

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
DOTTIE P. MARSHALL

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today, I come before this body to give praise and express gratitude to Dottie P. Marshall, National Park Service Superintendent for the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Dottie is retiring this month after close to forty years of service with the National Park Service. She began her career in 1971 as a member of the Youth Conservation Corps at Harpers Ferry National Historic Park. She went on to direct one of the service's Youth Conservation Corps camps. Over the years she has been a budget analyst, administrative officer, Deputy Superintendent, Associate Regional Director and Superintendent.

I first met Dottie when she began work at the George Washington Memorial Parkway more than 12 years ago. The Parkway is the largest contiguous property in my congressional district. It includes Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial and the Women in the Military Service for America Memorial, more than 29 sites and resources. They all enhance the lives of my constituents on a daily basis. Of course, throughout our acquaintance there have been dozens of contentious issues we have had to deal with over the years. But, almost all of them have been resolved amicably. And in the pressure cooker that the Nation's capital can become, she has deftly managed to solve problems large and small before any lids were blown. Dottie epitomizes "grace under fire."

Recounting them now is like a walk down memory lane. From standing with her when rumors about the imminent closure of the popular Belle Haven Marina generated a large and angry turnout to discussing which type of plant would be the ideal buffer between a residential neighborhood and Jones Point Park, Dottie has shown leadership and wisdom. In every circumstance and on every occasion, Dottie has been fair, honest and dedicated in her commitment to resolve whatever matter was at hand. In fact, long ago she earned my respect, trust and appreciation.

I am particularly proud of several major projects that she successfully completed, including restoration of the Slave Quarters at Arlington House, improving the ramp from the 14th Street Bridge onto the northbound lanes of the parkway and honoring the World War II veterans who finally received their long overdue recognition for their intelligence work at the secret interrogation facility known as "P.O. Box 1142," today known as Fort Hunt.

I wish her the best in her future pursuits. Dottie can take pride in knowing her skillful management will ensure that of many of our Nation's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources will endure long after we are all gone.

Dottie, congratulations on a job well done, and thank you for your exceptional service.

EXPANSION OF THE WOMEN'S
POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DIS-
ORDER RESIDENTIAL TREAT-
MENT PROGRAM AT THE BATA-
VIA VA MEDICAL CENTER

HON. KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the opportunity to recognize the expansion of the Women's Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Residential Treatment Program at the Batavia VA Medical Center in my district today. This is the first residential PTSD treatment center for women veterans in New York State. The VA is anticipating the treatment of up to 120 women veterans at this facility, and will provide care from 6–8 weeks depending on their needs. The \$5.4 million in funding for this project was provided by a women's health initiative by the Department of Veterans Affairs and will help provide vital services to female veterans throughout Western New York.

For over two decades women have served on the battlefield, leading to unprecedented trauma that requires focused treatment upon their return to civilian life. And with more women serving in the military than ever before—15 percent of all active military personnel and 20 percent of reservists—we must expand the availability of health facilities and benefits to our women veterans.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, women veterans are four times more likely to have long lasting PTSD than men, which may lead to severe depression, substance abuse, and physical health problems. The VA is taking the proper steps to adapt to the growing number of women veterans; however, there are currently less than a dozen centers in the United States that provide PTSD services.

Without the selfless actions of all the brave men and women of the Armed Forces, past and present, our country would not live so freely. For years, our veterans have gone untreated for PTSD, causing perpetual hardships for them and their families after they have returned home from the battlefield. Today, we recognize our female veterans and make progress in providing them with the proper care they need and deserve.

HONORING THELMA AND JOSEPH
LASALVIA FOR RECEIVING THE
CHRISTE FIDELIS AWARD

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two of my constituents, Thelma and Joseph LaSalvia, for receiving the Christe Fidelis Award in recognition of their devotion to their faith and to St. Louis de Montfort Parish.

On November 6, 2011, Cardinal Francis George of Chicago honored Thelma and Joseph LaSalvia with the Christe Fidelis Award at a prayer service celebrated at Holy Name Cathedral. Christe Fidelis, which translates to "Loyalty to Christ," is awarded to Catholics throughout the Archdiocese who have demonstrated a high level of Christian service through various ministries in their respective parishes.

Thelma and Joe LaSalvia are well deserving of this award. Over the years, they have been involved in the ministry of care to the sick, the capital campaign, and the church's contemporary choir. They also celebrate a weekly communion service at a local nursing home, volunteer on the church decorating committee, and serve as sacristans for their weekday liturgies. Through this aid they illustrate their dedication to the parish and to making a positive difference in the lives of many people in need.

As a fellow Catholic, I am strengthened by their example of faithful living. Their help to those in need, to the sick, and to the elderly is remarkable. I applaud Thelma and Joe LaSalvia for their selfless dedication to others and wish them well as they continue their journey as faithful Catholics serving others.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF
2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, Iran's quest for nuclear weapons puts the entire globe at risk.

Iran has proven itself to be less than truthful in its discussions about its nuclear weapons program. It hid its nuclear enrichment facility in Qom from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It told the world it was enriching uranium for non-military purposes, but the enrichment site at Qom and elsewhere appear to have no civilian application.

And while sanctions have had some impact, Iran has persisted in its efforts to obtain nuclear weapons. Iran has also succeeded in evading the impact of existing sanctions by creating one front company after another to shield its activities.

• 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.

What's particularly troubling, is that at the same time as it is building its nuclear program, Iran has continued to threaten its neighbors. It has armed and funded Hezbollah and Hamas, which are dedicated to eradicating the state of Israel. In 2005, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that Israel should be wiped off the face of the map. In 2008, he said: "The people of the region would not miss the narrowest opportunity to annihilate this false regime."

But Israel is not Iran's only target. In November a senior commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guard threatened to bomb NATO bases in Turkey. Iran is currently threatening to close the straits of Hormuz, which will affect shipping, with particular impact on the crude oil exported from Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iraq and liquid natural gas from Qatar.

Given Iran's success in developing a nuclear program, a number of its neighbors have suggested that they may follow suit, creating further instability in the region. Earlier this month, Turki al-Faisal, who has served as the Saudi intelligence chief and as ambassador to the United States, suggested that Saudi Arabia may seek nuclear weapons. Wikileaks revealed that Egypt's leaders told U.S. officials that Egypt would acquire nuclear weapons if Iran did. This lends greater urgency to the need to persuade Iran to end its nuclear ambitions.

Nuclear weapons are particularly threatening when held by a nation whose leaders have no apparent respect for human life. Iran has an unrivaled record of human rights abuses, from the imprisonment of people of the Ba'hai faith, to the use of the death penalty against minors, to the use of torture and amputation against prisoners, to discrimination against women, to the suppression and murder of members of the democracy movement. With thousands of its citizens murdered, tortured or imprisoned, Iran's record of human rights abuses is among the worst in the world.

History shows that when dictators threaten their neighbors, there's good reason to fear. And given Iran's history of threats, its dedicated progress in enriching uranium, its evident determination to hide its nuclear program from the world and its abysmal human rights record, the world should do everything possible to hinder it from obtaining nuclear weapons.

That's why I strongly support H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction Act, which would implement a commonsense enhancement of existing sanctions—by providing greater options to sanction entities doing business with the Central Bank of Iran; by expanding the types petroleum-related activities that could trigger sanctions to include certain petroleum resource agreements with Iran, purchasing Iranian debt and supporting port facility construction and management; by imposing sanctions on individuals involved in human rights abuses or terrorism; by imposing sanctions on those who do business with Iran's Revolutionary Guard; by allowing states or other organizations to divest from Iran; by identifying those entities that are helping Iran evade sanctions, among other things.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in support of H.R. 1905.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rolcall 931, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN OPPOSITION OF IMPLICATIONS
TO MEDICAL RESEARCH IN H.R.
1254**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a possible unintentional consequence of H.R. 1254, the Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2011. This legislation would add two categories of synthetic drugs to the list of Schedule I controlled substances.

While I am troubled by news reports involving these drugs and I support restrictions on the sale of these chemicals for purposes of illicit use, I am concerned about the impact the ban would impose on legitimate scientific research, including much needed medical advances.

To maintain our position in the world as the leader in the research and development of pharmaceuticals, we must ensure that researchers have access to the compounds necessary to discover and create new drugs. We cannot afford to stifle these advancements. At a time when other countries continue to make gains in medical research, we must make certain our researchers have all available means necessary to further their studies and uphold our competitive edge.

If enacted into law, should this measure hinder any progress in the arena of medical research, I would urge Congress to re-examine this issue in a way that protects public health while continuing to make much needed medical advancements possible. In the meantime, I would also urge my colleagues in the Senate to thoroughly examine this issue during any consideration of H.R. 1254 or a similar legislative proposal.

HONORING CHIEF MASTER
SERGEANT DAVID W. PARKER**HON. JIM JORDAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the outstanding contributions of Chief Master Sergeant David W. Parker who recently retired after thirty-two years of service with the Ohio Air National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing.

Chief Parker enlisted in the Ohio Air National Guard on December 31, 1979, and began basic training in February, 1980. He started as an Electronic Warfare Specialist in the Electronic Counter Measures Shop in the Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

There he earned the rank of Technical Sergeant.

In 1994, Chief Parker was chosen as one of only three members of the 180th to be part of the Combined Task Force at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, where he was part of a team that provided electronic countermeasures maintenance support.

In 1995, he was promoted to Master Sergeant. In 1998, he was selected First Sergeant of the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. He was named the Enlisted Association's First Sergeant of the Year in 1998 and the 180th Fighter Wing First Sergeant of the Year in both 1998 and 2004.

He became Senior Master Sergeant in 2005 and Chief Master Sergeant in 2008. In 2010 he became the NCOIC of Student Flight, a position he held until retirement.

Throughout his career, Chief Parker was deployed numerous times, including such locations as Cold Lake, Canada; Incirlik Air Base, Turkey; Balad Air Base, Iraq; and Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

Chief Parker also received copious awards during his thirty-two years of service including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Small Arms Marksmanship Ribbon, the Ohio Commendation Medal, and the Ohio Award of Merit.

Chief Master Sergeant David W. Parker's long and distinguished career with the Ohio Air National Guard is a shining example to all who volunteer and serve. I am proud to wish him and his family every success as they move on to a new chapter in their lives.

CURBING CONGRESSIONAL
BENEFITS**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two more pieces of legislation to curb the benefits currently available to Members of Congress.

The first ends the automatic pay increase privilege for Members of Congress. In 1989, Congress established the current formula for automatic annual salary adjustments under the Ethics Reform Act. The formula is based on the Employment Cost Index which tracks changes in private sector wages and salaries. Unless Congress passes a law blocking it, the adjustment goes into effect automatically.

The current system is set up to allow Members of Congress to receive pay raises without having to cast recorded votes for them and that is just wrong. Requiring recorded votes on pay increases will not only make the actions of Congress more transparent but it is another step that will make Congress more accountable to the citizens who elect them.

Another benefit available to Members is lifetime eligibility for service in Congress. A lifetime of service in Congress is, I believe, far too insulating and privileged to assure us that our Representatives are firmly empathetic to and aligned with the needs of the American people. But given the significance of seniority in Congress, States that encourage their members to pledge to limit their terms voluntarily are at a disadvantage with States that

don't. I believe that the solution is to make term limits mandatory by passing a constitutional amendment that would limit the terms of Members of Congress so that everyone will be subject to the same requirement. I am introducing a proposal to do this, and limit House and Senate Member terms to 12 years.

These bills are the latest proposals of my ongoing efforts to reform Congress. In addition to chairing the Congressional Balanced Budget Amendment Caucus, and so working to take away the unlimited ability of Congress to borrow money, I introduced House Resolution 270 in January, which would cut Congressional pay by 10 percent as well as reduce Congressional office budgets. In September, I introduced House Resolution 2913, which would terminate the pension plan available to members of Congress. All of my reforms are about changing the culture of Washington, D.C. to make government work for the American people.

I urge the passage of these bills.

HONORING ERWIN J. KORCZYNSKI

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Erwin J. Korczynski, a talented pilot and patriot from Chicago, Illinois who died on January 5, 2011 of prostate cancer.

From an early age, Captain Korczynski exhibited the success and commitment to public service that would define his life. Born in 1942 to first generation Polish American parents, he achieved the rank of Life Scout for the Boy Scouts of America, lettered 6 times in Track and Field at Lane Technical High School, and was a member of the famous Chicago Cavalier Drum and Bugle Corps. He also attended Northern Illinois University and entered the priesthood at St. Ambrose Seminary in Davenport, Iowa—a calling that he would later selflessly leave to join the Marine Corps.

Even in his early years, Captain Korczynski showed a passion for aviation. From the age of 15, he and his twin brother Edwin took flying lessons and graduated with their flying licenses at the age of 18. He joined the Marine Attack Squadron, VMA 131 in 1963 during the escalation of the Vietnam War. During the course of the war, he rose to the rank of Sergeant and was honorably discharged in 1969.

Following his tenure with the Marines, Captain Korczynski flew commercial planes during the golden age of commercial aviation. Impressively, over 25,000 hours of flight time he maintained a spotless record while at Eastern Airlines and several other airlines around the world.

Using his flying talent to again serve our country, Captain Korczynski volunteered from 1990 to 1991 during the Persian Gulf War. As a pilot in the Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF), he flew civilian aircraft to transport troops and supplies necessary to liberate Kuwait. Captain Korczynski was an honorably discharged Marine and a reservist at the time, but was not activated during the conflict. He volunteered to serve anyway, showing his patriotism and dedication to his country.

In his later years, Captain Korczynski trained and mentored young pilots. Certified

as a commercial airline check airman and flight instructor, he instructed young pilots at the Gulfstream Flight Academy for Gulfstream Airlines based in Miami, Florida. He left an everlasting impression on these young pilots who would later recall these stories of his Marine Corps days, commercial airline career, and world travels as “Erwinisms.”

Our country owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to Captain Korczynski for his tireless defense of our country during two major conflicts. In neither case was he obligated to don a uniform. In voluntarily joining the Marines and airlifting 30 years later, he illustrated his commitment to freedom and democracy around the world. Simply put, the United States is a better country because of him. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Captain Korczynski's twin brother, Edwin, wife Henrietta, daughters Elizabeth and Kiersten, sons Ryan and Christian, and granddaughter Emmalyn. He will always be remembered as a great man and a great American.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK TAYLOR

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated, compassionate and effective public servant Frank Taylor, who is retiring after serving the people of Macomb County, Michigan for 33 years, the last 10 as Director of the County's Community Services Agency. Mr. Taylor is a leader in the field of Community Action Agencies and a shining example of everything a public servant should aspire to be.

Mr. Taylor graduated from Wayne State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education in 1974. The next year he began teaching and coaching at Harper Woods Public Schools and began earning his Master of Arts Degree in Education from Oakland University which he completed in 1980. In 1979, he began his successful tenure with Macomb County, starting at the Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board as a Youth Programs Supervisor. He rose through the ranks becoming Assistant Director in 1982 and holding that position until 1997 when he was promoted to Director. In 2001 he embraced a new challenge, moved departments and became Director of the Macomb County Community Services Agency.

Under Mr. Taylor's leadership the Community Services Agency established highly effective programs and services that addressed that most pertinent needs of county residents. He worked diligently to leverage funds from the Recovery Act, administering over 14 million dollars for vital programs such as Home Weatherization, Food Assistance and Early Head Start. In fact, through creative thinking, he was able to leverage funds and make the vital Early Head Start program permanent one year after its enactment.

In addition, the Senior Nutrition program vastly increased the number of meals offered to homebound senior citizens and the Food Program increased the amount of emergency food distributed. Mr. Taylor effectively identified grant opportunities to provide emergency services to low income individuals in need.

In 2010 Mr. Taylor led a statewide initiative to purchase a multimillion dollar client database within nine months that substantially increased accessibility and efficiency. The initiative included a plan to deliver training to staff and is now being used by every Community Action Agency in the State.

I have witnessed first-hand Mr. Taylor's passion and dedication through the years. He is an outspoken advocate for low-income home energy assistance, as well as the Community Service Block Grant program, which is so important to the delivery of vital services to those in need. Mr. Taylor has always focused like a laser on ensuring that residents of the county receive the highest quality of services in an efficient and compassionate manner. It has been a true pleasure for my staff and I to work with him, and the citizens of Macomb County are grateful for his dedicated service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Frank Taylor, who has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of living for working class people in Macomb County for 33 years. I am confident he will continue to play an important role in the community where he is highly thought of, in addition to enjoying a bit of retirement. Importantly, he and his wife Rosanne, married 34 years, now get to enjoy spending time with their first grandchild, Olivia, just born on December 6th.

LEGISLATION TO ALLOW CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation today with the following Members: Mr. ELIJAH CUMMINGS, Mr. JOHN DUNCAN, and Mr. PEDRO PIERLUISI.

Currently, Members of Congress are allowed to nominate a limited number of candidates to the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. However, the smallest of the five federal service academies—the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, USCGA—does not accept congressional nominations.

Instead, the USCGA admits candidates through a process that closely resembles the admissions processes of civilian colleges and universities. Without a congressional nominations process, the applicant pool of candidates to the USCGA is predictably less geographically diverse than at the other military service academies. The inevitable result of a less geographically diverse applicant pool is a less geographically diverse class. The statistics bear this out; in fact, there was not a single appointment from Arkansas, Delaware, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands in the USCGA Class of 2015.

Under my legislation, starting in academic year 2013, each Member of Congress would be allowed to nominate up to three qualified candidates to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. In turn, the Coast Guard would be required to

fill a quarter of slots for the incoming class from the expanded pool of qualified, geographically-diverse applicants received through the congressional nominations process. Then, in each subsequent academic year, half of the slots in each incoming class would have to be filled through the congressional nominations process.

My legislation will not require the Coast Guard to lower its student selection criteria or increase the size of the student population. To the contrary, it anticipates that the Coast Guard will utilize its criteria to select the best candidates from the pool of Member-nominated candidates for half of the slots in the incoming class, just as it will do to fill the slots in the other half of the incoming class. My legislation simply seeks to make Congress a partner in helping to put talented young people—from every corner of the country—on the path to a rewarding career in the U.S. Coast Guard.

I urge support of this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to vote on the Conference report to H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act of FY2012 on December 14, 2011. I would like to have it reflected in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that if I had the opportunity to vote on H.R. 1540, I would have voted “aye.”

COPTIC CHRISTIANS UNDER ATTACK

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Christians in Egypt are under attack. The revolution may have overthrown a longtime dictator, but it has not freed Christians there from decades of persecution. In fact, it may have made matters worse.

Christians in Egypt are a deeply rooted minority of about 10 million in a largely Muslim society of 81 million. Prior to the revolution, they had a hard time. Discrimination was not an official policy of the Mubarak regime—he didn’t want to lose his aid dollars the U.S. was giving him—but he sure made it hard on Christians. When Christians wanted to build a new church or renovate their own, they had to get a permit. That’s fine, except for the fact that the Mubarak government intentionally delayed the permitting process. Churches would have to wait years for permits—some churches are still waiting. Mubarak pretended to fix this problem when he handed permitting control over to the 28 regional governors, but wait times for a permit didn’t get any better.

They were also discriminated against when it came to appointments to high-level government and military posts. There were only a handful of Christians in the upper ranks of the

security services and armed forces. There was one Christian governor out of 28, one elected Member of Parliament out of 454 seats, no known university presidents or deans, and very few legislators or judges. According to the State Department, public university training programs for Arabic-language teachers exclude non-Muslims because the curriculum involves the study of the Koran.

Other discrimination was official for everyone to see. Under Egyptian law, Muslim men can marry Christian women but Muslim women are prohibited from marrying Christian men.

And sometimes discrimination progressed to outright violence against Christians. In September 2010, in the Omraneya district of Cairo, Egyptian authorities reportedly used excessive force and live ammunition on peaceful demonstrators protesting the government’s continued refusal to approve a license to build a local church extension. Two people, including a teenager, were killed, and dozens were wounded. No one has been brought to justice.

When the government was using excessive force, it was radical Islamists. On January 1, 2011, a bomb detonated in front of a Coptic church, Al Qiddissin (Two Saints), in Alexandria, where a New Year’s prayer service was being held. At least 23 Christians were killed and nearly 100 wounded in the worst sectarian attack on Christians in Egypt in more than a decade. On January 23, then-Interior Minister Habib El-Adly asserted that conclusive evidence pointed to a militant group, Army of Islam, as responsible for the attack.

On January 11, 2011, an off-duty police officer opened fire in a train in Minya province, killing one Christian and injuring five others. The shooter, a Muslim, was charged with murder and will be tried in a state security court. The Ministry of Interior denied the shooting was sectarian.

When the revolution came, thousands of Christians fueled the protests, yearning for a new government that would respect the religious beliefs of its own people. But just a few weeks after the revolution, it became clear that Christians were actually in more danger.

During the revolution, a bunch of bad guys escaped prison. To protect themselves, monks at the Anba Bishoy monastery north of Cairo built a security wall. Well, the Egyptian military didn’t like that very much, so in late February they tore down the wall with machine guns and bulldozers. You can see video online of monks running for cover as the military is opening fire with heavy machinery. A monk and six church workers were injured in the process.

In February the governor of el-Minya, demolished 10 Coptic homes because the owners of those homes refused to contribute one-fifth of their property to build a mosque.

In early March in Cairo, 13 people were killed and nearly 150 wounded in clashes that erupted during large-scale demonstrations by Christians protesting the destruction of a church in the provincial town of Sol. The demonstrators called for the rebuilding of the church, punishment of perpetrators, and better treatment by Egyptian authorities. Some of the demonstrations reportedly blocked major highways. According to some accounts, the Egyptian military stood by for as long as four hours without intervening in the clashes.

On March 20, in Qena, Salafists, including an off-duty policeman, accused a Copt named

Ayman Mitri of renting an apartment to a prostitute, cut off one of his ears and mutilated his other ear. The attackers then informed the police that they had carried out the punishment required by Islamic law. As was usual under Mubarak, the police refrained from pressing charges and called for a “reconciliation” meeting between the religious communities. The Christian man agreed to compensation during the reconciliation session instead of pursuing criminal charges because the extremists allegedly threatened his family.

Also as under Mubarak, the authorities’ refusal to punish attacks on Christians has led to more attacks. On March 23, Salafists surrounded St. George’s church in Beni Ahmad and successfully demanded that a church expansion approved by the government be stopped. On March 27, they blockaded St. Mary’s church in Giza, saying it did not have a permit. After yet another “reconciliation” meeting between Copts and Muslims, services at the church were forbidden until it acquired a new permit.

On March 28, Salafists attacked a liquor store in Kasr El-Bassil owned by a Copt, destroyed other stores, and demanded that coffee shops be closed. One villager was killed and eight others injured. On April 5, hundreds occupied St. John the Beloved church in Kamadeer, stopping repairs after heavy rain, and told Copts that they were not allowed to pray there anymore. After yet another “reconciliation,” Copts were told to build a church 200 meters away, one without a dome, cross, bell, or any other external feature marking it as a church.

Beginning on April 15, over 10,000 demonstrators, mostly Salafists, protested in the southern province of Qena against the appointment of a new governor, Emad Mikhail, who is a Christian (the previous governor, Magdy Ayoub, was also Christian). Protesters blocked main roads, stopped buses to separate men and women passengers, and disrupted the main rail route in Upper Egypt for eight days. There were threats to bar Mikhail from the province and even to kill him. Tensions ran so high that local Christians stayed inside and couldn’t celebrate Palm Sunday. The armed forces refused to intervene, and, although Egypt’s cabinet initially rejected calls for the governor’s resignation, on April 25, Prime Minister Essam Sheraf surrendered and said he would “freeze” the appointment for three months.

On April 28, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom for the first time recommended to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that Egypt be labeled a “Country of Particular Concern (CPC).” This designation refers, as commission chair Leonard Leo noted, to “the world’s worst religious freedom violators and human rights abusers.”

The abuse continues, with the worst violence against Christians in decades.

On October 9 thousands of peaceful demonstrators marched in downtown Cairo to protest the attack of a Coptic Christian church and called for an end to the systematic discrimination against Copts by the Egyptian authorities. At some point in the protest, violent clashes erupted between the protesters and the Egyptian military forces. Video shows Egyptian military tanks speeding through crowds and running over protesters. At one point, the Egyptian State Television aired a message calling on “honorable citizens” to

take to the streets to protect the Egyptian army from “the Coptic protesters.” The call was answered by Islamists who came in to join the violence against the Christians. In what is now known as the “Maspero Massacre,” over 25 people were killed and 300 injured. This marked the first time that the military—not the state police or radical Islamist groups—used violence against Christians.

Since the revolution, 5 churches have been attacked. The most disturbing part of these attacks is that they all happened in broad daylight, with the military standing by and watching. Those perpetrators who are clearly identified by video footage of the attacks have still not been arrested.

Former state security officials who tortured Christians have not been brought to justice either. One woman has burn marks on her arms and on her inner thighs from state security officials that wanted to know who the priest was who baptized her and what church she was baptized in. She wouldn't give his name, so the torture went on for three days. She knows the names of her abusers because they made sure they introduced themselves before they started the torture. But have they been tried? No.

Another man was tortured by state security because he converted from Islam to Christianity. He described how they removed his clothing, tied him down and put a metal chair between his legs and tied wires around his genitals and to his toes and then turned on the electricity. He knows the exact location of where he was tortured and the name of the person who tortured him, but of course he has not been brought to justice.

There is one more disturbing story to tell and that has to do with the kidnapping, rape, and forced marriage of Christian women to Muslim men. In testimony before the Helsinki Commission, it was described like this.

Christian girls are lured to an isolated place, drugged and kidnapped. Often, they are raped. They are then forced to marry their rapist and forbidden from returning to their families. Here is one story from Christian Solidarity International and the Coptic Foundation for Human Rights' report.

R. was abducted October 11, 2005. She had lived in the same neighborhood all of her life and knew all the neighbors. She was especially good friends with the daughter of a neighboring Muslim family, Sarah. They practically grew up together and were like sisters, inseparable. Sarah had an admirer named Wali, a classmate, who called her all the time. Wali began to call for Sarah on R.'s phone. His calls became so frequent that finally R. told Wali to stop calling her. He became very angry. “You will regret telling me not to call you,” he said in a threatening voice. She stopped seeing Sara after that. This happened in 2004.

After a year and a half, she received a call from Wali's telephone number. The voice was different and polite. A young man introduced himself as Amir, and said that he was an admirer of hers. He also knew everything about her. He wanted to meet her in a church. When R. said that she did not usually meet people she did not know, he replied that he knew she was on her way to church and that he would wait for her outside. There, he introduced himself and asked R.'s mother for her hand in marriage. The mother replied that it was not so simple. Amir went to their flat the next day

to speak to R.'s father. Amir told R.'s father that he wanted nothing from the family except for their daughter's hand in marriage. He had seen her in the street and instantly felt that she would be a perfect wife for him.

R.'s father did not want them to date until he met the boy's parents. Amir kept giving excuses: his mother was sick and his father was out of town. Finally, he told them that his father died. R.'s parents wanted to go as a family to pay respects but Amir said that this would not be necessary since his home was far away.

Later that week, Amir's sister contacted them and came to meet R. R. was engaged and ready to be married. She said she was not deeply in love, but that Amir seemed like a decent person. Amir's sister Christina asked R to go shopping with them. R.'s mother initially opposed the idea but finally relented when the girls told her they would not go far.

Christina offered to find a taxi and returned saying she had found one quickly. In retrospect, R. says that this was odd since they lived in a neighborhood in which it was usually difficult to find taxis.

Christina gave directions to the taxi driver to a close-by shopping area. It was a warm day and Christina offered R. some juice. R. declined but Christina insisted and drank it, remembering that the bottle was already opened. By the time she finished her juice, she felt quite dizzy. The taxi took a detour onto a dirt road and stopped in an isolated area. The driver said that there was something wrong with the car and he needed to check. Christina got out as well.

A van pulled up full of people and some came over to get her. Amir was one of them.

R. could not talk, even though she wanted to ask many questions. They began to beat her and she fainted.

When she woke up, she was in bed surrounded by many different strange men. “Amir” told her that he was in reality Wali, whom she had dismissed so abruptly in the past and he reminded her of his threat. He then announced that she was going to be married to a Muslim man.

She wanted to get out of the room but a woman blocked the door. She was locked in the room without her purse or her phone. This was the period of Ramadan, when under Islamic Law it is not possible to marry. Amir insisted on a conversion immediately. She was taken to the religious authorities where five other girls were waiting. All of them were Christians preparing to marry Muslims.

The papers were signed and the conversion was complete. R. was given the Muslim name of Fatimah. She refused to say the proclamation of faith and was beaten.

She was married to another man she had never met, Mahmoud. When she refused to have sex with him, the family held her down while he raped her. She began bleeding profusely.

She stayed with him for 9 months and was beaten every day. The Coptic cross which was tattooed on her wrist was burned off with acid and she still has scars. R. was forced to cover herself completely when she left her home and was called Fatima by the family members. Her veil was black.

R. pretended to observe the Muslim rituals and prayers, but it was just a pretense for her. As a result of the rape and constant beatings, she became physically ill. When her husband

went to work, he locked her in the house, alone, without a phone. She was never allowed to leave by herself. On the day of her escape, she told her in-laws that she was going to pray in the mosque but instead she called her mother and said she wanted to come home. She took a taxi to her parents' house. She is unable to have children as a result of the rape.

The practice is horrible and nothing is done about it. One parish father testifies that he has had over 50 cases of forced conversions of Coptic women in one year alone in his congregation. Another bishop says he has 45 women who were abducted and are now living in his safe house.

The Egyptian government has so far failed to protect Coptic Orthodox Christians. All we're talking about here is allowing people to practice what they believe. The government should not be inciting violence against them or running them over with tanks. It should be going after those that burn their places of worship or kidnap, rape, and torture them. Christians need to feel like the government has their back, not that it is out to get them. There cannot be unity and reconciliation until people feel like there is some sort of equality in society. There has to be consequences for persecution. This Administration needs to make the protecting of religious minorities a major point whenever it talks to its counterparts in the Egyptian government. They need to be clear that there will be consequences for them too if nothing changes. Our aid is not endless and it is not free. We should not support tyrants and dictators who oppress their own people. Egypt must uphold fundamental human rights, including protecting Christians.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CRAIG J. ROLISH AND THOMAS W. HABERKORN

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize two individuals, Craig J. Rolish and Thomas W. Haberkorn, who have devoted themselves to ensuring prosperous futures for the military veterans of southwestern Pennsylvania. Back in 1993, Mr. Rolish and Mr. Haberkorn helped to establish Veterans' Community Initiatives (VCI), an organization dedicated to finding employment for the men and women who have returned home from serving our nation in uniform. Since then, VCI has served nearly 5,500 clients and made approximately 4,000 job placements. The willingness of these men to devote the last 18 years of their lives to serving the needs of veterans is a testament to their appreciation for causes greater than themselves.

Mr. Rolish is currently the Vice President/Treasurer of VCI. Having served in the Air Force in Vietnam, Mr. Rolish was forced to personally confront the challenges a returning soldier must face in trying to reintegrate into society. While he could have easily devoted the years following his service to ensuring his own wellbeing, he instead chose to continue to work to improve the communities of southwestern Pennsylvania. Upon returning to

Johnstown, Mr. Rolish put his financial expertise to good use, collaborating with Fannie Mae to help a number of individuals and small businesses rebuild after the devastating Johnstown flood of 1977. He also served as the CEO of the non-profit NORCAM, helping that organization to become one of the pre-eminent drivers of economic development in the region.

For Mr. Rolish, public service is a passion. He has served on a number of volunteer boards-and commissions, including the Highland Sewer & Water Authority and the Johnstown Area Regional Industry, and has been an effective fundraiser for causes close to my own heart. He is personally responsible for accumulating over \$100,000 for St. Jude's Hospital and over \$180,000 in private donations for a memorial statue of my mentor in public service, the late Congressman John P. Murtha. In recognition of his beneficence and selflessness, Mr. Rolish was honored with the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor award in 2002. This honor is given by the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation to outstanding individuals who embody the spirit of giving.

Thomas Haberkorn, VCI's Vice President/Secretary, has also devoted his life to serving the people, businesses and non-profits of southwestern Pennsylvania. Like Mr. Rolish, Mr. Haberkorn served his country in the Air Force in Vietnam and continued to serve the public welfare upon returning home. He has served as an East Hills Kiwanis Board member, as well as a member of Johnstown Professional Networking. He has also been active with a number of charities, including the Special Olympics and the Salvation Army.

Mr. Haberkorn's true legacy is his commitment to veterans. He began providing support to those who have served us in combat long before helping to establish VCI. Mr. Haberkorn has been very active with Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) for many years. He is the founder and current president of VVA Chapter 364, as well as the District Director of the VVA Pennsylvania State Council. In addition to working with VVA, Mr. Haberkorn has also done a great deal to support the local VFW, American Legion, and Conemaugh Valley Veterans. Like Mr. Rolish, he has been honored with the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor award in recognition of his outstanding public service efforts over many years.

Mr. Speaker, in all of the time I have spent engaging with local community leaders, I have rarely, if ever, encountered two men with stronger character than Craig J. Rolish and Thomas W. Haberkorn. Their fortitude and unwavering commitment to public service—and in particular to serving the needs of combat veterans—deserve our gratitude and appreciation. I am proud to represent them in Congress.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I voted for the final version of the 2012 National Defense Au-

thorization Act because passage of this bill is important to the servicemen and women of our country and their families. The bill provides an average 1.6 percent pay increase for our troops and ensures that TRICARE premiums for military retirees will not be higher than the rate of increase in the cost-of-living.

In addition, the bill authorizes \$225 million in construction projects for Hawaii, including projects in Fort Shafter, Schofield Barracks, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Kaneohe Bay, and Kalaheo on Oahu and Barking Sands on Kauai. These projects will provide jobs and strengthen the economy.

I do have reservations about the detainee provisions included in the bill. Although the provisions have been modified to provide protections for U.S. citizens, this issue deserves further

The bill does reject the broad House language on the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Section 1034), which many feared could be used by the current or a future president as an unlimited authorization to go to war.

The final bill does not include provisions from the House-passed bill that would have discriminated against gay and lesbian service members. It also provides new protections for victims of sexual assault in the military. These are positive changes that improve the bill.

In addition, the bill reauthorizes for six years the Small Business Innovation Research, SBIR, and Small Business Technology Transfer, STTR, programs, which I strongly support. The SBIR program provides grants as a way to increase participation by small companies in federally financed research and development activities. The related STTR program encourages commercial development by small companies of university and federal laboratory research projects.

I introduced bills earlier this year to strengthen these programs by doubling the amounts of the Phase I (initial investigation phase) and Phase II (research and development) grants, which have been static since 1982. Under the reauthorization provided in this bill, the Phase I awards will rise from \$100,000 to \$150,000 and Phase II grants will increase from \$750,000 to \$1 million. The SBIR program has been especially important in Hawaii and has helped to nurture the growth of some of our most innovative companies, such as TREX Enterprises, Oceanit, Archionetics, and Cellular Bioengineering, Inc., to name a few.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because people are suffering. Time's running out for America's long-term job hunters. If Congress fails to act by December 31, nearly 2 million will be cut off in January alone. And without action in 2012, that number will rise to at least 6 million.

The Ways & Means Committee has been collecting stories on Facebook of people who have lost their jobs and Mr. LEVIN has been reading them on the floor. Yesterday SEIU

launched the ExtendUI tweet-a-thon in hopes to make a powerful case to ExtendUI without cuts or preconditions that hurt the 99 percent. I also collected stories on my Facebook page and via Twitter. Here are some of the stories from my constituents in their own words. Republicans, are you listening? Can't you hear the pain and cries of the American people?

Don Wright: "I need a job for a lot of reasons but the most important one is Dignity. When you don't have a job you feel terrible. It is hard to face other people especially your family. You don't feel like a man anymore. You can't get any respect from your wife and if she leaves you nobody wants to go out with a man without a job. So you are staying single and broke and alone. You get depressed and feel hopeless and you are a good man if you fight against envy—envy of others who have jobs and the things that a job brings. Your family loves you but are at the same time ashamed of you and your kids become worried at being asked what their Daddy does. The list goes on all of it bad. A job any job would be better than no job. Keep the jobless in your mind and hearts."

Paula Christianson: "I lost my job over a year ago due to an accident that left me disabled longer than the Family Medical Leave Act allowed. I had worked there for almost 7 years and was voted employee of the month but none of that mattered when they sent me a termination letter to my home. This has all contributed to my depression issues and Generalized Anxiety disorder. All I do is worry how I am going to survive! It consumes me. Please don't take away this help it is my and many others only hope left! I am not looking for a handout just a helping hand to continue to support my family until I can find employment! Again, please help!"

Patricia Dentley: "I took an early termination package in hopes of continuing working until retirement age, but almost 6 years later, I'm still unemployed, and because of how my package was setup, I couldn't claim unemployment during the initial period after working. I was never in anyone's statistics regarding unemployed, with no benefits other than filing for early retirement or not having that. Most of the jobs with the company I was with is now in other countries with whom the American companies are paying less money, less benefits, and reaping a lot from these countries. I do want the other people in these countries to improve their lives, but we also have to live in ours. I don't know if you remember when our country paid farmers not to farm, now, not only are many people in our country unable to purchase the higher cost foods today, but other countries whom they could have helped are also starving, why, because of greed. I hope this helps not only you Representative RANGEL, but a lot of other people you are fighting for."

Jeanne Alvarado: "I was laid off from my position at Coca Cola Enterprises a year and a half ago. This happened two months before I was to be vested in the company. To say the least, I was devastated and depressed however, I picked myself up and immediately started seeking employment. I have applied to hundreds of positions within the five boroughs which include all the beverage companies, nursing homes etc. I have only had the opportunity to interview for five positions. The painful hard fact Congressman is that companies do not want to hire people of my age group.

There is nothing out there for us at this age. I am 52 years old and I have worked since I am thirteen. Most of my teen and adults years I worked two jobs while raising my children. At this age I should be enjoying life with my family and grandchildren however, I find myself scared, depressed and full of anxiety at the thought of perhaps finding myself homeless. I have only one check left and then I will have no income. My savings is totally gone, as a matter of fact I do not even have a bank account anymore. My credit is destroyed and I am in a serious financial crisis. The little \$288 dollars I receive from unemployment helps me keep food on the table and pay the minimum to my bills which are all behind. Thank God my son won a scholarship for college or else he might not have been able to further his education. I have to say I resent the Republicans for assuming that we the unemployed are lazy and do not look for work. Yes this might be the case for some however, there is good and bad in everything in life just as there are good Politicians and bad ones. That does not mean we must form a general opinion based on only a few. I am not a lazy person. As a matter of fact, I am willing to clean toilets if it means keeping a roof over my head and food on my table. Most Republicans are rich and will go home to a happy holiday, for many of us there will be no holiday. I cannot even afford to buy a tree this year. Please let the Republicans in the House know that many people, does not matter Democrat or Republican, are watching and are growing a real distaste for the cruel treatment we are getting. Thank you Congressman for you time."

STATEMENT REGARDING H.R. 10,
REINS ACT, DECEMBER 7, 2011

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly oppose the REINS Act (H.R. 10). This reckless legislation would put American families at risk while doing nothing to create jobs.

If enacted, H.R. 10 would delay and possibly block agency rulemaking in critical areas of public health and safety. This legislation would require that any "major" new rule be approved by Congress and the President within 70 legislative days. If Congress fails to act by the deadline, the proposed rule could not be reviewed again until the next Congress. My Republican colleagues do not deny this cumbersome process would prevent many new rules from taking effect. They argue preventing new rules is necessary to stimulate hiring and strengthen the economy.

The House Republican majority has used similar justifications to undermine existing regulations that create a level-playing field for business and protect the health and safety of American families. Earlier this month, Republicans passed the Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act (H.R. 527) and Regulatory Accountability Act (H.R. 3010). These bills add new layers of bureaucracy intended to hamper enforcement of important environmental, labor, financial and food safety laws.

Evidence does not support Republican claims that federal regulation is to blame for persistently-high unemployment. According to

the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), only 0.3 percent of Americans laid off in 2010 lost their jobs due to "government regulations." In 2011, the BLS found even fewer layoffs attributable to regulations—0.18 percent. A McClatchy News survey of small businesses in August 2011 did not identify a single business owner who complained about regulation in their industry. In fact, McClatchy reported that "most seemed to welcome it and some pointed to the lack of regulation in mortgage lending as a principal cause of the financial crisis that brought about the Great Recession of 2007–9 and its grim aftermath."

Bruce Bartlett, a former advisor to Republican Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, said congressional Republicans' anti-regulatory fervor has nothing to do with jobs. Bartlett recently wrote: "Regulatory uncertainty is a canard invented by Republicans that allows them to use current economic problems to pursue an agenda supported by the business community year in and year out. In other words, it is a simple case of political opportunism, not a serious effort to deal with high unemployment."

Economists from across the political spectrum agree the real impediment to hiring is weak demand in the economy. Increasing demand is the focus of President Obama's proposed American Jobs Act, which independent economists say would create over 1 million jobs. Despite the jobs crisis facing over 14 million Americans, House Republican leaders refuse to bring the American Jobs Act to the floor for a vote.

H.R. 10 and other anti-regulatory bills will not only fail to create jobs, they expose American families and small businesses to new and unnecessary risks. President Obama has threatened to veto the bill, arguing it would "delay and in many cases thwart" implementation of important rules and increase unnecessary confusion and uncertainty in the economy. The Coalition for Sensible Safeguards warns that H.R. 10 "would make it virtually impossible for federal agencies to ensure that American families are protected from tainted food, unsafe drugs, predatory financial schemes, dirty air and water, and dangerous workplaces."

Abandoning Americans to an unregulated marketplace is not a solution for economic growth—it is a sure threat to public safety. In recent years, many Americans have died as a result of E.coli and salmonella outbreaks in our food supply. A failure to enforce federal workplace safety standards resulted in the tragic deaths of 29 miners in West Virginia. Under-regulation allowed irresponsible bankers and mortgage lenders to destroy the education and retirement savings of millions of Americans. America is, in fact, facing a regulatory crisis. Not the crisis of "over-regulation" my Republican colleagues claim, but a series of crises resulting from a failure to enforce and enact common-sense rules.

Sensible regulation is necessary for an efficient, fair and innovative private market. But we should not be surprised that industry will not always support—and rarely ask—to be regulated. History shows that industry groups initially opposed new requirements for seat belts and air bags, limitations on mercury pollution and even restrictions against child labor. In the short-term, narrow private interests often conflict with the broader public interest. Over time, well-designed and consistently-en-

forced rules often prove to be less costly and more beneficial than originally expected.

Democrats and Republicans should be working together to improve the federal regulatory structure. Our shared focus in Congress should be on reforming regulations to increase results and reduce costs. Partisan attempts to weaken common sense rules and protections will not make our economy—or our country—stronger.

I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 10 because it undermines public safety and distracts Congress from the urgent task of creating jobs.

HONORING VICTOR GRIFOLS
ROURA—SPAIN-U.S. CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE 2011 BUSINESS LEAD-
ER OF THE YEAR

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Victor Grifols Roura on being honored as the 2011 Business Leader of the Year by the Spain-U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Grifols Roura is President and CEO of Grifols, a global healthcare company with U.S. headquarters in my congressional district in Los Angeles.

Founded in Barcelona, Spain in 1940, Grifols is a leading producer of plasma protein therapies essential for the treatment of a variety of rare, chronic and often life-threatening diseases including: hemophilia, von-Willibrand disease, primary immune deficiencies, and alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency. All of Grifols medicines are derived from human plasma collected at one of the company's 147 plasma donation centers across the country.

For three generations, the Grifols family has been dedicated to improving the lives of patients around the world. One of the company's founders, Dr. Jose Antonio Grifols Roig, developed the plasma donation technique known as plasmapheresis with Dr. Edward Cohn in 1950. Still the method of choice today, plasmapheresis is an automated process that enables individuals to donate plasma while retaining their red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. This groundbreaking invention gave rise to the modern plasma therapeutics industry.

Mr. Speaker, Grifols employs 700 people in its corporate, manufacturing, warehousing, and testing facilities in California's 32nd District. The company has invested \$135 million in these facilities since 2003 and is moving forward with plans to add 70 new manufacturing jobs.

As part of its commitment to Los Angeles, Grifols supports local organizations that promote education, job training and skills development for area residents. Through an industry partnership with Los Angeles Trade Technical College, Grifols devises curricula and hosts seminars in microbiology, manufacturing, interviewing techniques and resume preparation. Graduating students are given the opportunity to tour the Grifols manufacturing facility and learn about the production of plasma therapies.

Grifols also partners with the Wilshire-Metro WorkSource Center, which provides workforce

development resources to job seekers and local businesses. Grifols hires interns from the Center who have completed their certificate program in technology. In addition, the company interviews all graduates of the program to provide them with valuable, real-world experience.

Grifols presence in the U.S. was greatly enhanced this year by the acquisition of Talecris Biotherapeutics. This transaction, valued at almost \$5 billion, is the largest acquisition ever completed by a Spanish company in the U.S. Grifols is now the world's largest collector of human plasma, the third largest manufacturer of plasma protein therapies globally, and the leading plasma manufacturer in Europe.

Mr. Speaker, the Spain-U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the leading forum for the promotion of commercial, economic and industrial relations between Spain and the United States. Founded in 1959 and based in New York City, the Chamber is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering economic outreach between the two countries.

The Chamber honored Mr. Grifols at its annual gala dinner in Manhattan on December 6th. The U.S. Ambassador to Spain, the Spanish Ambassador to the U.S., and the Spanish Minister of Culture joined over 250 guests in recognizing Mr. Grifols Roura's commitment to fostering expanded economic and social ties between the U.S. and Spain.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Victor Grifols Roura for his outstanding leadership of Grifols and for his well deserved honor as 2011 Business Leader of the Year by the Spain-U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

TRIBUTE TO COACH ANDREW
TRENKLE AND THE MAINE
SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITUTION
TEAM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Andrew Trenkle and the Maine South High School Constitution Team for their achievement in winning the Illinois State Title of the "We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution" competition. This extraordinary accomplishment marks the twentieth time in twenty one years that Maine South's team has won this title.

"We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution," a program sponsored by the Center for Civic Education, educates students on important issues including the purpose of government, the function of the Constitution, and the importance of citizen participation. Participants are encouraged to identify and communicate their own opinions, thereby developing strong skills in discussion, debate, and compromise. In the "We the People" competition, teams of students participate in simulated Congressional hearings, presenting statements and answering challenging questions about the United States Constitution. This year's victory of the 2011–2012 Maine South Constitution Team demonstrates their deep understanding of Constitutional principles as well as their aptitude for critical thinking and teamwork.

Congratulations to all the members of the 2011–12 team: Coach Andrew Trenkle, Paul Ansani, Jeremy Apolinski, Austin Bryniarski, Ethan Campbell, Colton Cannon, Claire Floriano, Merrill Hester, Luke Kapolnek, Lauren Krone, Renee Kumon, Jimmy Loomos, Thomas Lis, Meredith Machon, Caroline Murphy, Kyle Richardson, Michelle Roberts, Allie Sakowicz, Daniel San Gabino, Matt Sherbahn, Katie Solberg, Sarah Tarabey, Caroline Unger, Maddy Vogg, Patrick Wohl, Alex Zaug and Lindsey Zawila.

The United States of America was founded on the principles of civic involvement and responsibility. The students of Maine South High School have proven that they embody those principles and that they will grow to be passionate and capable future leaders. On behalf of the 9th Congressional District, I congratulate you on this outstanding achievement and wish you the best of luck at the National Competition in April 2012.

HONORING CHICAGO POLICE
OFFICER NIAL FUNCHION

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Nial Funchion of the Chicago Police Department for his swim across the Strait of Gibraltar on October 6, 2011, and for his support of the Brotherhood for the Fallen, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting the families of fallen police officers.

Officer Nial Funchion is an 18-year veteran of the Chicago police force and a trusted public servant. He first became involved in the Brotherhood of the Fallen following a funeral for a colleague killed in the line of duty. At that funeral, he noticed a group of uniformed police officers offering condolences to the family of the slain police officer. He was deeply moved by this kind gesture and contacted the Brotherhood for the Fallen to see how he could help.

Already a tremendous swimmer, Officer Funchion has since dedicated his swimming endeavors to the Brotherhood for the Fallen to raise public awareness for the organization. His most recent swim dedicated to the Brotherhood was perhaps his most impressive. He crossed the 12 miles separating Spain and Morocco, known as the Strait of Gibraltar, in three hours and fifty minutes. Not only did Officer Funchion brave rough waters to complete his swim, but he did so while being followed by a family of orca whales.

Officer Funchion plans to add to his swimming accomplishments by completing endurance swimming's Triple Crown. Over the next two years he intends to complete the 28.5 mile loop around Manhattan Island and the 21 mile swim across the Catalina Channel in southern California. He previously crossed the English Channel in 1992 with the fastest time by an American that year. I applaud Officer Funchion for protecting our community, performing amazing feats to help others, and supporting the Brotherhood for the Fallen, and I wish him safety and calm waters in his coming endeavors.

TRIBUTE ON THE PASSING OF
OFIELD DUKES

HON. HANSEN CLARKE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I honor the life and legacy of Ofield Dukes, a public relations pioneer, long-time friend of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), and fellow Detroit. Mr. Dukes was firmly committed to fighting for justice and equality for all people.

Mr. Dukes, an Army veteran, graduated from Detroit's Wayne State University with a degree in journalism. After graduation, he worked at The Michigan Chronicle, a weekly African American-run newspaper based in Detroit, until he moved to Washington D.C. in 1964 to work for the federal government.

Mr. Dukes served as the deputy director of public affairs at Lyndon B. Johnson's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity. From 1966 to 1968, Mr. Dukes was a communications advisor to Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey.

Mr. Dukes founded his public relations firm, Ofield Dukes & Associates, in 1969. The firm focuses on political and minority affairs with a focus on African-American and African issues. Mr. Dukes' first client was Detroit's Motown Records. Today, Ofield Dukes & Associates represents the Democratic National Committee, Howard University, The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, and the Congressional Black Caucus, among other notable clients.

Mr. Dukes' relationship with the Congressional Black Caucus dates back to its founding in 1971 when he helped organize the first Congressional Black Caucus dinner. Mr. Dukes also served as an advisor to several CBC chairpersons. He was a founding member of the CBC Foundation, served on the Foundation Board for 14 years, and worked to improve the socioeconomic circumstance of African-Americans around the nation.

Mr. Dukes also spent his time reaching out to younger generations. He taught at the Howard University John H. Johnson School of Communications for 25 years and American University's School of Communications for 8 years, inspiring hundreds of African-American students to pursue careers in public relations and politics.

Mr. Dukes' work ethic, dedication, and resilience embody the spirit of Detroit. In October 2011, Mr. Dukes returned to his hometown of Detroit, Michigan because of his love for the city, family, and friends. After a struggle with bone cancer, Mr. Dukes passed away on December 7, 2011. I am honored to call Mr. Dukes a friend and colleague. He will be greatly missed.

URGING TURKEY TO SAFEGUARD
ITS CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on H. Res. 306, regarding religious

freedom in Turkey, a longtime friend and ally of the United States.

The value we in America place on freedom of religion goes to the very heart of American democracy, and we have a strong interest in promoting religious freedom globally. As with other indicators of democracy and human rights, nations that respect religious tolerance generally enjoy greater economic prosperity and social stability. While I support this resolution and encourage further progress on religious freedom in Turkey, I also believe we must seek to support these standards in an even-handed manner.

I would like to emphasize the importance of U.S.-Turkish relations. From Turkey's critical support in Afghanistan and elsewhere, as a uniquely positioned NATO ally and their substantial humanitarian contributions in response to famine in the Horn of Africa to Turkey's efforts in support of the Syrian people as the Assad regime's brutality intensifies, Turkey continues to be a strong partner in addressing some of the world's most vexing problems. As revolutionary calls for democratic governance sound throughout the Middle East and North Africa, we must continue to work closely with Turkey, whose position as a democratic, majority Muslim country can play a positive role in transitions in the region.

Moreover, I would like to acknowledge the positive steps that the Turkish government has taken to address issues of religious freedom and tolerance. This August, the Turkish government issued a decree inviting non-Muslims to reclaim churches and synagogues that were confiscated 75 years ago and has eased some citizenship requirements on Orthodox clergy. Unfortunately, H. Res. 306 omits recognition of these important commitments. While issues remain, particularly with regard to the Ecumenical Patriarch, I am encouraged by the efforts that have been made and hope for further progress.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Turkey and Turkish Americans, I look forward to the ongoing alliance between our countries.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRISCO FIRE CHIEF MACK BORCHARDT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Fire Chief Mack Borchardt for his dedicated service to the Frisco Fire Department and to the people of the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

Chief Borchardt first became a volunteer Frisco firefighter in 1973; at that time, Frisco had an all-volunteer fire department. In November 1987, Chief Borchardt became Frisco's first fulltime fire chief. Through his leadership, diligence, and organization, the Frisco Fire Department now has more than 140 fulltime department members.

Under Chief Borchardt's leadership, the Frisco Fire Department has expanded to become an outstanding example to departments nationwide. They are one of the select few departments in the country that have an ISO 1 rating, which is a testament to their superior standards and procedures. The Frisco Town

Council recognized Chief Borchardt with a resolution proclaiming December 2011 as Aubrey "Mack" Borchardt Month in Frisco. His service to his community, society, and peers throughout the past 30 years is indeed an inspiration.

I am honored to represent the city of Frisco and many of its residents in the United States Congress. I, along with his family, friends, and the citizens of the 26th District celebrate his tireless commitment to his community. Please join me in recognizing and thanking this exceptional community leader for his selfless commitment to our society.

CONGRATULATING VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, RECIPIENT OF THE 2011 ASPEN PRIZE FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Valencia Community College on earning the inaugural Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence recognizes extraordinary accomplishments in community colleges, applauding those that serve as models for elevating community college education.

Valencia Community College was selected by the Aspen Institute after a competitive, year-long process during which 120 of the nation's top community colleges were judged based on student performance and graduation rates. Of Valencia Community College's full time students, more than half graduate or transfer within three years. This is well above the national average of 40%.

Founded in 1967 as Valencia Junior College, Valencia Community College's goal was to make its students successful, both in the classroom and in their personal and professional lives. Today, Valencia Community College is the third largest community college in Florida, educating more than 50,000 students each year.

This is not the first time Valencia has been recognized for excellence in education. Indeed, Valencia has a long history of national distinction. Valencia was recognized in 2009, with the inaugural Leah Meyer Austin Institutional Student Success Leadership Award; in 2007, by the New York Times as a leading community college; in 2001, by TIME Magazine as one of the nation's best schools at helping first-year students to excel; and in 1998, the National Alliance of Business named Valencia the Community College of the Year.

On behalf of the citizens of the State of Florida, I am pleased to congratulate Valencia Community College's President, Dr. Sanford Shugart, and Valencia Community College's Administration, Board of Trustees, and faculty for pursuing excellence in community college education, both nationally and as a critical part of Florida's education system. May their hard work and dedication inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

TO HONOR PFC BRENDAN MARROCCO, UNITED STATES ARMY, WITH A POEM: "STATEN ISLAND STEEL"

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. GRIMM.

STATEN ISLAND STEEL

All in the shadow of liberty . . .
 All in this most Gotham of all cities . . .
 There grew up to be, one of our nation's finest sons so indeed . . .
 As strong, as strong . . . as strong as can be!
 Army Strong that's who he!
 Whose heart and soul, makes our Lord so complete . . .
 Whose courage so makes even the Angels up on high so weep!
 Because . . .
 Some Steel, cannot so be crushed!
 Some Steel, will not so rust!
 Some Steel, cannot so be bent!
 Some Steel . . . cannot so be broken!
 As if this Steel was Heaven sent!
 All in how, his heart of Steel has so spoken . . .
 So very deep down inside, all in what Rocco is invoking . . .
 That which so brings such tears to eyes . . .
 Which against all odds somehow kept hope alive!
 To So Teach Us . . . To So Reach Us . . . To So Beseech Us!
 Because, The Greatest Steel In This World . . .
 Comes from Staten Island, my little boys and girls . . .
 Yea, The Stronger than anything known to man!
 Staten Island Steel . . .
 Move over Superman, you're just a comic book . . . Rocco is real!
 And Batman this is not your city anymore!
 Brendan Marrocco, "Rocco" . . . Aka . . . Staten Island Steel!
 Because, Rocco you have the word hero stamped all across your chest!
 As you Rocco put the B . . . In Be The Best!
 All found in your heart of gold, and your life's quest . . .
 For Army Strong is your life's song!
 Brendan, You Rock . . . all night long . . .
 And when we gaze upon his heart, we feel the burn!
 And now more Steel has so been forged!
 The Bear! PFC Bryan Dilberian a 10th Mountain Man . . .
 A Brooklyn Man, a Real Beastie Boy who stands!
 A question asked, "in New York, what are you putting in that water man?"
 This Christmas and Hanukkah, remember all of those men and women . . .
 Who upon them this our Nation do so depend . . .
 Who with hearts of Steel, all for us so live and die . . .
 As across this nation families cry . . .
 Separated by death and distance, who this holiday season so miss this . . .
 And men like Rocco, who with hearts of Steel . . .
 Who to all of us so reveal!
 That word Hero, Brendan Marrocco . . .
 Staten Island Steel!

REMEMBERING REVEREND
WILLIAM KELLER

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the life and ministry of Reverend William Keller.

Reverend Keller faithfully served as a pastor for nearly 70 years in both Illinois and my home state of Indiana. While attending Olivet Nazarene College in 1943, he founded the East Side Church of the Nazarene in Kankakee, Illinois. He later continued his education at both Ball State University and Liberty University.

Reverend Keller was a dear friend of mine, and I mourn the loss of this great public servant. His record of achievement in his community and around the country is extensive and includes serving as Executive Chairman for World Wide Pictures, attending Billy Graham's School of Evangelism, and participating in the Conference on Evangelism in Amsterdam among others. Reverend Keller was also a member of the planning committee for the Leighton Ford and the Lowell Lundstrom Crusades in Muncie, and he organized several open air festivals.

In 1953 he founded the William C. Keller Construction Co. that built churches, office buildings, service stations and residential housing, and Reverend Keller also developed the Keller West Addition in Muncie.

Beginning in 1969, Reverend Keller served as President of the Delaware County Evangelical Association. Among his many involvements, he was also a member of the Board of Social Concern for the National Association of Evangelicals; past Governor and Lt. Governor of Division H, District 11 of Toastmasters International; past chairman of the steering committee of National Issues Forum; and he served several years as a volunteer Probation Officer and court appointed Special Advocate for children.

I offer my most sincere condolences to his bride of 73 years, Irene; their six children: Martha Lovern, Harold Keller, Dave Keller, Paul Keller, Don Keller, and Bill Keller, Jr.; fifteen grandchildren; twenty-two great grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; and his siblings Charles, James, and Reba. While the loss of Reverend Keller's selfless work in the community will be deeply felt, heaven is richer with his passing.

MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND
JOB CREATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3630, the GOP Tax Extenders Package. This bill does nothing to create jobs, support the middle class or stimulate our economy. Instead, the Republicans have decided to play politics at the expense of ninety-nine percent of American families.

As we wrap up this year's legislative business, individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits, physicians anxiously awaiting certainty that they will be adequately reimbursed for treatment they deliver to Medicare patients and millions of middle class families facing a tax increase are depending on us to put politics aside and act responsibly. Unfortunately, the GOP Tax Extenders Package is mere political theater that takes an irresponsible approach to solving these issues.

Mr. Speaker, President Obama called on Congress to extend the payroll tax deduction in order to save working Americans an average of \$1,500 over the next year. If Congress does not act by the end of the year, American families making an average of \$50,000 per year will see their taxes raised \$1,000. At a time when the average American is struggling to make ends meet, it is essential that we extend the payroll tax cut to ensure that middle class American families can spend the money they've earned. Lowering the rate Americans contribute to Social Security out of their paychecks will help stimulate consumer spending, create jobs and revive our economy.

While the Republican bill we are considering today extends the current payroll tax cut by two percent and addresses the SGR "doc fix" for two years, there are a number of ideological poison pills attached to this bill that simply make this measure unacceptable. First, the bill cuts Medicare provider rates by over \$21 billion and significantly increases the number of Medicare beneficiaries required to pay higher premiums for services they need.

Second, the bill would cut over \$21 billion from Affordable Care Act programs, which will increase the ranks of the uninsured by 170,000 Americans. Although we are making progress in ensuring that more Americans have access to quality and affordable health insurance plans, the Republicans are recklessly attempting to roll back provisions of the Affordable Care Act that have proven successful at increasing access to healthcare. The Prevention and Public Health Trust Fund, an essential piece of the Affordable Care Act tasked with promoting healthy lifestyles and prevention treatment to keep Americans healthy, would suffer a deleterious \$8 billion cut.

Further, this bill would roll back the amount of time benefits are provided to recipients of emergency unemployment compensation. The current program allows beneficiaries to receive unemployment compensation for up to 99 weeks; however, the Republican Tax Extenders Package would lower that amount of time to 59 weeks. As we are all aware, the current job market is extraordinarily bleak. With the unemployment level in my district hovering around twenty percent, shortening the length of time benefits are provided would have a devastating impact on those who rely on unemployment compensation as their main source of income.

Mr. Speaker, cutting back emergency unemployment compensation from 99 to 59 weeks hurts the most vulnerable members of our society. That is why I submitted an amendment to this legislation that would extend current unemployment benefits for 2012, if the implementation of subtitle B of title II is found to have a disproportionately adverse effect on workers aged 55 and older by the Secretary of Labor. Had my amendment been made in order and adopted, it would have provided

much needed relief to job-seeking seniors in this tough economic environment.

Time is running out. Republican brinkmanship on must-pass legislation continues to damage job creation and create uncertainty for businesses and the markets. In their Pledge to America, House Republicans promised to focus on jobs and keep extraneous and controversial provisions out of must-pass legislation. This bill is yet another example of their broken promises to the American people.

For all these reasons I cannot support H.R. 3630, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE ADKINS BROTHERS FOR ONE HUNDRED FOUR YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, in southern West Virginia, "family" has a very special and sacred meaning. Its definition goes far beyond the traditional; more than a group of individuals related by blood or marriage. It is an ideal that transcends all West Virginians; an institution protected, trusted and revered by all. It is the core thread woven into and throughout the fabric of the values we treasure most.

Today, I rise to honor a family of West Virginians from the Logan County community of Pine Creek, in the coalfields of southern West Virginia. They are nine brothers, nine of the eleven sons of the late Olive and Oscar Adkins, who collectively served in our Nation's military for more than 100 years. This is truly a "band of brothers" for which our Nation owes a debt of gratitude.

Shakespeare outlined the honor and drew distinction for the Band of Brothers in the famous St. Crispin's Day speech, a motivational speech delivered to troops about to enter battle in Act IV of the play, Henry V:

Old men forget; yet all shall be forgot, but he'll remember with advantages what feats he did that day. Then shall our names, familiar . . . as household words . . . be in their flowing cups freshly rememb'ed.

This story shall the good man teach his son . . . from this day to the ending of the world, But we in it shall be remembered—we few, we happy few, we band of brothers; For he today that sheds his blood with me; shall be my brother . . .

Fate was kind to the nine Adkins brothers. None were seriously injured, and all returned home safely, although many who served with them were not so lucky. All the Adkins brothers were honorably discharged, and all were proud to serve their country. The pride in this remarkable record of military service is shared by their parents, two other brothers, Hobart and Robert, and four sisters, Madeline, Ruth, Lyndell, and Iris.

The nine who served include Harvey, who was in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1943 to 1946; Jason, who was in the U.S. Army at the end of World War II in 1945 and 1946, then again from 1952 to 1955 during the Korean Conflict; Leon, who served in the Air Force from 1948 to 1952 in the Korean Conflict; Billy, who served in both the Army and Air Force from 1948 to 1954; Lowell, who

served in the U.S. Air Force from 1954 to 1974 in both Thailand and Vietnam; Franklin, who served in both U.S. Air Force and Army from 1956 to 1976; Vernon, who joined the Army and served from 1958 to 1979; Linden, who served in the Army from 1965 to 1967; and Clifton, who served in the Army from 1959 to 1981.

Selfless service and sacrifice are the twin pillars supporting our Republic. Surely, these values, so important to the future vigor of our democratic principles, were instilled in the Adkins Brothers by devoted and dedicated parents. Such a record of service is not happenstance or coincidence; rather, it is a record built with an abiding faith in the Almighty's continued blessings on this land of liberty.

Mr. Speaker, in sum, the Adkins brothers share 104 years of U.S. military service, a milestone record of service, that I hope the U.S. Department of Defense will soon formally recognize. I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging my fellow West Virginians as true American patriots and to thank them for their distinguished service to our great Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 932, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

CELEBRATING THE 84TH BIRTHDAY OF HIS MAJESTY KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, December 5 marked the 84th birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. I would like to take this opportunity to send warm wishes to him and to the people of Thailand as they commemorate his 65-year reign as King of Thailand.

The world's longest-serving monarch, His Majesty King Bhumibol ascended to the throne on June 9, 1946. Throughout his reign, King Bhumibol has both witnessed and been instrumental in the transformation of Thailand into a prosperous, modern state, with a strong agricultural sector and modernized manufacturing and services industries. His contribution to such progress and the devotion and compassion he has for the Thai people has earned King Bhumibol the love and respect of his people as well as worldwide recognition for his leadership.

As a leading advocate for sustainable, human-centered development, King Bhumibol has worked hard to address the critical development issues facing his country and his people, applying scientific knowledge and initiating development projects that take into account the topography, traditions and culture of a region. Focusing on agricultural development, King Bhumibol has overseen thousands of de-

velopment projects undertaken to improve the food security and welfare of the Thai people. His concern about the sustainability of Thailand's natural resources has spurred several water resource and reforestation projects throughout the country.

I would also like to celebrate the 178-year diplomatic alliance and friendship between Thailand and the United States—one that reflects both common interests and shared values, namely: democracy, good governance, and the rule of law. Indeed, on March 20, 1833, the United States and Thailand (then known as Siam) signed the Treaty of Amity and Commerce, making the Kingdom of Thailand the first treaty ally of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region. His Majesty King Bhumibol's state visit to the United States in 1960 further cemented the excellent relations between our two nations.

Lastly, I would like to express my deepest sympathies to the people of Thailand for the recent historic floods in Thailand, and reiterate my support for both ongoing and additional humanitarian efforts aimed at providing civilian and military assistance to save lives, restore health, and facilitate Thailand's economic recovery. The United States remains committed to supporting Thailand's long-term recovery. The United States government has contributed significant humanitarian assistance, United States citizens and private sector have donated to reconstruction efforts, and the United States will continue working to help improve Thailand's capacity to prepare and respond to such disasters in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join our long-standing friends, the people of Thailand, as they celebrate the 84th birthday anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and his esteemed 65-year reign of and dedication to Thailand.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN FRANKLIN THAMES

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to pay tribute to a constituent who has dedicated his professional career to coaching high school basketball and—over the past half century—has developed generations of successful young women while breaking and setting winning records for women's basketball in South Carolina. I commend Coach John Franklin Thames for his 50 years of coaching women's basketball in the Palmetto State. It is very fitting that a scholarship for gifted athletes will be established in his honor at his alma mater, Manning High School.

John Thames grew up in Alcolu, SC and graduated from Manning High School in 1953. At that time, America was at war with Korea. He spent six months as Executive Officer of Training Company at Fort Jackson, and served 13 months in Korea as an Army Tank Platoon Commander. Following his military service, he matriculated at Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina, graduated in 1958, and returned home to serve his alma mater for the next half century.

Over his 44-year career as the Lady Monarchs head coach, Coach Thames' teams

amassed two State Championships, three State runner-ups, 15 Regional Championships, and seven Regional Tournament Championships. He was named Region Coach of the Year 14 times and the Sumter Item Area Coach of the year three times. In 1969, he was selected as the Pee Dee North-South All-Star South head coach. He served as head coach in the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association North-South Girls All-Star Game in 1984 and 2000. He was also one of two South Carolina coaches chosen to coach the South Carolina All-Star Girls against the North Carolina All-Star Girls at Winthrop University.

Coach Thames was nominated in 1991–92 as the Converse High School Coach of the Year and the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Coach of the Year in women's basketball. That same year, he was named Florence Morning News Class AAA Girls Coach of the Year. He has been a South Carolina Coaches Association of Women Sports MVP Honoree, and a 2000 High School Sports Report State Coach of the Year in AAA Girls Basketball. He was a 2009 Inaugural Inductee into the South Carolina Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame, and a 2011 Inaugural Inductee into the Clarendon County Athletic Hall of Fame.

Coach Thames has also had great success in other sports. He served as the Manning High School baseball coach for 14 years and as an assistant football coach for 36 years.

In 1993, his high school alma mater—and 50-year employer—named its gymnasium in his honor for "his lifetime of contributions to Manning High School." Presbyterian College also honored their esteemed graduate by recognizing Coach Thames as the 2011 recipient of the Bob Waters Award. This honor was given for his outstanding leadership and service to society and the profession of athletic coaching and for personifying those values and qualities of excellence and integrity held dear by his college alma mater.

Despite all the accolades he has accrued over his career, Coach Thames will be remembered most for his generosity and love of his players and all students. Since 2004, Coach Thames has conducted a free one-week basketball camp for girls. He is committed to ensuring that the inability to pay is not an obstacle for any girl to participate in the sport. For years, Coach Thames has used his personal funds to buy shoes for all of his players. He has done so because he doesn't want to single out the ones who cannot afford new shoes. He provides transportation and other clothing for many of his students who have limited resources. Coach Thames is also dedicated to helping students get into higher education institutions so they can pursue their dreams. "Coach," as he's lovingly known to everyone including non-athletes, is a mentor and father figure.

In addition to his coaching accolades, Coach Thames has twice been named the Manning High School Teacher of the Year. He received the 2008 Outstanding South Carolina Teacher of U.S. History by the Daughters of the American Revolution. He was inducted into the Kappa Alpha Order Court of Honor in 2009. Coach Thames is a recipient of the Silver Crescent, the highest civilian recognition awarded by the State of South Carolina for outstanding dedication to a local community, and has been inducted into the Clarendon County Education Hall of Fame. Coach

Thames is currently a member of the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association, the South Carolina Women's Basketball Coaches Association, the Coaches of Women's Sports and the National Basketball Coaches Association.

He is a longtime member of First Baptist Church in Manning, where he serves as a Junior Department Sunday School Teacher.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Coach John Franklin Thames for his remarkable career at Manning High School. He has set a tremendous example both on and off the court. It is my honor to pay tribute to such a distinguished Southern gentleman who, I believe, has earned the gratitude of his community, his state and his nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DUNEDIN HIGH SCHOOL

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of Dunedin High School, which first opened its doors in 1961. That year, 767 students and 44 teachers walked the halls for the first time. Half a century later the school serves more than twice that number of students, working to prepare them for their future while creating an environment that encourages students to explore their potential.

From the beginning, the school embraced the rich Scottish traditions that have characterized the city of Dunedin since its founding in 1870. The school selected a Falcon as the mascot, harkening back to the sport of falconry, a favorite Scottish pastime consisting of training and hunting with falcons. However, the Dunedin Highlander Marching Band is perhaps the most unique aspect of the school. This band not only wears the Dress Stewart Tartan plaid as their uniform, they are one of the few high school bands in the country that features bagpipes.

Since its establishment, Dunedin High School has sought to foster academic achievement, community pride and school spirit. Over the years, the students at the school have won numerous awards and state championships for academic, athletic and extracurricular activities. The students are not the school's only source of pride, as the dedicated teachers and administrative staff also have an award winning tradition, receiving many state and national awards for the high-quality education they provide.

Students who have graduated from Dunedin have gone on to achieve great success, with many staying in the area to raise their children and enrich the local community. This community support extends to the high school, with volunteers putting in over 28,000 hours at Dunedin High School last year alone. Notable alumni include local politicians, famous musicians, professional athletes, and Hollywood actors and directors.

I am honored to represent the students, teachers, and faculty who currently attend Dunedin High School as well as many of those that have enriched this public school for the last 50 years. I ask my colleagues to join

with me today in recognizing this important milestone and to wish the school continued success in the future.

REMEMBERING BROOKE TUTTLE

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to remember the exceptional legacy of service of Brooke Tuttle from my hometown of Columbus, Indiana.

Mr. Tuttle was born in Hicksville, Ohio, and received a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Management from Ohio State University in 1957. The next year he married his wife Barbara, who would become his bride of 52 years. After serving as a Captain in the U.S. Army from 1957–1959, Brooke Tuttle joined Cummins, Inc., headquartered in Columbus, Indiana, and he later earned a Masters in Business Administration from Indiana University in 1964.

During his 29-year career with Cummins, Mr. Tuttle had various responsibilities including: General Manager of the Fleetguard filtration business; leading the \$700 million worldwide parts and services distribution business; opening distribution centers in Asia, Europe, and Central and South America; and serving as Executive Director of Public Policy.

Brooke Tuttle was deeply invested in his local community and was responsible for outstanding growth and prosperity. He served as President of the Columbus Economic Development Board in 1985, and after he retired from Cummins three years later, Mr. Tuttle continued as President of Economic Development. During his 22 years as president, he spearheaded the expansion of 260 existing companies and helped attract 52 new manufacturing and technology companies. As a result of his hard work and dedication to the Columbus community, Columbus gained 10,000 new manufacturing jobs and \$2.2 billion of new investment. Mr. Tuttle retired from the Columbus Economic Development Board in 2007.

After his retirement, Brooke Tuttle served as President of LHP Technologies and continued teaching Economics at Ivy Tech and Indiana University/Purdue University Columbus (IUPUC) as an adjunct professor for twenty years. IUPUC awarded him the "Excellence in Teaching" award in both 1990 and 2010. His accolades also included the Columbus Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award and the distinguished Sagamore of the Wabash Award.

Despite his demanding and successful career, Brooke Tuttle never forgot to give back. He served as president of Rotary Club International, the Columbus Foundation for Youth, and the Columbus Girls Club. He also served as a Moderator for Leadership Bartholomew County, a Big Brother, and as a basketball coach for the Boy's Club. He was also a deacon at the First Presbyterian Church and served on the IUPUC Board of Advisors, as well as the Visitor's Center Board.

My deepest and most heartfelt condolences go out to his beloved wife Barbara, daughter Katherine, son Jeffery, and his nephew Philip. In the midst of this difficult time be encouraged that the innumerable contributions of Brooke Tuttle will not soon be forgotten.

MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the House Republican Majority has done nothing to create jobs during the first session of the 112th Congress and now they're adding further injustice by hurting the millions of Americans who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. The Republican unemployment insurance proposal would cut in half the total number of weeks of benefits provided, harm those States with the highest rates of prolonged unemployment, and allow unemployment funds to be used for other purposes.

If Congress does not act on an extension of unemployment benefits, more than one million Americans could lose their unemployment benefits next year. This is compounded by the Economic Policy Institute's findings that the drop in consumer demand resulting from expired unemployment benefits would cost the U.S. economy more than half a million jobs. This is unacceptable. According to the Congressional Budget Office providing federal unemployment benefits is one of the most effective ways to help boost the economy—in fact, for every dollar of benefits, nearly \$2 in economic growth goes into the surrounding community. We should be working to support American families instead of causing more damage.

This bill should be about extending tax incentives and not pushing through the Majority's anti-environment agenda. This legislation includes a provision that bypasses the Keystone XL pipeline environmental review process by requiring the President to make a decision whether to approve the project within 60 days, even though a final route has not yet been proposed. It is responsible and critical that the Administration complete a proper assessment of the health risks and potential toxic contamination to the surrounding communities posed by the pipeline. Any effort to rush this process and compel a decision before a thorough review should not stand.

The Majority also is attempting to block air quality standards that have been thoroughly reviewed. The EPA is more than a decade late on issuing emissions standards requiring incinerators and boilers to reduce toxic air pollutants. While this would impact less than 1 percent of all boilers in the U.S., the Republican Majority is again attempting to nullify and delay the discharge limits. The pollutants from these emissions are linked to asthma, cancer, and heart disease, with the EPA estimating that the pollution reductions required by the rules would prevent up to 8,100 premature deaths, 52,000 asthma attacks, and 5,100 heart attacks each year and yield \$12 to \$30 in health benefits for every dollar spent to meet the standards. Such controversial provisions as the pipeline and the emissions standards have no place in tax legislation.

The issue of spectrum allocation should not be pushed through at the end of this session. While H.R. 3630 grants the Federal Communications Commission the authority to conduct incentive auctions, it does not ensure proper oversight of the process. This is especially

concerning as it relates to the public safety network. In the immediate aftermath of September 11th the importance of a strong and consistent public safety network was clear—first responders and emergency workers must be able to communicate in emergency and disaster situations. There is an insufficient amount of funds to research, build, and develop the public safety communications network as well as no requirement that the network providing for effective governance and national operability.

Finally, while I wholeheartedly believe that we must fix the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate Physician payment formula (or “doc fix”), we cannot do it on the backs of the hospitals. This bill would cut Medicare hospital outpatient reimbursement rates to equalize them with rates for services provided in physician offices. The proposal is misguided because it ignores the significant differences in cost structures between hospitals and physician offices, including the added costs hospitals incur for caring for the uninsured. All of these cuts are on top of \$155 billion in hospitals cuts from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and more than \$40 billion in cuts just created by sequestration. Hospitals simply cannot sustain these cuts and patient care will suffer if they are forced to do so.

RECOGNIZING JEFFERY POTTER
AS THE 2012 PRESIDENT OF THE
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on December 9, 2011 Jeffery Potter was duly elected to serve as President of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Jeff is the Vice-President of POTTER, a design firm in Dallas, Texas established in 1983. The firm has a broad portfolio but specifically seeks to advance school-house design in the region.

Jeff has been recognized by his peers through numerous regional AIA and trade awards for his design efforts and has juried design awards programs throughout the United States. Over the past 30 years Jeff has worked to elevate professional communications between his peers and to educate the public on the importance of design. Additionally, Jeff has worked with his colleagues to help combine traditional architectural journalism with social media and knowledge sharing to promote architecture in the 21st century.

As AIA President, Jeff has stated that he will focus on what he calls the “two spheres of influence”: nurturing a grassroots organization of architects and building on the strengths of the organization to promote a professional institute of design leaders.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Potter’s accomplishments and ask that we acknowledge the important role that architects serve in our economy.

NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern about the United States Navy’s future plan to home port a nuclear powered aircraft carrier aboard Naval Station Mayport. I, along with other members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation, have continued to question the duplication of resources to move the home port of a nuclear aircraft carrier, when current resources in Norfolk, Virginia, meet these needs.

This nation is in very challenging and uncharted waters with respect to the Department of Defense budget. Every effort must be made to ensure efficient and thoughtful planning, procurement, and budgeting is conducted to support our national security strategy for the 21st century. While the budget may be getting smaller, the request for power projection and forward presence around the globe to protect our interests and ensure a peaceful future is only growing. Sequestration and the very real possibility of cutting \$1 billion out of the Department of Defense budget over the next ten years puts our carrier force in jeopardy.

With these major defense cuts coming we are forced to address the proposal by the United States Navy to move a nuclear powered aircraft carrier to Naval Station Mayport. While strategic dispersal of forces is important, what is more important is that we maintain a capable level of forces to disperse.

An iconic symbol of American freedom domestically and abroad and a potential item for the sequestration chopping block, the aircraft carrier could face detrimental cuts to her fleet and capability because of a flawed defense strategy driven by looming budget cuts. The Navy has 11 nuclear-powered aircraft carriers in her fleet. While six remain deployed across the world, supporting operations, others are in rotation, utilized for training or remain in the shipyard for necessary maintenance.

On September 23, 2011, I wrote the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Jonathan Greenert arguing that at a time when the nation’s historic fiscal challenges will require drastic cuts in federal spending, it is fiscally irresponsible and strategically unnecessary to build expensive and redundant nuclear-support infrastructure for CVN homeporting when there are more cost-effective alternatives to sustain Mayport’s future as an operational base.

Admiral Greenert’s response to the letter indicated concerns raised about the movement of an aircraft carrier to Mayport would be included in the Navy’s strategic calculus. He stated that “the size of fiscal adjustments compels us to take a comprehensive strategic review, examining every program element, including the funding required to homeport a CVN in Mayport”.

The conference report for the National Defense Authorization Act, H.R. 1540, addressed the issue of military construction funding for a road improvement project at Mayport. It states, “The conferees determined that the Massey Avenue Corridor Improvements Project had merit to support requirements at the Naval Station Mayport, Florida, whether or not a nu-

clear powered aircraft carrier was home ported there.”

The proposed home port shift of an aircraft carrier, especially in this challenging budget environment, is unaffordable and unnecessary and I encourage this Congress and the United States Navy to carefully consider a better utilization of taxpayer resources to fund our men and women in uniform.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,051,286,197,149.79. We’ve added \$10,249,881,021,855.51 to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RETIREMENT OF MR. T.J.
PREJEAN, JR.

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate T.J. Prejean, Jr. on his retirement from the Vermilion Parish Policy Jury.

For 31 years, T.J. proudly served District 13 as police juror, twice being the Vice President of the jury. Having attended 3,000 meetings during his career, T.J.’s commitment to ensuring the well-being of Vermilion Parish is clear.

Formerly an oil rig worker and farmer, T.J. began his service in office in 1980 and served eight consecutive terms. Opposition often stood in his way, but T.J.’s door-to-door campaign style reinforced his personal connection to the community.

During his time as police juror, T.J. made every effort to be accessible to the residents of District 13. He provided assistance during the several major hurricanes our region experienced in the past decade. In doing so, he demonstrated himself a concerned and dependable leader. His final police jury meeting will be Monday, December 19, 2011.

I offer my sincerest appreciation to T.J. Hebert for his dedication to the people of Vermilion Parish and congratulate him on his retirement. I am honored to be his representative in Congress.

BEN COLE

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, every town has a few heroes, and lucky is the man whose

life crosses the path of one. I have had that good fortune in getting to know Ben Cole of Savannah.

Ben runs the Chain Baseball Academy. For nearly two decades, he had trained thousands of boys in the competitive art of "America's Favorite Pastime." Ben takes youngsters of various walks of life and teaches them the fundamentals of hitting, pitching, and catching. Many go on to become star high school, college, and professional baseball players. It is no surprise that Chain Baseball has produced over 300 college level athletes and 44 professional, including two World Series pitchers!

However it is not just about baseball. It's about character building, teamwork, and excelling on and off the field. Ben's most important lesson for the parents is that if the kid doesn't want to be a baseball player: Don't force him. In today's society, sometimes parents can push their children too much. That takes the fun out of it for them and can hurt their confidence. Instead, parents should let them enjoy being kids. If they want to play baseball, fine, and if they don't, that's fine too. They have to want it for themselves, not their Moms and Dads.

Because of the amount of traveling required, playing baseball can be expensive. Not all families can afford the time and money involved. That's why Ben and Chain owner Buddy Meyer work hard to find financial aid for kids in need. The term "elite athlete" doesn't mean financially elite. They want the door to be open to all.

Ben also works patiently with Moms and Dads. He has a special place for women whose husbands are deployed. Chain Academy is less than a mile from Hunter Army Airfield, home of the 3rd ID. Often, Moms walk through the door with a boy whose dad is in Afghanistan or Iraq. Mom doesn't know much about baseball, but she's come to the right place. Ben makes sure her son, who has often just moved to town, is treated like family.

Finally, Ben leads by example. At 81 years old, he doesn't sit at the desk barking out instructions. He gets in the cage, picks up a bat, and shows his students how to swing, catch, or throw. And when the time allows, he puts on a batter's helmet and takes a few swings himself. With his perfect form he drives the ball hard and strong, proving to all he knows what he's doing.

Ben likes the great athlete but no more than the earnest athlete. No matter what the age, if a kid tries his best, Ben's there to help make him a better player. I can attest to that. I've seen him patiently spend hours coaching a fifty-six-year-old congressman. Even if there's little improvement, year by year, he's ready to help! His enthusiasm is contagious.

Ben's an optimist. He loves his country, his family, his favorite sport of baseball and the kids of all ages who play it. Star athletes come to the Chain all the time but nothing lights up his face as much as a grandchild.

In today's society, we have widespread obesity. In the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, we spend as much time talking about obesity and exercise as hunger. We need more people like Ben who have kept themselves in shape. We need people to stay active physically, mentally, and spiritually. Think of the billions we could save in health care costs if more people took Ben's example. Finally, think how much more fun we'd have as a country if instead of just watching America's favorite pastime we would all play it.

May Ben and the Chain Baseball Academy keep up the good work and continue to inspire the rest of us for many years to come.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, let's be clear. Iran activities are troubling and our Nation must continue to work to build an international coalition to pressure and isolate Iran until it verifiably ends such activities. The policies we use to effect our goals are as important as the rhetoric about being tough on Iran.

I vote for this legislation while noting it has flaws that must be addressed in the other body, in cooperation with the Administration. I will speak to some of those needed changes in a minute. However, I think other provisions such as language targeting government officials who commit human rights abuses and the provisions aimed at stopping Iran's Revolutionary Guard from trying to evade current U.S. and multilateral sanctions make sense. When the U.S. and our international allies work together, our efforts on Iran, including sanctions and diplomacy, are more effective and stronger. The same can be said when the Congress and the Administration are working together.

We should not confuse support for this bill with the fact that there exists a vast divergence of views in this Congress on the best policy to deal with the threat posed by Iran. However, the Republican majority determines the schedule and has made a choice to bring this bill up under a procedure that prevents any Member with other ideas (either to make the bill stronger or weaker depending on your view) from making further changes to it.

Even with my yes vote, I believe this legislation is in need of improvement. Sending a strong message is one thing but enacting an effective policy that supports that message is another. And this bill must be improved so our policy can match the strong message.

Where can this bill be improved? I have long been concerned and I have expressed those concerns on this floor before about unilateral sanctions. Treasury Secretary Geithner said last year, "to be truly effective in ending Iran's proliferation activities and Iran's support for terrorism, we need to have in place a concerted, international approach. This is not something the United States can do alone. We need other countries to move with us." I concur wholeheartedly.

Yet, I know that the Administration has warned some provisions, like mandatory Iranian Central Bank Sanctions, may end up splintering the international coalition that it worked relentlessly to build as exemplified by passage of last year's UN Security Council Sanction Resolution. In a recent letter, Secretary Geithner made clear his concerns that sanctioning the Central Bank of Iran could negatively affect "many of our closest allies and largest trading partners." Again, the most likely to be adversely affected by this bill are our closest allies, the ones we depend on to pressure Iran.

Why would this be so? According to Secretary Geithner, "rather than motivating these countries to join us in increasing pressure on Iran, they are more likely to resent our actions and resist following our lead—a consequence that would serve the Iranians more than it harms them." The Administration has suggested ways to achieve the goals of this bill while ensuring we don't cripple the international coalition and consensus that it has worked so hard to build against Iran. Congress should listen. A piece of legislation that results in fewer countries working with us to isolate Iran and bring a verifiable end to its troubling nuclear activities is not a victory in my book.

Another provision in the bill—added in Committee—would prohibit U.S. diplomatic or other contact, whether intentionally or incidentally, with certain Iranian government officials. Whether intended by its authors or not, concerns have been raised about negative impact on our diplomatic efforts. I urge the Senate to remove this provision. It adds nothing to the bill's effectiveness but brings unnecessary confusion and controversy.

H.R. 1905 would also require the President to report, after its enactment, on negative impacts the bill would cause on our relations with friendly nations and on the U.S. economy. I think this gets it backwards. We need to get a better bill that addresses those concerns up front, rather than wait until after we have shattered the international coalition.

Again, I support a strong and unified international effort against Iran with U.S. leadership but my continued support for this legislation requires those in Senate (who will have the opportunity to amend it unlike the House did) to work with the Administration to address possible negative impacts on our diplomatic efforts, economy, and the Iranian people. This occurred last year to get CISADA passed and I hope we repeat it again this time.

Lastly, no one should take passage of this legislation as a sign that diplomacy is off the table and that the only option going forward is a military strike. We need to invest in diplomacy—maybe now more than ever—and to continue to work with our international allies and others interested in peace and stability in the region.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICES

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the United States Armed Forces and Intelligence Services on the occasion of the successful completion of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Nine years ago our country embarked on a military campaign to end the tyrannical rule of Saddam Hussein, bring the Iraqi people freedom and make the world a safer place. The road has not been an easy one to travel but through it all our U.S. service members have persevered. From the insurgency in the al Anbar Province to the violence in Baghdad, to the ultimate success of the surge, our troops did not lose sight of the goal. As the enemy

changed their tactics, our military, with the help of our intelligence community, adapted and overcame. While there have been many that have questioned America's ability to commit to a long war, a decade later proves our determination as well as assures our Iraqi friends that they have a lasting ally in the United States.

While we commemorate the successful completion of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the challenges remain for Iraq just as it would for any nascent democracy. Today, let us recommit ourselves diplomatically to Iraq and ensure that as the country experiences the growing pains of a new democratic state, they can turn to the U.S. for guidance and help.

Today also serves as the successful completion of Operation Iraqi Freedom which will be remembered in history, along with the almost 4,500 service members that were killed in action in Iraq. Today we also reaffirm a solemn promise that we will always remember their sacrifice and that they gave up the most precious of all things—life. We acknowledge that the death and eternal absence of a soldier, sailor, airman, Coast Guardsman or Marine does not exist in a vacuum—it is a wound that will never truly heal in the hearts of all those who loved them. We honor them as individuals—they are people who cannot be replaced but whose memory lives on whenever their story is told. So as we close this chapter, let us promise to honor our war dead every day, tell their stories and remember their sacrifice. In honor of all those who died in service to our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom, I would like to read the names of those killed from my congressional district.

Gunnery Sgt Jeffrey Bohr, United States Marine Corps

First Lieutenant Todd Bryant, United States Army

Sergeant Ryan Young, United States Army
Private First Class Brian Cutter, United States Marine Corps

Sergeant Eliu Miersandoval, United States Army

Lance Corporal Rafael Suarez, United States Marine Corps

Corporal Billy Gomez, United States Army
Specialist Jonathan Castro, United States Army

Corporal Jason Morrow, United States Marine Corps

Private First Class Jason Franco, United States Marine Corps

Sergeant Rhys Klasno, California National Guard

Sergeant Thomas McFall, United States Army

Specialist Cameron Payne, United States Army

Specialist Joshua Modgling, United States Army

Specialist Eric Holke, California National Guard

Staff Sergeant Eric Cottrell, United States Army

Staff Sergeant Alejandro Ayala, United States Air Force

Specialist Armando A. De La Paz, United States Army

Private Grant Cotting, United States Army
Lance Corporal David James Hogan, United States Marine Corps

Staff Sergeant Michael Cardenaz, United States Army

Senior Airman Michael Hinkle, United States Air Force

Sergeant Aaron Blasjo, United States Army
Sergeant Andrew Tobin, United States Army
God Bless our Troops and God Bless America.

CONGRATULATING MS. MADIE
TILLMAN

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize a distinguished member of the General Daniel "Chappie" James American Legion Auxiliary Post 776, located in my congressional district, for the service she has given to her community.

Ms. Madie Tillman received the Member of the Year Award for the Department of Ohio during the American Legion Auxiliary 2011 Department Convention, for her exceptional contributions to the American Legion Auxiliary. She is a long-time volunteer at the Dayton VA Medical Center. Last year, she raised \$500 for a Christmas party for veterans and their families.

As the widow of a veteran, Ms. Tillman has been a dedicated, generous and unselfish advocate for veterans and their families. After learning that veterans in the Homeless Program at the Dayton VA were in need of book bags for their classes at Sinclair Community College, she collected bags for the veterans from local charitable organizations.

In January, she collected over one hundred 2011 calendars after learning that our troops deployed overseas wanted them so they could mark off the days until they could return home. The calendars were shipped to our troops by the Blue Star Mothers. An associate member of the Blue Star Mothers of America, she also donates to their "Trick or Treat for Troops" program, and other activities.

I appreciate this opportunity to recognize a good and compassionate citizen, Ms. Madie Tillman, for her service to our community and our Nation's veterans.

IN HONOR OF THE RETURN OF
OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS TO
AMERICA

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of our wounded warriors returning home from abroad. Several times a week, wounded American soldiers return to the United States, landing at Andrews Air Force Base. Some have short layovers before going to their homes or medical facilities around the country. Others remain in the Washington, DC, region to get care and recover. Whatever their final destination, I ask that our thoughts and prayers go out to the members of our Armed Forces and their families.

Their sacrifices to our nation will never be forgotten. In honor of their service and in hopes for their recovery I ask that this poem penned by Albert Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

IN HONOR NOW

In . . .

In Honor Now!

As here we stand so very proud!

So very proud of all of you so now . . .

With open arms, as here we stand with hearts so very warm . . . All in our hearts of love, so very full . . . beating loud!

Waiting all for you!

Welcome Home!

As you come down into view . . .

All as America's most brilliant of all hues!

Her Armed Forces so very tried and true!

As all of our hearts so run to you . . .

Oh can you but not so hear them now!

Welcome Home!

With open arms, all in our hearts of love for you so very warm!

Our most precious of all daughters and sons . . .

Who are but honor bound, as are all of these ones!

Who all so stood, for what was good and true! While, all in that face . . . of deep dark death and war, as did you!

Welcome Home!

As all for God and Country Tis of Thee, you would so die and bleed!

As you so cried, as they so laid your brothers and sisters down to rest!

All into that soft cold quiet ground, were but lain all of America's Best so down!

All in your tears, as we so saw what your love for each other so said!

And That Blood That Binds You, so ran red!

All In Such Honor Now, as here we so stand so very proud!

All in how your fine lives have so read!

Can you but not so hear all of our hearts for you so pound?

Welcome Home, now to where you so belong! With Open Arms, as here we stand with our love for you so very warm . . .

So very strong!

Back home again, with your families as the tears begin . . .

Whose, fine hearts have so cried . . . and so worried all of the time!

We pray to end their most restless sleep, and so let them all so find peace!

For they are but America's Quiet Heroes, The Families as so are all of these!

Because, all of you and your families' fine lives . . . have but been a song!

A song of such Faith and Courage!

One of such Strength In Honor, who this our Nation has so nourished!

With Open Arms we now so cry, Welcome Home!

Far from all of that darkness of most dreaded war, and all its grave harm!

As now, you all can so rest!

As a time to so rebuild . . . to so replenish, and once again your courage to test!

As you rebuild with what you have left . . .

As all our hearts are now so filled, with such love and respect . . . it's now time to heal America's Best!

For all of you and your families, may our Lord God So Bless . . .

For you have a new battle now to begin!

And oh yes, American's finest ones . . . you shall win!

Welcome Home, for this our Nation you have so blessed!

As now you wear that most noblest title of them all!

As an American Hero, whose magnificent hearts upon a battlefield of honor stood tall!

With . . .

With Open Arms . . .

Welcome Home! As to all of you, our hearts so roam!

In Honor Now, Here We So Stand With Open Arms!

Welcome Home . . . In Honor Now!
(By Albert Caswell)

JOHN TILLITSKI

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, when I was in 10th grade history class, the teacher caught me chewing gum. I don't know why it's so hard to chew gum without being noticed, but there I was caught and on my way to the Principal's office. I had never personally met him. He was a no-nonsense man named John Tillitski.

He asked me why I was sent to him. There weren't any official forms so when asked, you were expected to give a full report of your crime without equivocation.

"I was chewing gum, sir."

"Oh," He looked me in the eye and added, "Do you want to stay in school?"

"Yes, sir."

"Fine, bend over." With that, he pulled a 12" rubber sole of a shoe out of his desk, popped me on the hindquarters, and said, "go back to class."

That was it, verdict, sentence, and punishment. It was over in 5 minutes. Then I was back in class, sitting quietly, taking notes, and learning American history. No more chewing gum.

That's the way John Tillitski handled things. Clear. Concise. Fair. Without drama, without red tape, just old fashion, even-handed, blind justice.

It was 1971. He was a man suited for the time. We were the first white class to attend what had previously been the all black Burney Harris High School. The courts had spoken. The town was nervous, the administration tentative and the teachers incredibly challenged by the change set in front of them. Not Mr. Tillitski. He saw black and white not in skin color but in justice, fairness, and common sense. He could bridge the unsettled times with confidence.

The fear was that every fight, skirmish, or incident could accelerate into a race riot. In this atmosphere he became the "go to" guy. Everyone knew he was a straight shooter. If the issue could be resolved quietly he could do it.

A few years later, his son Chris and I decided to liven up the day by driving a motorcycle down the hall of the school. I should do the right thing and say it was a joint decision, but in the style of Washington politics I'll blame the whole idea on Chris, who in turn claimed his brothers Steve and Mike had pulled similar stunts. Down the hall we roared loudly as a jet plane. Soon, hundreds of students and teachers poured out of their classes trying to find out what had happened. We were surrounded by a mob of teachers and students, some laughing, some screaming, most in bewilderment. The principal was beet red in anger and unable to complete a sentence in his fury. Finally, Mr. Tillitski re-emerged from the throng. As the sea parted for his entrance, he simply said, "Turn the damn thing off and get it out of here." We pushed it outside, order was restored, and we were duly punished.

He was a man's man. Strong, gruff, and competitive. As the father of boys, he knew

boys needed discipline, love, and nourishment. Once, Chris and I found an old canoe in the river. Its seaworthiness had been beaten out of it by a series of rapids. We took it home to restore it, a long shot at best but Mr. Tillitski supported our effort. When we finally got it to float, he was the first to give us boat paddles.

Another time, Chris and I hopped a train and tried to make it to Myrtle Beach, S.C. We didn't disclose the details of our mode of transportation to our parents. We made it to Morehead City but ran out of track and trains headed in the right direction. Hitchhiking home, we informed our parents where we had been and announced that we'd try again soon. Rather than fighting about it, telling us we were stupid and how dangerous it was, Mr. Tillitski quietly let us borrow his prize green 1967 Mustang. Practically a sports car. Not a prettier sight was seen driving down the Myrtle Beach strip. He knew boys had to push an envelope but he also knew how to rein them in without killing our youthful spirit.

As with so many influential men there was a great family structure to go along with them. John's wife, Joan, was a wonderful partner standing by him, raising the boys and making sure the family bond stayed strong. As a trained nurse she knew when one of the boys needed a trip to the hospital, a bandage or a good hug. They are an ideal couple.

I was blessed to have people and educators such as John and Joan Tillitski in my life. In today's world with its confusion and uncertainty, we need more people with firm ideals and gentle hands to guide them. The world would be a better place.