

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND RETIREMENT SECURITY ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1173) to repeal the CLASS programs:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1173, a bill that would repeal the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports program (CLASS). Instead of repealing the CLASS Act and leaving millions of Americans in need of long-term care with the status quo, Congress should be working together to improve the program.

Madam Chair, the CLASS program was designed to provide Americans with a voluntary long-term care insurance program that would make long-term care more affordable and accessible. Statistics show that there are currently over 10 million Americans in need of long-term care; by 2020, that number is expected to grow to 15 million. We have an obligation to ensure that those in need of long-term care have affordable options available to them.

The United States is facing a long-term care crisis. With the Nation's baby boomers nearing retirement, we can expect to see the number of seniors in need of long-term care to rise in the coming years. Due to the high costs of obtaining long-term support services, it is estimated that there are 52 million unpaid caregivers—mostly relatives of those in need—providing long-term care in the home.

In my district, there are over 115,000 seniors and 12,557 residents collecting Social Security disability insurance—most of whom will most likely need long-term care services at some point in their lifetime. In addition, there are 85,444 of my constituents who are nearing retirement age and would benefit from the peace of mind of having insurance coverage for long-term care.

Each year, families pay more than \$50 billion out-of-pocket to provide long-term support services to loved ones. Many of these families are already hard-pressed financially, but do not have any other options available to them. Working to fix the CLASS program will provide working adults a national, voluntary, and premium-financed insurance program for the purchase of long-term care services and supports. Instead of working to fix the CLASS Act, the Republican majority is trying to repeal this important program in its entirety.

Madam Chair, it is estimated that about 70 percent of people over 65 will require long-term care services at some point during their lifetime. Medicare covers only minimal long-term care services such as short-term skilled nursing care and limited home health services.

Medicaid now accounts for nearly 50 percent of all long-term care spending nationwide.

Unfortunately, Americans wishing to utilize Medicaid for long-term care services must impoverish themselves in order to qualify. In many cases, families are left with no choice but Medicaid after they are forced to spend down their income and assets to pay for costly long-term care services.

Insurance policies in the private market which cover long-term care services are often too expensive for most Americans, and currently pay for only about 7 percent of spending on long-term care. Approximately only nine percent of Americans aged 50 or older have private insurance policies that cover long-term care services. The CLASS Act seeks to address the lack of available coverage by making long-term care services more accessible and affordable for working families.

The CLASS Act provides a framework with which to build a viable long-term care program. Repealing this much needed program brings us back to square one in our effort to provide working families with a national insurance program that enables them to plan for their long-term care needs.

Madam Chair, this is just another GOP attempt to dismantle the Affordable Care Act one piece at a time. The American people deserve better and Congress needs to work together to ensure that Americans of all income levels have access to long-term care services in the event that they become necessary.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote against passage of this misguided legislation that simply ignores the need to address our Nation's long-term care crisis.

AMBASSADOR SULEYMANOV OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and welcome to Washington, DC Ambassador Elin Suleymanov of the Republic of Azerbaijan. On January 18 Ambassador Suleymanov presented his credentials to President Obama.

Ambassador Suleymanov has a distinguished diplomatic career. Prior to his appointment as Ambassador, Mr. Suleymanov served as Azerbaijan's first Consul General in Los Angeles.

While Azerbaijan has a new Ambassador to the United States, I bring to my colleague's attention that once again Azerbaijan lacks an Ambassador from the United States. After over a year of vacancy, President Obama nominated Matthew Bryza as Ambassador. After a stalled confirmation process President Obama appointed Matthew Bryza to the position in 2010. Unfortunately he was not given the opportunity for a confirmation vote in the Senate and has recently returned to the U.S.

Azerbaijan is a key strategic partner to the U.S. by providing an important transportation

route for supplies to our troops in Afghanistan and transit of Caspian oil and gas to the Mediterranean via the BTC pipeline. The relationship between the U.S. and Azerbaijan is too important not to have an Ambassador in place. As one of our few predominantly Muslim allies we must do what is right.

I encourage my colleagues to urge the Administration to nominate a new Ambassador to Azerbaijan and ask the Senate to act in the best interest of our national security and have an expeditious confirmation vote.

A TRIBUTE TO NIALL O'SHEA AND THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, for decades the United States has worked closely with Australia on issues of great importance to our two nations. Australia has stood out among the international community as a friend of the United States and remains one of our closest allies today. Thirteen years ago, a program was launched to place Australian students in offices in our Nation's Capital. Since that time, the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program has delivered to the United States some of Australia's best and brightest to serve as interns in a variety of federal agencies, congressional offices and committees.

When the opportunity arose again to participate in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, I immediately agreed to welcome another Australian "ambassador." This is my third time hosting an intern from the program, and once again my office and I have been pleased with the positive contributions of Niall O'Shea, who was placed in our office. He has attended meetings and briefings, assisted my staff with various research initiatives, and helped serve my constituents of the Second District of Connecticut. His impeccable and clipped Australian accent is a real treat for visitors and callers from Connecticut whom he has interacted with. Niall's participation in this program has provided him with new opportunities and experiences that only the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program could provide. While in the program Niall has attended events at the Australian Embassy and listened to speakers from the State Department. A well-rounded college student, Niall will be receiving a dual Bachelor degree in law and art when he graduates from the University of Western Australia.

Many of my colleagues have also been privileged to welcome students like Niall to their offices. This year, 12 students from all across Australia are serving in offices in Washington, helping foster a new generation of understanding and shared experiences between our two nations. Launched by former Congressional staffer Eric Federing, The Uni-Capitol

• 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.

Washington Internship program has now delivered 130 Australian student interns over the past 13 years.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage all of my colleagues to open their doors to students from around the world so that they can share in our great democracy. Similarly, I would encourage American university students to seek established and creative ways to connect with their counterparts around the globe. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Internship Program and to once more thank Niall O'Shea for his dedication and hard work.

HONORING JOSH UNDERWOOD

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Mr. Josh Underwood, one of the twelve interns from the Uni-Capitol Washington Program, UCWIP who is currently interning in my office. The Uni-Capitol Washington Program has paired some of the brightest Australian students with various congressional offices for more than a decade and I am happy to have been a host.

Josh comes from University of Queensland and is studying law and philosophy. Over the past month, I have found him to be outstanding in his duties and going above and beyond our expectations. When complimenting Josh to Mr. Federing, the director agreed saying "Josh has been a standout among standouts in everything I've organized" and I agree wholeheartedly. He has attended committee hearings, drafted constituent correspondence, and assisted me as well as my staff with research. His Australian accent has garnered the attention of many of my constituents on tours and over the phone. Josh's commitment, hard work, and presence have been an asset to the office and he will be sorely missed by all.

The program has been in force for 13 years thanks to the vision of Eric Federing, its director and founder. The students who are selected come from a variety of academic disciplines, but all have a common interest: promoting the U.S.-Australia relationship. These student placements are enhanced by the formation of genuine friendships and the exchange of views and ideas between the Australian interns and their respective offices. We are grateful for these friendships and it is our hope that they strengthen the diplomatic ties of our great countries.

I would thank Eric Federing for the opportunity to host Josh over the past several weeks. To date, 130 interns have come through his program representing 8 different universities over the programs lifetime. It enhances opportunities for the individuals who come and enlighten those who they come to. After the internship, many receive jobs on the Hill or go to work with Federal or various State Parliaments in Australia. Other interns have gone onto work in the Australian Embassy or The World Bank. Simply put, this program selects incredibly talented individuals that are a pleasure to host and work with. It was an honor to have Josh in our office and would wish him the very best, but I sincerely doubt

he needs it. Josh, thank you again for your hard work and dedication.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 658,
FAA REAUTHORIZATION AND RE-
FORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the Conference Report for H.R. 658, the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act. I want to thank Chairman MICA, Ranking Member RAHALL, the other conferees, and the leadership for finally bringing an FAA Reauthorization bill to the floor.

Nearly five years has passed since the last FAA Reauthorization Act passed by the Congress and signed into law by the President expired. Instead of passing a new clean reauthorization bill five years ago, the reauthorization process was subverted by the desire of some members across the aisle to hijack the FAA reauthorization process as a to advance narrow ideological interests. This politicization of what had previously been a nonpartisan approach to developing aviation legislation was a great disservice to our nation, particularly in the economically challenged conditions of the past several years.

Every day thousands of men and women give their best to ensure that the American civil aviation industry remains the best in the world. And no group of persons suffered more from Congress' failure to pass a short-term clean FAA extension last August than the airline pilots, air traffic controllers, flight attendants, baggage handlers, mechanics, technicians, customer service representatives, security personnel, and others whose livelihood depends upon a functioning civil aviation sector.

This past August, House Republican leadership, giving in to the demands of its extremist Tea Party faction and ignoring the long-standing Congressional tradition of passing clean extensions of the FAA reauthorization bill, broke precedent and attached to the bill several controversial ideologically extreme policy riders to weaken unions and kill jobs, knowing full well it would never be approved by the Senate. Then it adjourned and left town for the August recess.

This abdication of responsibility resulted in the furlough of more than 4,000 FAA non-partisan career civil servants who in many cases had spent more than two decades working to provide the public with safe, modern and efficient air travel. This Republican-initiated FAA shutdown resulted in work stoppages on 217 construction projects worth more \$11 billion that had been undertaken to upgrade the nation's air traffic control and safety infrastructure.

This House majority's irresponsible action' more than 86,000 construction jobs at risks around the country and unconscionably jeopardized the ability of nearly 90,000 household to pay their rent or mortgages, educate their children, and put food on the table.

In addition to the havoc wreaked on the families of the employees involved, the Republicans' forced shutdown of the FAA cost

the American taxpayer \$300 million in lost airport fees. To make matters worse, instead of passing the savings resulting from the lapsed airline ticket tax on to air travelers, almost every one of the airlines raised their ticket prices and pocketed the money.

By any measure the House Republicans political gambit was a colossal blunder and the resulting public backlash led the chastened majority to drop the odious anti-labor provisions and pass a clean FAA extension thereby providing time for the parties to reconcile their differences and reach agreement on the long-term reauthorization measure before us today.

Turning to the merits of the bill before us, there is much in it that I approve and support.

First, the conference report maintains funding at current levels, authorizing a \$63.4 billion investment in our Nation's aviation system for fiscal years, FY, 2012–15. Of this amount, approximately \$13.4 billion is allocated for the Airport Improvement Program, AIP, \$38.3 billion for FAA Operations, \$672 million for Research, Engineering & Development, and \$10.9 billion for FAA's Facilities & Equipment.

Second, the bill provides about \$ 1 billion in funding authority for FAA's Next Generation, NextGen, air traffic modernization program, approximately the same as the past two years. When fully implemented, NextGen will complete the transformation of an antiquated air traffic control system based on World War II-era technology to one based on 21st Century GPS technology. Additionally, the bill accelerates the development of a NextGen satellite-based navigation system to provide pilots with more accurate information to track aircraft and weather. And to strengthen accountability for the progress on the NextGen program, the Conference Report sets a schedule for FAA and creates the new position of Chief NextGen Officer to oversee the effort.

Third, stripped from the Conference Report is the controversial House Republican provision that would have increased the percentage of employees who must vote in favor of a union before the National Mediation Board could certify the union as their representative. Had this provision not been dropped, it would have unfairly tilted the playing field against employees because a union could be certified only if it won the votes of a majority of all employees in a particular group, not just those who actually voted. It is clearly unfair to consider a vote not cast as a vote against. To put it another way: there is a gigantic difference between not voting and voting No! I am pleased that this anti-democratic provision has been dropped from the bill.

Fourth, the bill establishes a process for mediation and binding arbitration of impasses between the FAA and the collective-bargaining representatives of employees to help ensure that disputes are resolved fairly and efficiently without any disruption to the aviation system.

Fifth, the bill requires the FAA and OSHA to move forward with long-stalled rules to extend OSHA protections to flight attendants.

Sixth, the bill will help relieve congestion at many of the nation's interior hub airports by authorizing eight new round-trip flights between Reagan National Airport and airports located more than 1,250 miles away.

Finally, I am also pleased that H.R. 658 includes protections for passengers. For example, air travelers have greater assurance they will be treated fairly while traveling. Tarmac delays are something we have all experienced

at some point while traveling and can become frustrating to passengers who have no information as to when they will begin their travel. Now, airlines and airports would be required to have emergency contingency plans to take care of passengers who are involved in long uncomfortable tarmac delays. Passengers will no longer have to sit and wait on the tarmac wondering if they will ever move or be fed.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, and having served on its Aviation Subcommittee, I have worked tirelessly with my colleagues to secure passage of a clean FAA reauthorization bill. But I cannot support a reauthorization bill containing anti-labor provisions that undermine the rights of workers to bargain collectively over the terms and conditions of their employment. Regrettably, this bill does.

The bill contains statutory amendments to the Railway Labor Act which undermines 75 years of experience by the National Mediation Board's, NMB, in conducting representation elections in the air and rail industries. By removing the NMB's explicit statutory discretion in determining whether an election is mandated, this provision imposes new roadblocks for employees seeking union representation.

Another provision undermining the ability of employees to secure union representation is a proposed change in the way union run-off elections are handled. Under the proposed language, if Union A receives 40 percent of the votes and Union B receives 25 percent of the votes and the remaining 35 percent of the employees vote "no union," then the run-off will be between Union A and no union. This is true even though 65 percent of the employees indicated they wanted a union and soundly defeated the "no union" option.

Most problematic, however, is the provision in the bill relating to "showing of interest," requiring 50 percent of employees to sign up just to have an election. That is the same percentage of employees that would warrant union certification were the Employee Free Choice Act enacted into law.

This is the first time in history that Congress is legislating a showing of interest requirement in any federal labor law. Were this "showing of interest" provision to be applied in a merger setting, a larger employer that merges with a somewhat smaller airline will virtually guarantee there will be no unions on the merged property because where large numbers of employees are furloughed, it is virtually impossible for unions to meet the 50 percent threshold.

Taken together, these provisions constitute impose an intolerable burden on the ability of working men and women to bargain collectively over the terms and conditions of employment. I cannot support a legislative proposal that includes such provisions.

As one who born and raised in the House of Labor, educated in the School of Business, and who spent 14 years working in the corporate world, I stand ready to continue working with my colleagues, the Administration, industry and labor to develop and pass legislation that is beneficial and in the best interests of management, labor, government, and the public.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill and once again urge this House to come forth with a clean long-term FAA reauthorization that will not impede workers rights.

HONORING LIN BREHMER

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, on January 24, 2012, longtime radio host Lin Brehmer received honors recognizing his 20th anniversary on Chicago's 93.1 WXRT FM, as the station also celebrated its 40th anniversary on the air.

Chicago is a city of many treasures.

From the architecture to the museums and cultural institutions, from the sports teams to our food, there are many, many reasons to celebrate The Windy City.

But with so much to do, see, and eat, some of our city's finest features do not make it onto most tourists' To Do Lists. But if you want to share with a visitor some of the true heart and soul of Chicago, drive down Lake Shore Drive with the Lake on one side, our beautiful skyline on the other, and 93 WXRT on the radio.

I have tried to explain to my children about the vast wasteland that was music radio in Chicago before XRT. Forty years ago, all you had was the same ten songs on AM radio. Then came XRT, with a rich, diverse playlist. With a passion and integrity unmatched even today.

No coincidence it became a 24 hour station in 1976, demonstrating our city's unique commitment to independent thinking, and an unbridled celebration of art and music.

Like many others, XRT linked me to a new world.

XRT encouraged me to leave my sterile environment and travel to the Earl of Old Town to listen to Steve Goodman—and my first concert at The Aragon Ball Room to see Mott the Hoople, the New York Dolls. Not to mention other famous haunts that played host to greats like Iggy Pop, David Bowie, Muddy Waters, Frank Zappa, Roxy Music, and the like.

Thank you XRT, for 40 great years. You made me a better person.

So tell your kids to turn their FM radio dial to 93.1, WXRT; they will find Lin Brehmer, "Your best friend in the whole wide world."

Lin has been the morning voice on XRT for the last 20 years, and is a Chicago institution unto himself. For 20 years, Lin has been there with us to celebrate all things Chicago; from commiserating another Cubs loss, to suggesting the perfect restaurant for a post-concert dinner.

He shares with us the best of the city and makes sure we better understand the world, with "Lin's Bin." He helps us discover new sounds, rediscover old favorites, and provides an unparalleled soundtrack to our days.

A celebrated fixture in radio, Lin has received a variety of honors throughout his illustrious career. In 1990 he was also honored as "Music Director of the Decade" by Hard Report.

Lin's musical sensibilities are nicely summed up by his motto, borrowed from the writing of Gerard Manley Hopkins, "Flesh fade and mortal trash fall to the residuary worm, you and I might as well Rock and Roll."

Dubbed the "Reverend of Rock and Roll" early in his radio career, Lin sought to put together a radio program unlike any other. Now, more than 35 years since he first hosted a radio show in Albany, New York, Lin has succeeded in doing that, and so much more.

Radio isn't Lin's only passion; he is also quite the accomplished Foodie, never going anywhere without a Zagat guide in his car and his self-described "eating pants," an outfit with enough "give" to accommodate another Chicago meal at the Weiner's Circle.

His favorite restaurants in Chicago include a wide variety of cuisine, for an even broader array of occasions. His recommendations have included "Best Upscale Mexican For When You Want To Leave The Kids At Home" or the very specific "Best Late Night Steak Burrito."

I'm sure he also enjoys splitting a cinnamon roll with our friend and his colleague Teri Hemmert, another Chicago jewel, at her favorite table at Ann Sather's Restaurant on the northside.

Lin Brehmer is a man who helps us to discover the best about Chicago, and in doing so, has become a Chicago treasure himself.

We appreciate and applaud his career as one of our city's finest radio personalities and most recognizable voices, and look forward to the music, experiences, and food he will help us discover in his next twenty years.

Thank you, Lin, for always reminding us why "It's great to be alive."

CELEBRATING DAVID MARVIN BLUMBERG'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the celebration of David Marvin Blumberg's 60th birthday.

David was born on December 26, 1951 in Jacksonville, Florida. He is the fourth of five children born to Marvin Bernard and Mary Louise Blumberg. David obtained his Masters Degree of Public Administration in 1994 from the University of North Florida.

He was honorably discharged from his service in the USAF in 1974 after having worked as an instrument mechanic on the Minute Man 1, 2, and 3 missiles at Vandenberg AFB, CA.

David worked alongside his father at Marvin Blumberg and Sons from 1974–1982. He was certified as an FAA Air Traffic Controller and worked in that capacity from 1982–2006.

Presently he is serving as an Air Traffic Safety Risk Management Facilitator and Instructor nationwide.

David is the proud father of Lauren, Will, Olivia, Nathan and Natalie. He has one grandchild, Walker Brooks Haas.

David plays the drums in a band comprised of other Air Traffic Controllers who raise money for charities and to date they have raised over \$650,000 for local and national charities.

David will be moving to Fort Worth, Texas to supplement the Federal Aviation Administration's Safety Risk Management staff.

His band Aire Traffic will be playing future benefit concerts to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and for the Joseph Sam's School for Special Needs Children in Fayetteville, GA.

Please join me in wishing David Blumberg a very happy 60th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. MICHAEL
RYAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Michael Ryan of East Keansburg, New Jersey. Mr. Ryan will be honored as the 2012 Hibernian of the Year by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Volunteer Patrick Torphy Division 2 of Monmouth County. This prestigious honor is well-deserved in light of his tremendous contributions to the Irish American community. Mr. Ryan is known to his AOH brothers as someone who will always be there to support his community and those who are in need, and his charitable actions are undoubtedly worthy of this body's recognition.

Mr. Mike Ryan was born in Newark, New Jersey to Dick and Nancy Ryan. Together, the Ryan family moved to East Keansburg, New Jersey in 1955 and have continued to serve the residents of the Monmouth County community. Mr. Ryan joined the Ancient Order of Hibernians Volunteer Patrick Torphy Division 2 of Monmouth County in 1998, where he serves as the Division Marshall. Mr. Ryan serves as a core member of the organizing committee for the annual Irish Festival at the Jersey Shore. In upholding the AOH motto of friendship, unity, and Christian charity, Mr. Ryan tirelessly assists in raising funds for a multitude of causes, including Catholic school education, local food pantries and shelters, and the Wounded Warrior Program.

Mr. Ryan is also a proud member of the Knights of Columbus Council #2858. He is a graduate of Saint Catherine's School and a member of the Middletown High School class of 1974. Mr. Ryan is a 25-year employee of the United States Postal Service and currently resides in East Keansburg, New Jersey with his wife, Christina, and their three sons, Sean, Danny and Matthew.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Mr. Michael Ryan upon receiving the 2012 Hibernian of the Year award and thanking him for his service to the Irish American community.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GREG DASH

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent, Major Greg Dash, for his distinguished service to our country as a member of the United States Air Force.

Major Dash, known to his fellow airmen as "Fez," was raised in Gaithersburg, Maryland. After graduating from Wootton High School, he received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy, where he earned a degree in Electrical Engineering and graduated on the Commandant's List. He was commissioned in May 1998. After having served his country for 18 years, Major Dash will be medically retired this month.

Throughout his service in the Air Force, Dash excelled in both his tactical judgment

and outstanding leadership capabilities. As an Air Battle Manager, he qualified in three separate weapons systems and was selected for graduation from the distinguished United States Weapons School. Major Dash earned a number of awards and decorations, including the 2012 Air Traffic Control Association Earl F. Ward Medallion.

Over the course of his career, Major Dash had several combat deployments. During his last deployment in Afghanistan, he collapsed and was medically evacuated from the country. Later, he was diagnosed with a rare and highly lethal form of cancer. But he was undeterred.

After a 1½-year-long battle with cancer, Major Dash has heroically defeated the disease with the same spirit and determination he brought to his years of military service. Although his cancer has cut short his Air Force career, his talents, personal qualities, record and achievements bode well for great accomplishments in the future. I know that he will continue to make our Nation proud.

Our country owes Major Dash a debt of gratitude for his service, impeccable character and model of selfless leadership. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing him and in thanking him for his service and sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING THE UCI PARA-CYCLING TRACK WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AT THE HOME DEPOT CENTER IN CARSON, CALIFORNIA

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a particularly exciting event that will be held this weekend in my district. On February 10th–12th, The UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships will take place at the Home Depot Center Velodrome in Carson, California. The competition will welcome 230 athletes from 30 countries, including United States athletes: Allison Jones, Greta Neimanas, Clark Rachfal, Jennifer Schuble, Aaron Trent and California's very own, Anthony Zahn.

The UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships are the world championships for track cycling and is open to male and female athletes with physical disabilities such as amputation, visual impairment, spinal cord injury, wheelchair-users and cerebral palsy.

The UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships serves as the final qualifying event for U.S. athletes to be nominated to the 2012 U.S. Paralympic Cycling Team which will compete at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London this summer.

Mr. Speaker, the Paralympics are a major international multi-sport event, similar to the Olympics, for athletes with physical disabilities. Over 4,000 athletes from 146 countries compete in the games, which run in parallel with the Winter and Summer Olympic Games. The goal of the Paralympics is to empower persons with disabilities through sport.

Since its creation, the Paralympic games have been inspiring those with physical handicaps to realize their potential and strive to achieve their dreams. The Paralympics are making a difference in the lives of thousands

of physically disabled people every day by focusing on participants' athletic achievements and ability rather than their limitations.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been a big supporter of the Paralympics and their goals and that is why I am pleased that this year, the UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships will be held at the Home Depot Center in the 37th Congressional District. This marks the first time that the Home Depot Center will host a Paralympic event in its facility's history and just the second time ever, that the UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships will be held in the United States.

The Home Depot Center, home of Major League Soccer's Los Angeles Galaxy and Chivas USA, is designated as an "Official U.S. Olympic Training Site," and is the first and only permanent indoor track of international standard in North America. It is a state-of-the-art facility that has brought much attention and prestige to my district.

In March 2011, I was able to join U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano in support of the "See Something, Say Something" campaign, which has since expanded to include The Home Depot Center. The campaign raises public awareness of indicators of terrorism and violent crime and encourages average citizens to identify and report indicators of terrorism, crime and other threats to the proper transportation and law enforcement authorities.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that my district is able to host such an extraordinary event that continues to empower people with disabilities and in the process, inspire people around the world. I am sure that the people of California will embrace the spirit of the Games and will cheer on the athletes as they compete for the Paralympic games this summer.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, our 40th president, Ronald Wilson Reagan, was born on this date in 1911, making him 101 years old today. On President Reagan's 98th birthday, 17 days after President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,717,280,371,345.89.

Today, it is \$15,335,108,283,338.57. We've added \$4,617,827,911,992.68 to our debt in 3 years. This is \$4.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

A TRIBUTE TO ANNE MARQUESS
GARROTT

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Anne Marquess Garrott and the Southwest Belmont Community Association.

The Southwest Belmont Community Association, SWBCA, was a result of the Colored

Women's Christian Association which was organized in 1870 by Black women in South Philadelphia. The mission of the Colored Women's Christian Association was to provide residential living in a Christian environment for young, newly freed Black women coming from the rural south and seeking jobs in Philadelphia. In 1912, after more than 40 years of petitioning, it was accepted as a branch of the Philadelphia Young Women's Christian Association, YWCA.

The SWBCA was a hub of community activity and offered a variety of programs including poetry, music and dance. It housed an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a gymnasium and meeting rooms available for use by civic groups.

Ultimately the branch became an independent, non-profit organization. The SWBCA is well respected for its leadership in support of the advancement of Black women long before the desegregation of national women's organizations.

Mrs. Garrott was involved with the YWCA movement from an early age. As a child she took part in the many programs at the SVVBCA and as a teenager she taught swimming and tennis. She was later named Director of the Health and Physical Education Department. Throughout her decades long career, she served in many administrative capacities, not only at the SWBCA but also at YWCA's across the Nation. Today she is a revered matriarch who is nationally and internationally recognized for her contributions in support of the mission and goals of the YWCA and her beloved community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you, and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Mrs. Anne Marquess Garrott and the members of the Southwest Belmont Community Association for their many years of service.

RECOGNIZING JON TRAUB'S
PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to compliment a staff member for years of service to the U.S. Congress.

Last week, Jon Traub ended his service as the Staff Director for the Majority Staff of the Committee on Ways and Means. He'd spent five years in this role working for both Chairman CAMP in the majority and Ranking Member McCrery in the good old days when Democrats controlled the House of Representatives.

Whether Democrat or Republican, I hope all Members of Congress recognize the important contributions our staffs make. In general, they work longer hours than we do, they get more into the details of policy-making, and we count on them to make us look good.

In his time at Ways and Means, I always found Jon to be a straight shooter. We didn't often agree on policy, but I always knew he'd give me a straight answer when I asked him a question and I always knew he had the confidence of the Chairman so I could count on his answer being correct.

I wish Jon the best in his future endeavors. I'm always sad to see good people leave Cap-

itol Hill, but with a young child, I can certainly understand the desire to lead a more normal life. Again, I thank Jon for his service, wish him the best in his future, and hope to see him in public service again.

TO EXTEND THE PAY LIMITATION
FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3835, a bill that represents more of a political stunt by Republicans than an honest way to address the shared sacrifice needed across the Federal Government in these difficult fiscal times. Members were not allowed to consider a bill offered by Representative CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, H.R. 3858, that would have prevented members of Congress from receiving an automatic pay raise in 2013. I would have voted in favor of that bill. With so many Americans still looking for work and struggling to pay their bills, it is only fair and right that members of Congress put their needs first. However, Republicans chose to tie our salary freeze with those of Federal employees. Previously, they had not been linked. I regret that House Republicans thought it was more important to score political points than showing the American people that Members of Congress on a bipartisan basis support the existing Congressional pay freeze. Such actions only serve to deepen the cynicism of Americans who have grown increasingly fed up with the polarization of Congress.

HONORING MRS. LAVERDA O.
ALLEN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Mrs. LaVerda O. Allen as she turns 80 years old. On behalf of our diverse Bay Area community, I would like to personally wish Mrs. Allen a very happy birthday surrounded by family, friends, colleagues and community leaders. Her efforts to advance equal education and work opportunities for women and people of color have spanned over 6 decades. Mrs. Allen is truly an icon in the African American community, and the broad reach of her influence continues to touch communities, both near and far.

A long-time Oakland and East Bay resident, Mrs. Allen moved to Oakland with her family in 1943. After graduating early, with honors, from Oakland Technical High School, she attended the University of California, Berkeley and San Francisco State University, where she received a B.A. in Social Work and an M.A. in Education Administration. During her early career as an educator, Mrs. Allen helped to develop curriculum throughout the Berkeley Unified School District and Peralta Community College District. She also assisted in developing the first financial aid program for state

community colleges. Together with her husband and business partner, she ran Bay Cities Beauty Supplies, an entrepreneurial enterprise focused on hair care products for African Americans. Furthermore, her trailblazing experience as a woman and minority business owner led her to a path of advocacy that would pave the way for countless others to follow.

For more than 20 years, Mrs. Allen has been Owner and Principal of The Allen Group, LLC, (TAG) a project and construction management firm committed to advocating on behalf of minority businesses in the engineering-construction industry. She is a stalwart leader in the development of minority, woman-owned and disadvantaged business enterprise programs, and has been a consultant developing agendas to empower architects, engineers and construction contractors in this field since 1971. She and TAG have held management roles in large-scale, complex projects that have been critical to the future of sound Bay Area infrastructure.

Among her many accolades, LaVerda Allen has received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. She is an active and prominent member of myriad organizations advocating for the rights of children and the mentally ill. She co-authored the Nation's first Affirmative Action program that called for minority participation by craft, has served on the San Francisco Human Rights Advisory Committee, and was instrumental in the passage of the San Francisco Minority and Woman Owned Business ordinance in 1988. She was a cofounder of the National Association of Minority Contractors, served as the chair of the Berkeley chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Education and Labor Committee during the civil rights movement, and was a board member of the Berkeley Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Therefore, on behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, Mrs. LaVerda O. Allen, I salute you for your amazing achievements and on this remarkable milestone. Thank you for your many continued contributions to equality, prosperity and justice in our communities. I wish you much more success, happiness and well-being in the coming years. And, once again, Happy Birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on December 17, 2010, I regret that I was not present to vote on H.R. 306, H.R. 1162, and H.R. 2606.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all bills.

IN HONOR OF ROSA PARKS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Rosa Parks,

whose extraordinary deeds and achievements performed with great moral and physical courage and quiet determination, make her one of the most consequential persons of the 20th Century.

Rosa Parks, who was born 99 years ago today in Tuskegee, Alabama, ignited the modern civil rights movement in the United States in Montgomery, Alabama on December 1, 1955, when she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. Rosa Parks stood up for justice and equality by this simple act of sitting down. And her quiet courage and dedication to the cause of justice and equality led her to join Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others in launching the Montgomery Bus Boycott, an act of civil disobedience that changed America, and forever coined Ms. Parks as the first lady of civil rights.

Ms. Parks' act of quiet civil disobedience inspired similar protests, demonstrations, sit-ins, marches, and other non-violent direct action across the segregated south, including the "Little Rock Nine" in Little Rock, Arkansas in September 1957, where nine black students were blocked from entering the formerly all-white Central High School leading to government intervention; the famous "Greensboro sit-in" on February 1, 1960 where four black students refused to leave a Greensboro, North Carolina Woolworth's lunch counter after being refused service; the Freedom Rides during the Spring and Summer of 1961 in which young black and white students, referred to as "freedom riders," began taking bus trips through the South to challenge Jim Crow practices banning integration in interstate transportation; and the 1965 "March from Selma to Montgomery" for voting rights, during which occurred "Bloody Sunday," the event that shocked and horrified the Nation and led directly to the passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965.

As a leading activist for civil rights and equality, Ms. Parks actively advocated for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and was present at the signing into law of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by President Johnson.

Ms. Parks continued her work for civil equality and rights and served on the staff of U.S. Representative JOHN CONYERS. Her strong belief in the constitutional principles of equality and freedom led her to establish the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development in 1977. The institute strives to teach children throughout the U.S. about the history of their country and of the civil rights movement. Her efforts in the fight for civil rights earned her the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996, and the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999.

Upon her death in 2005, Rosa Parks was the first woman and second non-U.S. government official granted the posthumous honor of lying in honor at the Capitol Rotunda. Hundreds of thousands of mourners came to pay their final respects to the "First Lady of the Civil Rights Movement."

Now, a year before the anniversary of her 100th birthday, her work lives on as we continue to fight for justice and equality in this Nation. As Ms. Parks once said, "As long as there is unemployment, war, crime and all things that go to the infliction of man's inhumanity to man, regardless—there is much to be done, and people need to work together."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in honor and remembrance of Rosa Parks, a

heroine of courage and a pioneer for civil rights in the history of this Nation. I ask my colleagues to join me for a moment of silence in memory of the great Rosa Parks.

TRIBUTE TO MARY ALAMAR
YOUNG OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring someone who has given 50 years of exceptional service to our country, Ms. Mary Alamar Young.

Ms. Young was born and raised in Devine, Texas just South of San Antonio, and she began her federal civil service career with the Air Force in 1960 as a clerk typist. Over the years, she rose to various positions of prominence due to her exemplary work ethic and her willingness to fight for the opportunities of others. As Program Operations Manager for the Air Force Affirmative Employment Program, her work expanded the opportunities for the minority community to contribute to and excel in our nation's armed forces.

Mary Alamar Young recently retired on December 31, 2011 after 50 consecutive years as a Federal civilian employee. Her expertise and consistently high level of performance contributed immeasurably to the successful accomplishment of the United States Air Force mission. Throughout her career, Ms. Young set the standard by which our nation's military operates today. This is evidenced by the many awards she has received over the years, including the Air Force Distinguished EEO Award and the Texas Governor's Yellow Rose of Texas Award. Additionally through her advocacy, Ms. Young has been critical to empowering students in the Latino community and working to provide increased opportunities for the young leaders of tomorrow.

It is my proud honor to represent constituents like Ms. Mary Alamar Young in our nation's capitol. Once again, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in recognizing a true public servant.

HONORING CHANCELLOR DAVID J.
PRIOR

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in memory of Chancellor David J. Prior, a devoted educator and gifted leader from Southwest Virginia. Chancellor Prior left us suddenly on February 2, 2012. At the time of his passing, Chancellor Prior was serving as the seventh chancellor of the University of Virginia's College at Wise.

Chancellor Prior was born in Anniston, Ala. on December 13, 1943. He earned a number of degrees, including an A.B. in biology from Olivet College in Michigan, a master's in animal physiology and biochemistry from Central Michigan University, and a Ph.D. in neurophysiology from the University of Virginia in 1972. He was also a post-doctoral fellow in

neurobiology at Princeton University from 1972 to 1973.

He began his career in education at the University of Kentucky in 1973, where he eventually held dual full professorships in biological sciences and physiology and biophysics. In 1987, Chancellor Prior became chairman of the Department of Biology at Northern Arizona University and was later named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1992. He also served as dean of the graduate school of Northern Michigan University and as a provost in the University of Wisconsin system. He came to the College at Wise in 2005, and was inaugurated on April 11, 2006, as its seventh chancellor. Chancellor Prior was also a prolific researcher having been published numerous times. He is survived by his wife, Merry Lu; daughter, Andrea and her husband, Tom Martin; and son, Christopher and his wife, Sarah.

During his time at the College at Wise, Chancellor Prior worked tirelessly to focus on the importance of education throughout Southwest Virginia. He also encouraged economic development in the region by promoting the College and a STEM initiative to encourage students to enter the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. While chancellor, he oversaw the construction of the Convocation Center and several buildings on campus, conducted a successful fundraising campaign, and increased student enrollment. He enjoyed interacting with students and impacted countless lives through his work as an educator and administrator.

Chancellor Prior was a dreamer who allowed the College to achieve beyond what it could have imagined. The growth and successes of the University of Virginia's College at Wise in recent years will long serve as a reminder of his legacy. I am honored to pay tribute to this great man's many contributions. Chancellor Prior will be missed, but never forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF THELMA
POND

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Thelma Pond of Holliston, MA on her 100th birthday. Thelma has lived in Holliston since she was 4 years old. She attended Holliston High School and Framingham Normal School. After graduation, Thelma began her teaching career in Holliston at her beloved Wilder School. Thelma's passion for teaching continued long after retirement. She continued her service at Wilder School on a one-on-one basis volunteering for about twenty years—giving the students an extra boost with their reading.

Thelma has impacted the lives of countless families in Holliston. Her fondest memories growing up in Holliston include seeing a horse pulling the plow to clear sidewalks on snowy days, and the young man who would arrive at her house in his wagon to collect her mother's grocery list and would deliver them later that day. Thelma also proudly participated in the annual Maypole Dance each year.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Thelma for her wonderful contributions to her community. Her

commitment to education and passion for empowering young people is truly inspiring. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the lifetime of contributions of Thelma Pond on her 100th birthday.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 658,
FAA REAUTHORIZATION AND RE-
FORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that H.R. 658, the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act, will fully fund the FAA through FY2015, particularly because it will include the NextGen Air Traffic Control Modernization Program. That program is important to my constituents who travel through O'Hare Airport. The program will ensure that air traffic congestion is lessened, noise and pollution mitigation efforts are continued, and air traffic control is improved according to best practices.

However, it is unconscionable that anti-labor provisions regarding the National Mediation Board were allowed to find their way into this bill. Organized labor has protected the rights and livelihood of American workers for decades. H.R. 658 changes the rules for holding elections, making it harder even to give workers the opportunity to have union representation. The bill makes it easier to strip union rights in the case of mergers between airlines or railways. It also allows election results to be challenged in person by employers, opening up union elections to voter intimidation. Those and other provisions will only undermine the ability of American laborers to be represented in their places of employment. They do not belong in the bill, and they will hurt rather than help workers and our national transportation system as a whole.

I agree that the FAA, and the NextGen program should be fully funded. I voted against H.R. 658 because it injected anti-labor provisions into a reauthorization that should have been devoid of partisan political stunts.

CONDEMNING CHINESE AND RUS-
SIAN SUPPORT FOR THE SYRIAN
REGIME

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the Chinese and Russian actions on Saturday, February 4, 2012, that blocked the United Nations Security Council from endorsing the Arab League's plan for a cessation of violence and political transition in Syria.

The United States joined with people of many faiths from countries around the world to ask the Security Council to hold Syria accountable for the bloodshed it has already committed, and continues to commit, against its own people.

Unfortunately, the Chinese and Russian governments appear to place more value on

weapons sales to President al-Assad's bloody regime than the lives and freedoms of the people of Syria, and together they vetoed a resolution that would have committed the international community to putting an end to the violence.

Since the beginning of the uprising, I have called on President Obama and Secretary Clinton to hold the al-Assad regime accountable for its despicable actions and to speak up for the rights of the Syrian people who are dying for expressing their own independent political voice.

It is not too late for President Bashar al-Assad to do the right thing—step down—for his sake and the sake of the Syrian people.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL ELEC-
TION REFORM ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the District of Columbia Special Election Reform Act. I introduced similar legislation last Congress, which passed without objection by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the full House. Final enactment of the bill was prevented, however, by an anonymous hold in the Senate, which is no longer allowed in that Chamber. This bill is of great importance to the District of Columbia, particularly now as the District of Columbia Council is faced with the sort of vacancy that this bill is meant to address. The District has to hold a special election just one month after the primary election, which will cost the city an estimated \$318,000. Although this bill will not take effect before the upcoming special election, the bill will provide the District with the flexibility in the future to conduct fair elections without such redundancies and unnecessary costs. The District of Columbia Special Election Reform Act is of little concern to Congress, but the D.C. Council cannot amend the Home Rule Charter. All of the provisions in the bill have been passed or approved by the District of Columbia.

The District of Columbia Special Election Reform Act makes minor changes to the District's Home Rule Charter to provide the city greater flexibility to conduct special elections for vacancies in the office of mayor, attorney general, Council chairman and other members of the District of Columbia Council. Current law requires that a special election be held on the first Tuesday occurring more than 114 days after a vacancy. The bill would establish a range during which a special election may be conducted, between 70 and 174 days, to reduce the gap in local representation, while also allowing the Board of Elections to take into account important factors when scheduling a special election, such as maximizing voter participation and avoiding conflicts with religious and culture observances.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to work closely with the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Chairman DARRELL ISSA to develop this bill, and look forward to the bill being signed into law.

TRIBUTE TO MS. LOYOLA ROSE
TRUJILLO OF SAN ANTONIO,
TEXAS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a true asset to our country's armed forces, Ms. Loyola Rose Trujillo.

Ms. Trujillo is currently the Director of the Civilian Hispanic and American Indian/Alaska Native Programs for the Department of Defense's Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity. Prior to this esteemed position, she has served in various posts within the Department of Defense and has worked in budget and contracting, civilian personnel, strategic planning and manpower. Throughout her career, Ms. Trujillo has been a model for public service and government effectiveness, and her dedicated efforts have ensured that our nation's military is an employer that operates at the highest level of civil rights compliance and protections for its employees. Additionally, her work to promote diversity has greatly increased opportunities for members of minority communities to serve proudly and exceptionally in our nation's armed forces.

She is the daughter of Elisa Dominguez and Antonio Simone Trujillo, who was the first Mexican-American policeman on the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department. She is married to LTC Randall Miller USMC (ret), and she considers her greatest accomplishments to be the raising of her wonderful family, including two daughters and seven outstanding grandchildren.

It is my proud honor to represent constituents like Ms. Loyola Rose Trujillo in our nation's capitol. Once again, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in recognizing a true public servant.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MARCH 21

Time to be announced

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine risk management and commodities in the 2012 farm bill.

Room to be announced

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), Non Commissioned Officers Association, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Vietnam Veterans of America,

Wounded Warrior Project, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, and The Retired Enlisted Association.

SD-G50

MARCH 22

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Air Force Sergeants Association, Blinded Veterans Association, American Veterans (AMVETS), Gold Star Wives, Fleet Reserve Association, Military Officers As-

sociation of America, and the Jewish War Veterans.

345, Cannon Building

MARCH 28

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Margaret Bartley, of Maryland, and Coral Wong Pietsch, of Hawaii, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

SR-418