

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE TAX ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, once again the House finds itself considering a bill that unfairly targets the hard working public servants who every day are providing a wide array of public services from helping to nurse our wounded veterans, to discovering cures and treatments for diseases that plague millions of American families, to ensuring aviation safety, to protecting our borders, public safety and the food supply. Over the last two years, our Republican colleagues have repeatedly brought legislation to the floor to slash the pay and benefits of civil servants in order to protect special tax breaks for the super wealthy and special interests.

Obviously, all Americans should pay their taxes, and those who fail to do so should be penalized. But federal employees should not be denied the full complement of due process rights that are available to any other American. This bill would result in the firing of federal employees who may be legitimately contesting a tax liability through the established process. Moreover, by linking the firing of a federal employee to a lien, this bill would result in the firing of individuals who are already in the process of satisfying their tax obligation. There are already laws and regulations on the books that address how tax debt should be handled and how federal employees who are delinquent on their payments should be disciplined.

In 2002, the IRS asked Congress to change the standard for determining when an agency was mandated to fire employees. Rather than firing every employee who fails to properly file their tax return, IRS created a hierarchy of penalties based on the seriousness and willfulness of the offense. This bill throws out that process and treats all delinquencies as if they were willful and deliberate.

Comparatively, federal employees have a compliance rate that is higher than the average American taxpayer. In 2010, 3.35 percent of federal employees were delinquent in their tax payments. That same year, the delinquency rate for the total universe of American taxpayers was 7.4 percent. Instead of making public servants the target of new, unnecessary and unfair legislation, we should instead be focusing on uniform ways to strengthen and better enforce existing laws and regulations governing tax delinquency.

HONORING METRO CHICAGO

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, thirty years ago, in August of 1982, a little-known band from Georgia took the stage at a new music venue at 3730 North Clark Street in Chicago.

Five hundred tickets were sold for 5 dollars each, and Chicagoans gathered in “the big room” to watch R.E.M.

The show was a huge success, and the Metro Chicago has been an influential music venue ever since.

Celebrating their 30th anniversary this month, the Metro continues to hold an important place in the Chicago music and performing arts scene.

There is a long list of memorable moments, including performances by music legends like James Brown, Bob Dylan, the Ramones, Smashing Pumpkins, and my personal favorite, Poi Dog Pondering.

The Metro has always been a venue that has provided a platform for new music talent to start their careers the old fashioned way, by sending in a demo and booking a slot.

Their dedication to independent music comes from the enthusiasm of owner Joe Shanahan, a south side Chicago native.

In the late 1970s, looking to better connect the music community of his home town, Joe started hosting parties for performing artists out of his loft apartment in the city.

It was not long until his musical gatherings outgrew his small space.

He eventually converted an old community center into a venue, and he has been bringing Chicago the best local and national talent ever since.

Shanahan, an icon in independent music promotion, stays involved in the community as well by serving on the boards of the Chicago Children’s Choir and Rock for Kids, a charity that provides music education to underserved children in Chicago.

Without a doubt, the Metro and Shanahan’s influence on the Chicago music scene is beyond measure.

Music before money always has been the message, and because of this commitment, the Metro has helped shape Chicago’s cultural landscape.

For 30 years the Metro has contributed to the music scene in Chicago, and for 30 years fans have flocked to it.

Congratulations on three decades of rock.

We’ll be lining up for thirty more years of great music to come.

RESOLUTION OF DISAGREEMENTS ABOUT CYPRUS

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, there is a need to respond to recent comments that have been made by some of my colleagues involving issues of concern to Cyprus.

We all agree that a comprehensive and sustainable resolution of disagreements about Cyprus is long overdue. Such a solution must allow both the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities to participate in all aspects of the island’s national life and government while respecting the rights and political equality of all Cypriots preserved in a renewed partnership state.

Of concern to me are statements by some that Turkish Cypriots, and the Republic of Turkey itself, are obstacles to any forward progress.

Without rehashing the history that brought about the current situation on Cyprus, it should be made clear that the Turkish government has, on multiple occasions, welcomed the resolution of these issues which guarantees the equal rights of the Turkish Cypriot community. Turkish Cypriots voted overwhelmingly in favor of the U.N. Comprehensive Peace Plan (known as Annan Plan) in 2004, demonstrating their sincere desire to move beyond the painful past. Despite this genuine determination to incorporate, not only within the life of the island, but within the wider European and global communities, the U.N. proposal was overwhelmingly rejected by the Greek Cypriot side. Incredibly, one week after missing one of the most significant opportunities to reach a comprehensive solution to these longstanding problems, the Greek Cypriots were awarded with membership in the European Union.

As a result, the Greek Cypriot community, as the Republic of Cyprus, now enjoys full membership status in the European Union including all associated rights and privileges as well as membership in the wider, global community. It is time to end the isolation and embargoes imposed upon the Turkish Cypriot community and secure a negotiated political settlement, agreed to by both parties, that allows all Cypriots to build a common future together.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DEVEREUX

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Devereux on its upcoming 100-year anniversary.

• 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.

An outstanding non-profit behavioral health organization, Devereux's year-long centennial celebration will culminate in a 100th Anniversary Gala Celebration on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art on November 10, 2012. The organization was founded by Helena Trafford Devereux, a schoolteacher in the great city of Philadelphia in the dawn of the Twentieth Century. At that time, children with special needs were held back, ostracized by their peers, written off as hopeless or sent to mental institutions.

Miss Devereux had other ideas for these children. She passionately believed that each individual has his or her own innate abilities, distinctive potential and unique needs that, through individualized care grounded in positive supports, could be a contributing and valued member of their community.

With innovative teaching methods, individualized instruction and materials designed by Miss Devereux, her students began to thrive. School administration took notice of her success and began to officially refer students with special needs to her room. In 1912, Miss Devereux was offered by the Philadelphia Board of Education the position of the district's first Director of Special Education.

She turned down the offer, believing in the importance of educating the whole child through a then non-traditional curriculum that included life-skills, recreation and vocational activities. Instead she struck out on her own to establish a private school in her own home. With all of her savings and borrowed funds, which totaled \$100, she rented a home in Devon to house her growing school, which then numbered 12 students. Through perseverance and persuasion, she stewarded the growth of Devereux for decades, creating one of the Nation's largest and most well-respected nonprofit providers of behavioral healthcare.

This year, 6,000 staff has provided services to tens of thousands of children, adolescents and adults in eleven states, all abiding by Miss Devereux's legacy of the "Philosophy of Care": individualized services, positive approaches and effective and accountable service delivery. In addition, Devereux's work in building the social and emotional health of schoolchildren through public education and prevention programs has impacted millions of children and their families in every state in the union.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Devereux on 100 years of service to countless children, adolescents and adults and their families, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and our Nation.

**JOB PROTECTION AND RECESSION
PREVENTION ACT OF 2012**

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of extending tax cuts for middle class families and small businesses.

I support a plan that allows generous tax cuts for the wealthiest two percent to expire, while also ensuring taxes do not go up on those that can least afford it. This is the plan

that passed the Senate last week. And this is the plan that President Obama said he is ready and eager to sign should it pass the House.

Unfortunately, however, this is not the plan being offered by the Majority on the floor here today. The Majority's proposal, H.R. 8, preserves tax cuts for the wealthiest two percent at the expense of middle class families and small businesses.

It gives, on average, an extra \$160,000 tax cut to millionaires while raising taxes on 25 million middle class families by an average of \$1,000 by restricting or eliminating crucial tax credits that middle class families depend on to pay their bills and send their kids to college, like the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and American Opportunity Tax Credit.

This is not the balanced, equitable solution my constituents on the Central Coast and the American people are asking for, which is why I strongly oppose H.R. 8 and will vote against it.

I will instead be voting for the substitute amendment, which is identical to the legislation the Senate passed last week.

It extends for one year the current tax rates on income, capital gains and dividends for taxable income up to \$200,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for couples. Under this plan, all taxpayers will benefit from the tax breaks on income up to these thresholds, and 98 percent of Americans and 97 percent of small businesses will see no tax increase at all.

This proposal also fixes the Alternative Minimum Tax for 2012 and extends several other important tax provisions that middle class families and small businesses depend on, including marriage penalty relief, expanded child and earned income tax credits, education tax incentives, and small business expensing.

This is a reasonable, responsible plan that should have bipartisan support.

Democrats and Republicans agree on the need to extend the tax cuts for middle class families and small businesses, and this plan does exactly that. The substitute reflects this consensus and gives middle class families certainty that their taxes will not go up next year.

We should move forward with what we already agree on instead of holding hostage those who can least afford it for the benefit of the wealthiest among us.

We simply cannot afford to continue the tax cuts for the richest two percent and leave middle class families with the bill. We have a serious deficit problem that requires a balanced solution to ensure everyone bears a fair share of the burden. Letting tax rates on the richest in our society simply return to where they were in the 1990s, when our economy was booming, is one common sense step in that process.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this balanced approach and voting yes on the substitute.

**THE RECENT TRAGEDY IN THE
COMMUNITY OF PENDLETON, INDIANA**

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a profound sense of sadness that I rise to mark a

tragedy in the community of Pendleton, Indiana that has taken the life of an innocent resident and a K-9 police dog and injured two police officers.

On the evening of July 26, 2012, John Neal Shull, Jr. of Pendleton, lost his life in a shooting incident. According to Pendleton Police Chief Marc Farrer, Shull was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. Mr. Shull was a business owner in Pendleton and a member of the local Kiwanis Club.

He will be remembered for his sense of humor and fondness for classic cars, but those who knew him best will remember John Neal Shull, Jr. as a devoted family man and friend. I want to offer my sincere condolences to his wife Noelle, their children and to his extended family.

Also lost during this terrible tragedy was one of Anderson's finest—K-9 police dog Kilo. Kilo and his handler, 11-year veteran police officer Marty Dulworth, were assisting Pendleton police with responding to the shooting. Officer Dulworth had been partnered with Kilo since 2010. The two have been responsible for several successful drug arrests and earned a number of awards during the K-9 Olympics. During the course of the incident, Officer Dulworth was wounded after suffering gunshots to his legs. Pendleton Police Sergeant Shane Issacs was also wounded while responding to the incident after being grazed by an assailant's bullet.

Mr. Speaker, I have always believed that we owe a debt of gratitude to those first responders who, like in Pendleton, rushed to the scene and put themselves in harm's way to ensure our protection. To choose the life of a police officer is to choose to make certain sacrifices for the good of the public. These men and women do so on each traffic stop, each knock on a door and each time they stand watch over a public event. For that, Mr. Speaker, we will be eternally grateful.

Let us keep the family of John Neal Shull, Jr. in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. We also pray for the full recovery of Officer Marty Dulworth and Sergeant Shane Issacs. Finally, as a dog owner, I feel for the loss suffered by Officer Dulworth and the Anderson Police Department, and on behalf of the Sixth District of Indiana, I want to express condolences and gratitude for the service of Kilo, the police dog.

**KANSAS STATE FIREFIGHTERS
ASSOCIATION 125TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Kansas State Firefighters Association as they celebrate their 125th anniversary this year. This organization was founded in the wonderful Kansas community of Minneapolis on August 13, 1887, and it continues to thrive over a century later.

This group came together to accomplish a very important mission, to assist local fire departments in establishing and maintaining safety, professionalism and preparedness. With that mission in mind, the Association has worked tirelessly to assist local departments any way they can to make sure they are ready

to save lives in their communities. As a farmer in Fowler, Kansas, I understand the importance of having an educated and well-prepared local fire department.

For the past 125 years the Association has worked to accomplish this goal, and I hope they continue to do so for another century and beyond. Words cannot express how grateful I am to these men and women who tirelessly work to ensure our fire departments have the educational resources they need to protect their local communities.

IN MEMORY OF MR. PETER E.
MALLORY

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Peter E. Mallory, of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, who recently passed away after a long and exemplary record of service to Volusia County, Florida.

Mr. Mallory was a family man, an entrepreneur, and an award-winning writer, but more than that, he believed in his community. Moving to Florida with his family from Ohio at a young age, Mr. Mallory graduated from New Smyrna Beach High, and had served on the board of trustees for Daytona State College and the Utilities Commission of New Smyrna Beach. His true passion would lay in writing, as his friend Henry Frederick has said, "All Peter ever wanted to do was write his own column, on his own terms, free of the bias of the liberal media."

In 2007 Mr. Mallory helped finance and began writing a column for NSBnews.net, New Smyrna's first 24/7 Internet newspaper. The newspaper has come a long way since 2007 and none of its success would have been possible were it not for the contributions and hard work of Peter Mallory. In addition to his journalistic endeavors, Mr. Mallory taught in the local high school and volunteered as a coach for several athletic teams.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Mallory passed away at the end of June, but his work and his passion for unbridled news remains as an example for others to follow.

Volusia County will miss the writings and community work of Mr. Peter E. Mallory and we salute his memory.

HONORING JOAQUIN JACKSON'S INDUCTION INTO THE TEXAS HEROES HALL OF HONOR

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joaquin Jackson's induction into the Texas Heroes Hall of Honor. Haynie Joaquin Jackson was born in Anton, Texas and served as a Texas Ranger from 1966 to 1993. During his career, Joaquin was committed to protecting our border communities and ensuring justice was served to those who broke the law. Also during his time, he saw the Rangers transition into the modern law enforcement agency it is today.

After being featured on a 1994 cover of Texas Monthly magazine, the retired Ranger became personified as the modern Texas Ranger. Joaquin appeared in several movies, including: The Good Old Boys with Tommy Lee Jones, Rough Riders and the Streets of Laredo, Palo Pinto Gold and Poodle Dog Lounge.

As a constituent of mine in Alpine, Texas, I am proud to congratulate Mr. Jackson on his outstanding life achievements and induction into the Texas Heroes Hall of Honor.

GADSDEN, ALABAMA POLICE OFFICERS AWARDED MEDAL OF VALOR

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Sergeant Scott Entekin; Clark Thompson; Colt Gregory; Jeff Hopper; Jordan Harwood; Stephen Hill; Sergeant Gary Pierce; and Mitch James, of the City of Gadsden Police Department in receiving the Gadsden Police Department's Medal of Valor on July 10, 2012. These fine officers should be applauded for their harrowing actions and professionalism in defusing a dangerous situation this past January in Alabama City, Alabama. These men truly embody bravery and a devotion to serving their community.

As an armed man fled from police through an Alabama City neighborhood, he began to fire at all of the officers. Many of the officers that responded are on the department's Joint Special Operations Group and are trained in tactical SWAT operations. Using their training, the officers worked to contain the situation without opening fire in order to prevent cross-fire in the residential area. In a team effort, including assistance from an Etowah County sheriff's deputy and a crisis negotiator, they were able to corner the shooter and convince him to surrender.

These courageous men were able to take the suspect into custody without any injuries that morning. This is a great testament to not only their professionalism, but also their restraint. The tremendous leadership shown by these officers is an example of their dedication to protect their community, as well as fellow officers.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a great privilege to honor these eight men: Sergeant Scott Entekin; Clark Thompson; Colt Gregory; Jeff Hopper; Jordan Harwood; Stephen Hill; Sergeant Gary Pierce; and Mitch James, for earning Gadsden Police Department's Medal of Valor for their heroic actions in keeping our community safe. I join their family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating them on receiving this distinguished honor.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE TAX ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012, H.R. 828

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today makes any person who has a seriously delinquent tax debt ineligible for federal employment or to continue serving as a federal employee. I will vote for this bill because I strongly believe that all Americans, including federal employees, should meet their legal tax obligations. However, this bill is an unnecessary distraction from the urgent problems facing Congress because there is no evidence to show federal employees deserve to be targeted for tax non-compliance. In fact, the data shows just the opposite.

The compliance rate of federal employees is much higher than the general public according to the most recent statistics from the Internal Revenue Service. The IRS says more than 96 percent of federal workers paid their taxes in full, on time, and have no outstanding debt to the government. This high compliance rate is even more impressive considering the families of federal employees have been forced to endure repeated pay freezes and benefit reductions in recent years.

An amendment from my colleague Congressman LYNCH of Massachusetts improved H.R. 828 by creating a process to ensure federal employees who are making a good faith effort to pay their tax debt or those suffering financial hardship are not unfairly targeted or dismissed. Still, the provisions of H.R. 828 will result in few new dollars going into the federal Treasury because federal employees are already the model for American taxpayers, not the problem. If House Republicans were genuinely concerned with improving tax compliance this body would be voting on legislation to close tax loopholes and tax shelters exploited by some of the nation's wealthiest individuals and corporations to avoid paying tens of billions of dollars every year.

The best course of action for this House would be to set this purely symbolic, politically-motivated legislation aside so we can focus on legislation that creates jobs and helps to grow the economy.

SEEKING A RESOLUTION TO THE DISPUTE ON CYPRUS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I once again come to this Floor to urge my colleagues to support efforts to achieve a resolution to the dispute on Cyprus. Tragically, I find myself here once again as yet another year has gone by with no end to the conflict.

While the Cyprus dispute is most directly between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, it has larger implications for regional security and prosperity. Over the past few decades this dispute has involved not only the Cypriot communities, but also Turkey, Greece, the United

Kingdom, the United States, the United Nations, and the European Union. Moreover, Turkey's membership to the European Union, which the United States enthusiastically supports, is unfortunately being impacted because of the impasse over Cyprus.

In 2003, it looked like we were on the cusp of a resolution when Cypriots voted on the United Nations backed Annan Plan which would have created the United Cyprus Republic, as a loose confederation of two component states—the Greek Cypriot State and the Turkish Cypriot State.

That plan provided a strong framework for a bi-zonal, bi-communal unified Cyprus; and the U.S. House of Representatives strongly endorsed the plan by unanimously approving a Sense of the House to that effect. Regrettably, the Annan Plan did not succeed when put to a referendum.

Ultimately, the Cypriots themselves are the ones who must make the tough decisions that will ensure a peaceful future for their island. Nevertheless, I urge the administration to work with all stakeholders to ensure that a future unified Cyprus is a Cyprus that respects human rights and the fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots. Any unnatural or unnecessary artificial limitations imposed on either community are a recipe for future disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that a lasting, fair and comprehensive solution to the conflict on Cyprus is possible. If we avoid inflammatory rhetoric and political statements and instead work in unison to bolster the efforts of the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots to work together in good faith for the future of all Cypriots; the future will be bright for Cyprus.

RECOGNIZING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, HURON OHIO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the sesquicentennial anniversary of Christ Episcopal Church, located in Huron, Ohio. The congregation comes together with the community in celebration of this milestone event on August 3, 2012.

Organized in 1837, the church cornerstone was laid on May 23, 1938. The church building is in a beautiful setting overlooking Lake Erie and parkland. A steeple was completed in 1876, followed by the placement of a bell in 1881. That bell has called worshippers over the centuries through the present day. As its congregation grew and changed with the modern day, the church added classrooms, a kitchen, fellowship hall, choir room, offices, meeting rooms, library, a chapel and columbarium. In 1975 a new steeple was erected along with a modern impressionist stained glass window of the Living Christ behind the altar. Though modernized, the church has retained its original feel. As one of Ohio's oldest churches, Christ Church is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Of note, in its 175 years the parish has been served by only nineteen rectors with long pastorates marking their service. Each brought a leadership distinct and dynamic. A truly

faith-filled parish, the members of Christ Church have never locked its doors. Since its earliest days, the church is always open for prayer and meditation. The church and its members hold true to Christ's message explained in Matthew 18:20, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them." Faith and fellowship have guided the congregation nearly since our region's founding. We proudly commemorate this 175th anniversary while looking forward to Christ Church's future.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3803, which unfairly targets the District of Columbia for a prohibition on abortions after 20 weeks, with no exception to protect a woman's health. This bill is simply another in a long line of attempts by House GOP to undermine a woman's fundamental right to choose.

H.R. 3803 directly contradicts *Roe v. Wade* by prohibiting pre-viability abortions and making no exception to protect a woman's health. The narrow exception in this bill that allows for an abortion when it's necessary to save a woman's life is completely inadequate. H.R. 3803 does not include an exception for abortions that would prevent severe harm to a woman's health, or for survivors of incest or rape.

Finally, the nature of this legislation derides the democratic process by empowering politicians to make health decisions for citizens that they do not represent. The singling out of District citizens—who have never had the opportunity to elect a voting Member of this body—is a cynical move that ignores their wishes and undermines the locally elected City Council and Mayor. I urge my colleagues to oppose this misguided legislation.

CONGRATULATING ABBY JOHNSTON

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Upper Arlington resident, Abby Johnston, on winning an Olympic silver medal in the women's 3-meter springboard synchronized diving competition at the 2012 London Olympic Games. On July 29, 2012, Miss Johnston and her diving partner, Kelci Bryant, took home America's first-ever Olympic medals for this event.

In Columbus and Central Ohio, we take our sports very seriously. Abby Johnston was cheered on by her fans both here at home and abroad. In London, her parents, Elaine and David Johnston, as well as former coaches and teammates from Upper Arlington High School and the local U.S. Elite Diving Acad-

emy rooted for her poolside. Back in Ohio, Abby's accomplishment is a true point of pride for our city and it brings us together to celebrate as a community.

An athlete works hard, dedicates many hours to practice, and puts forth a great deal of effort, but an Olympian takes all of that to a much higher level. I ask that all Members of Congress join me in offering my congratulations to our very own hometown Olympian, Abby Johnston, on winning her silver medal at the 2012 London Olympic Games.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHAD FOSTER

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Chad Foster. Chad passed away this past Saturday after a battle with cancer at the age of 63. He is survived by his wife Jill and their son Chad Jr. and daughter Savannah.

Chad was a true public servant, who will be remembered as a committed leader and strong supporter of the Eagle Pass community. After serving three terms as Eagle Pass mayor, Chad went on to serve the community by leading numerous local and state organizations, including as the chairman of the Texas Border Coalition.

Chad was passionate about the advancement of our border communities. He focused his life on encouraging education, border security, health care, and other development programs that supported the people of South Texas. Chad will be sorely missed in our community, but his passion and legacy will certainly live on.

HONORING WESTERN NEW YORK OLYMPIANS

HON. KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, on July 27, 2012, Olympic athletes from all over the world paraded into the stadium in London to officially launch the 2012 Olympics.

I am so proud to say that eight American Olympians hail from Western New York: volleyball player Matt Anderson, born in Buffalo; archer Jake Kaminski, from Elma; swimmer Ryan Lochte, born in Rochester; rower Meghan Musnicki, from Naples; rower Henrik Rummel, formerly of Pittsford; current number one ranked pole vaulter Jenn Suhr, from Churchville; 10-meter air pistol shooter Jason Turner, formerly of Rush; and two time U.S. Soccer Female Athlete of the Year Abby Wambach, from Rochester. Throughout their lifetimes of training, hard work, and sacrifices, these athletes embody what it means to be an American.

They carry with them to London the pride of Western New York and the entire nation.

As we wish them and the entire team good luck, my hope is that a sense of common purpose joins all of us as Americans during the Olympics.