear at his word and in fact shared this correspondence with members of the Vietnamese Diaspora community in the U.S., several of whom were greatly encouraged by this development.

Late last week it was brought to my attention that many of the most prominent democracy and human rights activists in Vietnam were not invited to the event. These reports seemed starkly at odds with the assurances I had personally received from Ambassador Shear. I called him directly this morning to find out if the embassy had invited the dissidents as had been agreed upon. His response was appalling. He said that he had invited a few civil society activists but then said that he needed to maintain a "balance." I then asked him for a list of the invitees. He initially refused saying he was unable to provide this information, even though presumably the embassy, which he leads, created the guest list. Then he said he would have to address this through State Department. I asked him when we might expect to receive a copy of the guest list and, after initially declining to be specific; he eventually conceded that it would be "in a few weeks."

Ambassador Shear's entire handling of this issue has been unacceptable. He showed little to no initiative in the case of Dr. Quan. Then, after appearing to recognize the shortsightedness of this approach, he agreed to host an Independence Day event at the embassy attended by human rights and democracy activists—only to go back on his word and mislead me about his intentions. Finally, when posed with a simple congressional request for additional information about the guest list at a U.S. embassy event, he was uncooperative at best and obstructionist at worst.

In light of these realities, I write today to call for the firing of Ambassador Shear.

Sadly, his sidelining of serious human rights issues in Vietnam is symptomatic of this administration's overall approach to human rights and religious freedom. Time and again these issues are put on the backburner—to the detriment of freedom-loving people the world over. In a Constitution Day speech, President Ronald Reagan described the United States Constitution as “a covenant we have made not only with ourselves, but with all of mankind.” We have an obligation to keep that covenant. If you were to take this action, it would send a critical message to U.S. ambassadors globally, and just as importantly, to repressive governments which fear the words of the Constitution and the promise they hold as much as they fear the aspirations of their own people.

I have repeatedly said that it would be fitting for a Vietnamese-American to serve as U.S. ambassador Vietnam—someone who understands the country, the language, and the oppressive nature of the government having experienced it themselves before coming to the U.S. Such an individual would not be tempted to maintain smooth bilateral relations at all costs. Such an individual would embrace the cause of freedom. The Vietnamese people, and frankly millions of Vietnamese-Americans, deserve better than what Ambassador Shear and this administration are giving them.

America must be a voice for the voiceless. The U.S. Embassy in Vietnam must be an island of freedom, headed by a bold American ambassador. Ambassador Shear is not that man.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

Enclosure.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, June 26, 2012.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. WOLF: Thank you for your letter of June 6 following up on your phone conversation last month with Ambassador Shear regarding the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission's hearing on Vietnam and the case of Dr. Richard Nguyen.

We continue to urge the Vietnamese government to release Dr. Nguyen. In addition to raising his case with high-level Vietnamese officials, our consular officers will continue to provide all appropriate consular assistance to Dr. Nguyen. Ambassador Shear has personally spoken with Dr. Nguyen's wife, Mai Huang Ngo, and senior officials from our Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City remain in close contact with her.

Ambassador Shear continues to engage with civil society advocates, promoters of rule-of-law, and democracy activists and will welcome them to the Embassy's July 4th celebration. This is one of many ways we promote respect for human rights and rule-of-law in Vietnam.

We will keep you and your staff updated on developments regarding Dr. Richard Nguyen. Please do not hesitate to let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

DAVID S. ADAMS,
Assistant Secretary,
Legislative Affairs.

AMERICAN HEROES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as South Carolinians recognized our free-

doms on the Fourth of July, we also express gratitude for fallen heroes who made our freedoms possible. A moving tribute was published on June 29th as an editorial in The Greenville News.

FALLEN SOLDIERS, FAMILIES ARE HEROES

Three families in South Carolina—and the state as a whole—were given a bitter reminder earlier this month that men and women still put their lives at risk every day to protect American ideals in faraway places. These men and women are heroes, as are the families that wonder, every day, if their son, daughter, spouse or child will return home.

Three from South Carolina won't. The S.C. National Guard troops were among 21 people killed in a suicide bomb attack on June 20. These brave men soon will be laid to rest, but their families will continue to grieve in ways that few of us can even begin to comprehend. It's a heart-wrenching reminder of the cost of war, and particularly of the cost of the current war in Afghanistan and the one in Iraq. These two conflicts have demanded a very heavy commitment from—and thus taken a very heavy toll on—our National Guard and Reserve troops.

The three members of the 133rd Military Police Company who were killed include Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Brad Thomas, of Easley; 1st Lt. Ryan Davis Rawl, of Lexington; and Spc. John David Meador II, of Columbia. Five other members of the company were wounded in the attack. Thomas' funeral is planned for this weekend.

The 133rd, nicknamed the Palmetto Regulators, is based in Timmonsville. It was in Afghanistan to train the Afghan national police force and was scheduled to return home in August. The three deaths bring to 16 the total of South Carolina National Guard troops who have been killed in Afghanistan since 2003.

These two wars have exacted a heavy toll on military families across the country. Many of those deaths have been among Guard and Reserve troops who traditionally have been used in support roles, but have been called upon during these wars to serve more and longer combat tours, a result of leaner operations for a military force that is spread increasingly thin.

Thomas leaves behind a wife, Jana, and a 3-year-old son, Kayden. The family, who grief cannot be assuaged by our expressions of gratitude, nonetheless deserves our sincerest thanks for Thomas' devotion to this country and its ideals. The family members need our thoughts and prayers as they try to wade through a grief that too many military families have experienced in the past decade.

There have been 6,440 military deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan since the wars began. Of those, 1,022, or nearly 16 percent, have been National Guard or Reserve troops, according to The Washington Post.

Few of us reflect daily on the lives at risk every day in Afghanistan. Despite the continuing draw-down of American forces, it still is an exceedingly hostile place. And our nation still is calling on its part-time warriors to complete that mission.

Maj. Gen. Robert E. Livingston Jr., South Carolina's adjutant general, offered a poignant reminder to all of us that these wars still go on and our brave men and women still risk their lives.

“These men died serving their country and I want to express my deepest sympathy and condolences to their families, who are the unsung heroes of our war effort,” Livingston said, according to a recent report in The State.

“These deaths are grim reminders that our military, to include the South Carolina National Guard, is still active in combat defense of our country. We are privileged to have such heroes in our midst.

Privileged, indeed.

As the nation pauses in coming week to celebrate its founding and the establishment of liberties and ideals that are desired by people around the globe; it would be worth taking more than a moment to remember the heroes—both the fallen and those whom they've left behind. These spouses and children, and the service men and women they love, are above the political rhetoric of which wars should be fought and how.

They simply serve. Their burdens are tangible reminders that the struggle for freedom continues and that it has a tremendous and painful cost. This is a cost these soldiers knew they might have to pay when they stepped forward to serve in an all-volunteer military during a time of war, but one their families are left trying to comprehend.

These men are mourned. They are praised. And they and their families should be remembered by a state and a nation that needs to be eternally grateful for their service and their immense and incomprehensible sacrifice.

Said Thomas' father, Charles, “They're doing a very important job. A lot of Americans don't understand that. But they're doing a very important job.”

Amen.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 10, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 11

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the impact on competition of exclusion orders to enforce standard-essential patents.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine Medicare physician payments, focusing on perspectives from physicians.

SD-215

- Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the future of Homeland Security, focusing on evolving and emerging threats. SD-342
- 2 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Thomas M. Durkin, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and Jon S. Tigar, and William H. Orrick, III, of the District of Columbia, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of California. SD-226
- Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine international extradition norms and their impact on United States victims of international fugitives, focusing on the case of George Wright and factors that impede or prevent extradition of criminals in the United States, concerns the United States may have regarding extradition requests from other countries, and how the United States might work to advance justice in this process. 2203, Rayburn Building
- JULY 12
- 9 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Treaty Doc. 112-7). SD-G50
- 9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold an oversight hearing to examine remediation of Federal legacy wells in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. SD-366
- 10 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the latest science on lead's impacts on children's development and public health. SD-406
- Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the future of Homeland Security, focusing on the evolution of the Homeland Security Department's roles and missions. SD-342
- Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 285, for the relief of Sopuruchi Chukwueke, S. 1744, to provide funding for State courts to assess and improve the handling of proceedings relating to adult guardianship and conservatorship, to authorize the Attorney General to carry out a pilot program for the conduct of background checks on individuals to be appointed as guardians or conservators, and to promote the widespread adoption of information technology to better monitor, report, and audit conservatorships of protected persons, S. 3276, to extend certain amendments made by the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, and the nominations of Terrence G. Berg, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Jesus G. Bernal, and Fernando M. Olguin, both to be a United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Lorna G. Schofield, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Frank Paul Geraci, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, Malachy Edward Mannion, and Matthew W. Brann, both to be a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, Danny Chappelle Williams, Sr., to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma, Department of Justice, and Charles R. Breyer, of California, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission. SD-226
- 10:30 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine creating positive learning environments for all students. SD-106
- 2:15 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gene Allan Cretz, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana, Deborah Ruth Malac, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia, David Bruce Wharton, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe, and Alexander Mark Laskaris, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea, all of the Department of State. SD-419
- Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Federal recognition, focusing on political and legal relationship between governments. SD-628
- 2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine medication and performance enhancing drugs in horse racing. SR-253
- Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Stephen Crawford, of Maryland, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service. SD-342
- Intelligence
To hold a closed meeting to consider certain intelligence matters. SH-219
- JULY 17
- 9:30 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine United States vulnerabilities to money laundering, drugs, and terrorist financing, focusing on HSBC case history. SD-106
- JULY 18
- 2:30 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Marcie B. Ries, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria, John M. Koenig, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus, Michael David Kirby, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia, Thomas Hart Armbruster, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Greta Christine Holtz, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, all of the Department of State. SD-419
- JULY 19
- 2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine climate change, focusing on impacts on treaty rights, traditional lifestyles, and tribal homelands. SD-628