

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### IN RECOGNITION OF NORWEGIAN CONSTITUTION DAY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Ohio Norsemen as they celebrate Syttende Mai in recognition of Norwegian Constitution Day.

Every year May 17th, or Syttende Mai, is observed by people throughout the world in recognition of the National Day of Norway. This date marks the anniversary of the 1814 signing of Norway's Constitution which declared the nation's legal independence and established a government dedicated to the freedom and equality of the Norwegian people. The document was inspired by and embodied the ideas of other early independence movements, marking a major victory for democracy in early 19th century Europe.

The holiday is celebrated with a prominent display of the nation's flag as well as a focus on parades featuring the children of the community. Processions are traditionally led by marching bands with some participants dressed in traditional Norwegian attire and often include speeches by young and old alike.

The Ohio Norsemen continue the tradition of celebrating their proud Norwegian ancestry by holding celebrations, parades, and potlucks replete with the foods of Norway. The celebrations held by the Ohio Norsemen are in line with a long held American tradition of honoring one's cultural ancestry while highlighting the shared democratic values embodied by the constitutions of these two nations.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the Ohio Norsemen as they celebrate and share the culture and heritage of all our citizens of Norwegian descent.

### SEQUESTER REPLACEMENT RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2012*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Chairmen LUNGREN and ISSA, I would like to submit the following letters regarding H.R. 5652, the Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act of 2012.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,  
*Washington, DC, May 8, 2012.*

Hon. DARRELL ISSA,  
*Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.*

Hon. PAUL RYAN,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Budget, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMEN ISSA AND RYAN: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on House Adminis-

tration on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's April 26, 2012, amendments to title 5, United States Code, to comply with the reconciliation directive included in section 201 of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2013, H. Con. Res. 112. These amendments to title 5 contain provisions that fall within the jurisdictional of the Committee on House Administration.

I recognize the dictates of the budget reconciliation process require these amendments be brought before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, I waive the Committee's consideration of the amendments to title 5, United States Code. However, agreeing to waive jurisdiction over these amendments should not be construed as waiving, reducing, or affecting the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration.

I ask that a copy of your letters of May 3, 2012 and this response be included in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's transmittals to the Committee on Budget and also be placed in the Congressional Record during any floor consideration of these amendments.

I look forward to working with you on matters of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

DANIEL E. LUNGREN,  
*Chairman, Committee on House Administration.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-  
MITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOV-  
ERNMENT REFORM,  
*Washington, DC, May 3, 2012.*

Hon. DANIEL E. LUNGREN,  
*Chairman, Committee on House Administration, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUNGREN: I write to you concerning your Committee's jurisdictional interest in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's April 26, 2012, amendments to title 5, United States Code, to comply with the reconciliation directive included in section 201 of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2013, H. Con. Res. 112.

I appreciate your willingness to support expediting the budget reconciliation process. I acknowledge that the amendments contain provisions under the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration, and agree that your willingness to waive further consideration of these amendments is without prejudice to your Committee's jurisdictional interest in this or similar legislation in the future.

I will include a copy of this letter and any response in Oversight and Government Reform's transmittals to the Committee on Budget and request this letter and any response be placed in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of these amendments. Thank you for your cooperation as we work towards the resolution of the budget reconciliation process.

Sincerely,

DARRELL ISSA,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,  
*Washington, DC, May 10, 2012.*

Hon. DANIEL E. LUNGREN,  
*Chairman, Committee on House Administration, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write to you regarding your Committee's jurisdictional interest

in H.R. 4966, the Sequester Replacement Act of 2012. The bill, as reported from the Committee on the Budget on May 7, 2012, contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration.

I appreciate your willingness to support expediting floor consideration of this important legislation. I acknowledge that H.R. 4966 contains provisions under the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration, and understand and agree that your willingness to waive further consideration of the bill is without prejudice to your Committee's jurisdictional interests in this or similar legislation in the future. In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, I would support a request from your Committee for an appropriate number of conferees.

I will include a copy of this letter and your letter of May 8, 2012, which discussed this matter, in the Congressional Record during any floor consideration of H.R. 4966. Thank you for your cooperation as we work towards enactment of this legislation.

Sincerely,

PAUL RYAN,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Budget.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,  
*Washington, DC, May 8, 2012.*

Hon. PAUL RYAN,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Budget, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN RYAN: I write to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on House Administration in H.R. 4966, the Sequester Replacement Act of 2012. The bill, as reported from the Committee on the Budget on May 7, 2012, contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, I will waive Committee consideration of provisions that fall within the Committee's jurisdiction. However, agreeing to waive jurisdiction over these amendments should not be construed as waiving, reducing, or affecting the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration.

Additionally, the Committee on House Administration expressly reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provision within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this, or any similar legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee for conferees on H.R. 4966 for provisions within the Committee's jurisdiction.

I ask that a copy of this letter and your response be placed in the Congressional Record during any floor consideration of H.R. 4966.

I look forward to working with you on matters of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

DANIEL E. LUNGREN,  
*Chairman, Committee on House Administration.*

• 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.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,  
Washington, DC, May 10, 2012.

Hon. DANIEL E. LUNGREN,  
Chairman, Committee on House Administration,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUNGREN: I write to you concerning your Committee's jurisdictional interest in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's April 26, 2012, amendments to title 5, United States Code, to comply with the reconciliation directive included in section 201 of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2013, H. Con. Res. 112.

I appreciate your willingness to support expediting the budget reconciliation process. I acknowledge that the amendments contain provisions under the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration, and understand and agree that your willingness to waive further consideration of these amendments is without prejudice to your Committee's jurisdictional interest in this or similar legislation in the future.

I will include a copy of this letter, Oversight and Government Reform's transmittals to the Committee on the Budget, and any response from the Committee on House Administration in the Congressional Record during any floor consideration of these amendments. Thank you for your cooperation as we work towards the completion of the budget reconciliation process.

Sincerely,

PAUL RYAN,  
Chairman, Committee on the Budget.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF DR. SAM H. MCGOWEN

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the career of Dr. Sam H. McGowen as he retires as Superintendent of Mascoutah Community Unit School District #19, in Mascoutah, Illinois.

Sam McGowen has built a 45-year career in education, both as a teacher and administrator. A native of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, Sam earned his Bachelor's Degree from Southeast Missouri State University in 1966 and began his education career as a social studies teacher in Bonne Terre Missouri. Sam would also earn a Master's from Southeast Missouri State and a doctorate in educational administration from St. Louis University.

Sam's career evolved into school administration and this would lead him to positions as superintendent for several Missouri school districts before coming to Mascoutah, Illinois. Part of the attraction of the Mascoutah opportunity was Sam's familiarity with Scott Air Force Base. He had visited Scott many times as part of his duties in the Missouri National Guard. Knowing that many students in the Mascoutah School District were from military families and appreciating the Mascoutah community from his previous visits, Sam was intrigued by this opportunity.

Sam McGowen's tenure as superintendent of Mascoutah Community Unit School District #19 has seen tremendous growth, both for the district and for the Mascoutah community. Enrollment has soared from 2,700 to 3,600 stu-

dents and new construction has been completed for both a new high school building and a new elementary school for students who reside on the base.

This success comes in part because Sam understood the unique challenges that schools serving military families, such as Mascoutah, face. As a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools and President of the Military Impacted Schools Association in 2001, Sam worked tirelessly on behalf of these students to ensure Impact Aid schools receive the necessary resources to provide their students with a quality education. Sam's dedication has made Mascoutah the successful school district it is today.

Sam and his wife, Sue, reside in Mascoutah and have four children and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Dr. Sam H. McGowen for his years of dedicated service to the Mascoutah community and to wish him and his family the very best in the future.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 I was inadvertently detained on rollcall votes 250, 251 and 252. Had I been present to vote I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 250, "yes" on rollcall 251, and "yes" on rollcall 252.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MARGARET TERRY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Margaret Terry, who is retiring after 40 years of dedicated service with the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is a law firm for low-income individuals and provides services in the areas of consumer rights, domestic violence, education, employment, family law, health, housing, foreclosure, immigration, public benefits, utilities and taxes. It was founded as a nonprofit in 1905. Until 1966, it operated primarily with volunteers. In 1966, staff attorneys were hired; today there are 53 attorneys, 40 staff members and more than 1800 volunteers that serve Cleveland's low-income individuals. Legal Aid's mission is to secure justice and resolve fundamental problems for those who are low income and otherwise vulnerable by providing high quality legal services and working for systemic solutions.

Ms. Terry graduated from East Carolina University in 1967 before enrolling in the University of North Carolina Law School. Upon graduating in 1970, she joined Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) and relocated to Cleveland, Ohio. Margaret was placed at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, working in the Juvenile Unit during her second year of serv-

ice with VISTA. She was permanently hired by the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland in January 1973. Throughout her career, Ms. Terry handled a wide range of cases. She developed knowledge in a variety of aspects of the law led to her becoming a supervising attorney for Legal Aid's Intake Unit.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Margaret Terry on retiring after 40 years of unparalleled service to the underprivileged who sought her help through the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

#### RECOGNIZING OLDER AMERICANS DURING THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the achievements of Asian and Pacific Americans and their invaluable contributions to the American family.

It is a privilege to represent an extremely diverse district in Orange County, where many Asian Pacific Americans call home. As a Member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), I am a proud cosponsor of House Resolution 621, recognizing May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. It is also a time to honor the rich traditions and immense contributions Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have made to our nation.

May is also Older Americans Month, a time where we recognize older adults and show our appreciation for their guiding wisdom and commitment to our communities. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge three extraordinary APIA community members from Orange County for their distinguished contributions that have enhanced the moral fabric of my district, the state of California, and our country.

Arts and music play an instrumental role in preserving and promoting the Vietnamese American culture. I would like to honor Mr. Tu Cong Phung, a renowned musician. Composer Phung arrived in the United States in 1980, as a boat refugee from Vietnam. His romantic music captures the essence of love that has become an integral part of Vietnamese music-lovers across for over 50 years.

Mr. Minh Tam Nguyen is a businessman, educator, and a veteran. Mr. Nguyen and his family immigrated to America in 1975 and began serving the community as a social worker in California. Mr. Nguyen founded Tam's Beauty Salon and Tam's Beauty Colleges and has educated over 25,000 students during his career and is proud to serve the Orange County immigrant community.

#### RECOGNIZING DUQUESNE, MISSOURI

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the resilience of the Duquesne, Missouri community.

One year ago the community of Duquesne and surrounding area was devastated by an EF-5 tornado, but showed the nation and the world what it means to help your neighbors in their greatest time of need.

The tornado that wreaked havoc on our friends and neighbors was ½ mile to ¾ mile wide and traveled approximately 13 miles in Duquesne, Joplin and surrounding area. The tornado damaged over 500 residential and commercial structures in Duquesne, forever changing the landscape of the community and lives of those who call the area home. This destructive force of nature claimed 161 lives in the area.

I saw the immediate aftermath of this disaster with my own eyes, and I know it is vital to get the right resources to the right people as quickly as possible, because lives depend on it. As their representative in Congress, it was my job to make sure the federal government worked with local and state officials to provide disaster relief. As a neighbor, it was my job to help in any way I could, from setting up cots in aid stations with other volunteers to helping with search and rescue. Missouri is called the Show-Me State, and Missourians and Americans from across our great country showed the nation and the world the compassion and generosity of the American spirit. Over 120,000 volunteers poured into the area to offer their help and support, and some are still assisting with rebuilding efforts.

As we commemorate the one-year anniversary which changed the lives of all families impacted by this horrific disaster, we treasure the good times in the past and look forward to a promising future for Duquesne and all who call this wonderful place home.

Even though we can't explain why tragedy strikes, we can use what happened here to remind us of the good inside us all and to remind us that even though we lost a lot, we did not lose everything. If anyone thinks that there are not good, generous and compassionate people in this world, then they need to come down here to see firsthand how this community came together during their time of need.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE  
HONORABLE ROBERT E. FEIGHAN

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Judge Robert E. Feighan.

Judge Feighan was born on September 4, 1927 to Edward and Catherine Feighan. He was a lifelong resident of Euclid, Ohio and long-time member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Holy Cross Church. He attended St. Ignatius High School for three years before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps. He served in China for a year before returning to graduate from Euclid Shore High School. He went on to John Carroll University and the Cleveland State University's Cleveland Marshall Law School, from which he graduated in 1955.

Judge Feighan first gained notoriety as an assistant Cuyahoga County prosecutor; a position he held from 1961 until 1981. He made headlines for convicting a man who committed a stabbing at Higbee's Department Store. In 1980, Judge Feighan was elected as a Cuya-

hoga county Common Pleas Court Judge and served until 1988. Uninterested in furthering his career politically, Judge Feighan neglected to run for another term and began a twenty year stint as a visiting judge. He retired in 2008.

I offer my condolences to his sister, Patricia Feighan and his many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Judge Robert E. Feighan, who dedicated his life to serving the Greater Cleveland community.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING IRAN FROM ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2012*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my vote in favor of H. Res. 568.

I would like to clarify that nothing in this resolution authorizes or empowers military action by the United States or U.S. encouragement of the use of force by any other country at this time. I have long made plain my conviction that all options should be available with respect to the Iranian nuclear program. I do not believe the military option should be taken off the table for future discussion at a future time. However, this is not an appropriate time to seriously consider or even to hint at military strikes. Most informed observers believe sanctions are heavily affecting the Iranian regime and may be moving it to recognize that the international community is united in opposition to its nuclear project. This is not the moment to loosen the screws, nor is it the moment for cheap bellicosity. Issues of peace and war should not be exploited for political advantage.

I vote yes despite these concerns. I regret that the leadership of this House has chosen this moment to make an unnecessary and untimely political statement. I believe this is profoundly ill timed and injudicious. I call upon the House leadership to stop holding such unhelpful votes at politically charged moments. This resolution heightens the rhetoric in a way that is at best unhelpful to ongoing, promising diplomatic efforts and may be actively damaging.

In addition, I note that the inclusion of language regarding Iran's "nuclear weapons capability" is overly broad and undefined. When considering such weighty issues, clarity is of the utmost importance, and Congress should be precise in what we are asking for in this resolution so that we may avoid misinterpretation.

Finally, I point out that the last resolve clause, which "urges the President to reaffirm the unacceptability of an Iran with nuclear-weapons capability and opposition to any policy that would rely on containment as an option in response to the Iranian nuclear threat," is unnecessary and insulting. President Obama has always been clear, forceful, and mature when dealing with the Iranian nuclear program. It is evident that this clause is a political statement meant to score points during a political season.

Nonetheless, with these concerns I am required to vote. Though I considered answering present, I want to be clear about my strong stance on this issue. I do believe that a nuclear armed Iran would pose a danger to the peace of the region and the world. So, today I vote in favor of H. Res. 568, with the clear concerns I have stated.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JOE EDWARDS

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished community leader in Cartersville, Georgia, Dr. Joe Edwards is celebrating his 25th anniversary as pastor of the Church Liberty Square.

Under his direction, Liberty Square has grown into a "life-based" church complex, boasting a K-12 school, family home communities, and a food distribution center that serves the needy. Pastor Edwards is a man who lives his faith; he and members of the Church at Liberty Square have positively transformed their community.

Pastor Edwards' devotion to Christ's ministry is an example to us all. I wish him continued blessings in his work. There is no doubt that Cartersville is a better place because of Pastor Edwards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pastor Edwards and the Church at Liberty Square.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4310) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act, which will assist victims of sexual harassment or sexual assault in the military. There are countless current and former members of the military who have bravely reported sexual harassment or assault, only to be retaliated against. My amendment would educate these service members about the resources available to them to help them get justice.

These brave men and women, who serve our nation with honor and distinction, should not have to live in fear of reprisal for doing what is right. My amendment will ensure that they are informed of the resources available, and the processes in place, to protect them from any retaliatory personnel actions after reporting sexual harassment or abuse.

The Board of Correction for Military Records (BCMR) is the vehicle by which a current or

former member of the Armed Forces who feels that they have suffered an injustice as a result of error or injustice in military records may apply for a correction of those military records.

My amendment will educate current and former military members about the opportunity to apply for relief from the BCMR if they have been previously punished for reporting cases of sexual assault.

Applying for relief to the BCMR could help a service member such as a current Marine who is facing an unwarranted Field Fight Performance Board following her filing of a sexual harassment complaint.

It could help an Army soldier who was denied promotion, removed from her assignment, and referred for a mental evaluation after reporting a sexual assault, and who received a series of negative evaluation reports after filing a sexual harassment complaint and initiating a Congressional inquiry into her situation.

It could help a sailor who is facing involuntary administrative separation from the Navy—which would deny her future medical benefits—because she has been diagnosed with an “adjustment disorder” after seeking mental health treatment in the aftermath of a sexual assault.

We have made excellent progress recently in dealing with this blemish of sexual assault on the proud and honorable tradition of our armed forces. I am pleased that new protections for victims are in place as a result of last year’s NDAA, and that the Department of Defense is moving forward with advanced investigative techniques that will improve prosecution of sexual assault cases.

But I am also very concerned about the issue of sexual harassment, which is so often the precursor to sexual assault. This educational campaign is simply a first step in addressing the issue of sexual harassment, and sending a message that this behavior—and certainly retaliating against victims who report it—is absolutely unacceptable in our military.

Much is asked of the men and women who dedicate themselves to the protection of our freedoms. We must continue to ensure that we earn that trust and dedication.

IN HONOR OF THE FORTUNA  
FAMILY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Fortuna Family, who is being recognized by the Slovenian National Home (the Nash) at their annual Persons of the Year Recognition Dinner.

The Fortuna Family began on November 21, 1953 when Joseph and Virginia Fortuna were married. In 1958, the couple opened the Fortuna Funeral Home in Cleveland’s Slavic Village. Throughout their fifty-two year marriage, Joseph and Virginia raised four children, Joseph, Mary Ann, John and Jane.

The eldest, Joseph, was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1980 and today serves as the Pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Roman Catholic Church in Euclid, Ohio. Mary Ann married James Trzaska; the two are licensed funeral directors working at Fortuna Funeral

Home. Mary Ann and James also have two children, Sheryl and Anthony, who are both attorneys. John Fortuna works at the family funeral home and has been a licensed funeral director for 33 years. John and his wife, Roberta, have three children, Joseph, Katherine and Kristen. The youngest of the Fortuna children, Jane, married Phil DeMattia and they have raised two children, David and Rebecca. Jane works as a nurse at the Cleveland Clinic.

The entire Fortuna Family has had a long connection to the Nash. In addition to Joseph and Virginia’s wedding reception being held at the Nash, each of their children’s wedding receptions were also hosted at the venue. Father Joseph’s ordination was also celebrated at the Nash. Additionally, Joseph and Virginia began a long lasting family tradition of volunteerism at the Nash. Joseph served as President of the Board of Slovenian National Home and was named “Man of the Year” multiple times.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating the Fortuna Family as they are honored at the Slovenian National Home’s Persons of the Year Recognition Dinner.

DEDICATION AND UNVEILING OF  
THE MONUMENT HONORING STEPHEN  
DUBOISE II

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor and remember Stephen Duboise II, a soldier in the American Revolutionary War, along with his ancestors who can trace their lineage back to the founding of this country. Stephen Duboise II was the grandson of Isaac Duboise, who came to the United States from France. I am honored to recognize him and the entire Duboise family for their contributions to this country.

The Duboise family produced several Revolutionary War soldiers, including Stephen Duboise II. His service record speaks for itself and is documented in his application for a pension filed in Rutherford County, Tennessee, on August 24, 1832. During the war, he served under General Francis Marion (“The Swamp Fox”) and fought in several key Revolutionary battles.

Not long after his time in Tennessee, Stephen Duboise II moved to Franklin County, Alabama, which is part of the Fourth Congressional District that I am proud to represent. He is listed in the Franklin County census of 1840. Stephen Duboise II died in Franklin County on October 15, 1842, and is buried near the Duboise Cemetery in an unmarked grave.

On May 20, 2012, an unveiling and ceremony is scheduled along with the dedication of a monument at the Duboise Cemetery honoring Stephen Duboise II, along with other members of his family line from Isaac Duboise to Peter Duboise, who was buried alongside Stephen in 1910. By placing a monument at the Duboise Cemetery, with the genealogy attached, this rich heritage can be viewed and passed on for many generations to come. May God bless the Duboise family, the great State of Alabama, and the United States of America.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF  
NAGORNO-KARABAKH

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to remember and support the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.

It is first worth highlighting the history at work in this tragic situation. Historically, the majority of the population in Nagorno-Karabakh has been Armenian, and the people have always had close ethnic, religious, and familial ties with Armenia. However, in 1921, Joseph Stalin, then the commissar for nationality affairs in the Transcaucasia Bureau of the Communist Party, declared Nagorno-Karabakh to be an autonomous region controlled by Azerbaijan as part of his strategy to divide and rule.

In 1987, as the Soviet Union teetered on the edge of dissolution, the Karabakh Armenians petitioned for the inclusion of Nagorno-Karabakh in the state of Armenia. In 1991, they petitioned for independent state status. Sadly, the situation remains unresolved.

After the Soviet Union dissolved, Armenians in Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh endured great hardship, including horrific violence in Sumgait (February 1998), in Kirovabad (November 1988) and in Baku (January 1990). These pogroms were only part of a pattern of anti-Armenian activities occurring throughout Azerbaijan, and thousands of people lost their lives and hundreds of thousands of Armenians were displaced as a result. Such targeted violence is as deplorable today as it was two decades ago—yet, tragically, the region is no closer to peace. A cease-fire agreement, brokered in 1994, remains in place, but continued incendiary actions and statements threaten to destabilize peace talks. In January 2008, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev warned Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh, “We are reinforcing our army because we must be ready to free our lands . . . at any moment and by any means.” Such rhetoric can only be poison to the peace process.

U.S. policy toward the South Caucasus states has included promoting the resolution of the conflict surrounding the independent Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh. It is more important than ever that the United States maintain a principled stand for peace in this region, show that democracy can be born from conflict, and support Nagorno-Karabakh. It is my sincerest hope that Nagorno-Karabakh’s right to self-determination can be affirmed without further loss of life.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING IRAN FROM ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2012*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose H. Res. 568, a resolution “expressing the

sense of the House of Representatives regarding the importance of preventing the Government of Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability.”

Once again we see on the “suspension” calendar, which is customarily reserved for non-controversial legislation, a resolution designed to move the U.S. toward a military conflict with Iran. Sadly, it has become non-controversial for Congress to call for U.S. attacks on foreign countries that have neither attacked nor threatened the United States.

We should not fool ourselves about the timing of this legislation. Next week, high-level talks between Iran and the five permanent U.N. Security Council members plus Germany, P5+1, will resume. Those who seek U.S. military action against Iran must fear that successful diplomacy will undermine their calls for war.

Disturbingly, some of my colleagues have suggested this resolution can be read as a form of ersatz Congressional approval for the use of military force against Iran.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, has the authority to monitor the Iranian nuclear program to determine whether nuclear material is being diverted from civilian to military uses. The IAEA has never reported an Iranian violation. This legislation attempts to scare us into believing otherwise, but that fact remains. And the U.S. Intelligence Community agrees with IAEA conclusions on this matter.

The most dangerous aspect of H. Res. 568 is that it dramatically lowers the threshold for conflict with Iran by replacing the prohibition against acquiring nuclear weapons to a prohibition against a “capability” to develop nuclear weapons.

However, as former senior Bush administration official, Flynt Leverett, has stated:

Iranian efforts to develop a “nuclear weapons capability”. . . may make American and Israeli elites uncomfortable. But it is not a violation of the NPT. . . . While the NPT prohibits non-nuclear-weapon states from building atomic bombs, developing a nuclear weapons capability is, [allowed] under the NPT . . . It is certainly not a justification—strategically, legally, or morally—for armed aggression against Iran.

But this resolution states that the House “rejects any United States policy that would rely on efforts to contain a nuclear weapons-capable Iran.” That makes it very clear that the intent of the House is to authorize force against Iran not if it acquires a nuclear weapon, but if it has a “capability” to acquire them some time in the future. The term “capability” is left undefined, of course, leaving it open to very broad interpretations by this and future administrations.

Mr. Speaker, this is incredibly dangerous legislation. I urge my colleagues in the strongest manner to reject this stealth authorization for war on Iran.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE BUST OF FATHER ALEXANDER DUCHNOVICH IN THE RUSIN CULTURAL GARDEN

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the dedication of the bust of Fa-

ther Alexander Duchnovich in the Rusin Cultural Garden on June 24, 2012.

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

The Rusin Cultural Garden was dedicated in 1939. In May of 1952, the then leader of the Rusin Cultural Garden Association, Reverend Joseph Hanulya, unveiled a bust of Alexander Duchnovich. Alexander Duchnovich, a Greek Catholic priest, wrote the Rusin national anthem. His writings sought to unify Carpatho-Rusins. Unfortunately, the bust disappeared from the garden sometime during the 1970s.

Decades later, John Krenisky, a Clevelander and member of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society began fundraising for a replacement bust of Father Duchnovich. On November 21, 2011, after more than ten years of work, a bronze replacement bust designed by Wawrytko Studios & Light Sculpture Works was installed in the Rusin Cultural Garden. A celebration to dedicate the bust and efforts of Mr. Krenisky will include a performance by the Living Traditions Fold Ensemble and banquet at Holy Spirit Church.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the dedication of the bust of Father Alexander Duchnovich in the Rusin Cultural Garden.

CONGRATULATING TAIWANESE PRESIDENT MA YING-JEU

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou on his upcoming inauguration to a second term.

Taiwan is a strategic partner of the United States. The enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act more than 30 years ago is a testament to our relationship. The lasting ties between Taiwan and the U.S. are due, in part, to enduring personal relationships between our two countries.

Our shared love of liberty and respect for our citizenry, upon which our governments were founded, has been truly exemplified by President Ma Ying-jeou.

President Ma enjoys a unique relationship with the U.S., having graduated from two of our most celebrated universities (New York University and Harvard University). His continued leadership to enhance our mutual goals has had a lasting impact on all Americans.

We wish him and the people of Taiwan well in the future and thank him for the cooperation in meeting the challenges we have faced together as allies.

Our future challenges are great and we know we can count on Taiwan as a strategic

partner to join us in meeting those challenges as well.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. MICHAEL SALVATORE

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Michael Salvatore, Superintendent of Long Branch Public Schools. Mr. Salvatore is a gifted and passionate educator who has dedicated his life’s work to serving the students of the Long Branch community. His dedication and positive transformation of the Long Branch Public School system have earned him the prestigious recognition bestowed upon him by the Long Branch Concordance. His efforts are truly worthy of this body’s recognition.

Michael Salvatore has been employed with the Long Branch Public School System for 14 years and is dedicated to serving the students and families of Long Branch, New Jersey. He began as a preschool teacher and was later promoted to Principal at the Gregory School. Mr. Salvatore quickly won the hearts of many Long Branch children and families. His contagious enthusiasm and positive attitude led to the appointment as a core member of the State Department of Education’s Leadership Advisory Council, where he trained hundreds of administrators throughout New Jersey. He has also held the title of District Administrator and Assistant Superintendent. In 2011, Mr. Salvatore was appointed Superintendent of the Long Branch Public School System. Mr. Salvatore’s work is surrounded by a motto “Where Children Matter Most” and continues to successfully execute this ideal throughout his schools. He remains a firm believer that the quality of any organization cannot exceed the quality of its leaders and continues to craft a principal leadership network to improve essential practices directly correlated to student achievement. Superintendent Salvatore is also a proponent of technologically advanced approaches to education. The use of tablet technology, podcast messaging, green energy and cloud computing have been utilized to enhance the classroom experience. Mr. Salvatore is also working diligently to encourage greater community involvement through parent forums and school festivals. A community brunch, inspired and executed by Superintendent Salvatore, fed more than five hundred people during the holidays. Mr. Salvatore’s outstanding leadership abilities and dedication to his craft continue to further enhance a student’s educational experience.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Michael Salvatore, Superintendent of Long Branch Public Schools for receiving the honor bestowed by the Long Branch Concordance. His dedication and innovative foresight continues to affect the lives of students throughout Long Branch, New Jersey.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2012*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, since 1994 Congress has expanded and reauthorized the landmark Violence Against Women Act numerous times in a bipartisan manner. It is unfortunate that the Republican leadership in the House has deviated from tradition with this bill.

This bill not only strips important provisions that were passed in the Senate by a bipartisan vote of 68–31, but also weakens preventive provisions that have been included in previous bills reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act, which were supported by Democrats and Republicans over the past 18 years. The Senate's comprehensive reauthorization bill improves protections for Native American women, immigrants, and ensures all victims are assisted regardless of religion or sexual orientation. I support the Senate's bipartisan approach to the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization bill. I cosponsored a version of the bill in the House of Representatives. I also voted to bring the Senate bill up for a vote in the House, but the Republican leadership blocked all amendments and the opportunity to vote on the Senate version.

House Republicans have brought to the floor today a controversial bill that will weaken long-standing protections and roll back key provisions. This is the first time the Violence Against Women Act has become political and it is shame. More than 300 groups have opposed aspects of this bill. Those groups include the National Network to End Domestic Violence, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, Break the Cycle, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, National Organization for Women, YWCA USA, AAUW, Business and Professional Women's Foundation, National Women's Law Center, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, American Bar Association, Human Rights Campaign, NAACP, National Congress of American Indians, National Council of La Raza, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church. I believe that Congress should stand up for all victims of domestic violence and support a comprehensive reauthorization bill.

I hope the House rejects this bill today and immediately passes the Senate's Violence Against Women Act reauthorization bill. I will monitor the progress of this bill in conference with the Senate. I am hopeful that future changes and improvements will give me a chance to vote on an acceptable alternative.

IN HONOR OF MRS. MARILYN  
RANSOM

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Marilyn Ransom, the North

Olmsted Community Council Citizen of the Year for 2012. A resident of North Olmsted, Ohio since 1967, Marilyn has been an active volunteer and activist in her community for more than four decades.

Marilyn became involved in volunteerism as a parent by supporting her children's schools and the Girl Scouts. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, she volunteered as a cadet assistant leader, leader and eventually Field Director for the Erie Shores Girl Scout Council as a recruiter for future leaders. Marilyn was also an involved member of the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). She served as president of the North Olmsted Pre-School PTA and the Early Childhood Education chair for the Ohio PTA.

Marilyn dedicated her time to the City of Lorain YMCA, where, in her role as administrator, she was able to keep the facility open for an additional three years. She was an active member of the North Olmsted Christian Science Society, an organizer of Relay for Life teams and a volunteer with North Olmsted Community Council's Scholarship and Parade Committee. Marilyn was instrumental in the creation of the North Olmsted Honest Conversations program and the All Nations Day celebrations.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mrs. Marilyn Ransom, the 2012 North Olmsted Community Council Citizen of the Year.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SECOND  
INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT  
MA YING-JEOU OF TAIWAN

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, it is important to recognize the very important occasion of the second inauguration of President Ma Ying-Jeou as the leader of our friend and ally the Republic of China (Taiwan).

The upcoming inauguration on May 20, 2012 is the culmination of a tremendous amount of hard work by President Ma who is deserving of praise for his years of public service. President Ma began his career as an assistant to the President of Taiwan before he became the youngest Cabinet Minister in the history of Taiwan. He confronted the difficult challenges of the Justice Ministry where he investigated and prosecuted corrupt public officials before being elected as the Mayor of Taipei where he successfully helped Taiwan's largest city grow economically. First elected in 2008 President Ma is now beginning another four year term following his recent reelection.

Last year, the United States and Taiwan celebrated the 100 year anniversary of our friendship and alliance. I look forward to continuing a robust friendship with this steadfast ally for many years to come and send my best wishes to President Ma as he undertakes the challenges of a second term in office.

HONORING HUDSON VALLEY'S  
FIRST RESPONDERS

**HON. NAN A.S. HAYWORTH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first responders who serve our beautiful Hudson Valley in New York's 19th Congressional District.

This past year brought many challenges to our first responders. It's a privilege to join all of our neighbors in thanking these men and women. As part of our nation's first line of defense, our police, fire, and emergency services personnel put themselves at risk every day to protect our homes, families, and communities.

In particular, the first responders named below deserve special recognition for conspicuous acts of valor, years of dedicated service, and leadership.

From Orange and Rockland Counties:

Captain William Stropell  
Responder Stephen Broesler  
Responder Melvin Livsey, Jr.  
Responder Elieen Searless  
Paramedic Elizabeth Bodnar  
EMT Pat Conques  
EMT Lois Stranges  
EMT Anthony Maggio  
EMT Shaun Mill  
Firefighter Justin Phillips  
Police Officer John Bourke  
Public Safety Dispatcher Brad Dain  
Firefighter Andrew Kolesar  
Gas Troubleshooter Ian Mackey  
Gas Troubleshooter Lee Stipek  
Firefighter Kenneth Patterson  
Firefighter Jerry Knapp  
The West Haverstraw Volunteer Fire Department  
The Haverstraw Volunteer Ambulance Corps  
Rockland Mobile Care Paramedics  
The Rockland County Anti-Terrorism Analytical Group  
From Westchester, Putnam, and Dutchess Counties:  
North Salem Emergency Management Coordinator Kurt Guldan  
Chief Albert Melillo  
Firefighter Joseph Simoncini, Sr.  
Firefighter Robert H. Ruston  
The Westchester County Technical Rescue Team  
Tim Fisher, Richard Benkwitt, Thomas Bock, Joseph Alimena, Chris Blaich, Fred Briggs, Carlos Canos, Paul Cappello, Chris Colombo, Mark Dickey, Robert Franklin, William Gallagher, Phil Goulet, Nikolai Kabelev, Eliot Lazar, Gerard McIlvain, Terence Murphy, Jerome Newman, Joseph Nickischer, Doug Palmesi, Richard Palmesi, Brett Schlosser, Albert Sulenski  
Paramedic, EMT, and Past Captain Donald Graesser  
Police Officer Bryan Shay  
Police Officer James Terrazos  
Detective John Falcone  
Paramedic Michael Revenson  
Lieutenant Erin Scott  
Past Chief Kenneth Clair  
Firefighter Daniel Valentine  
Firefighter Michael M. Bowman  
Chief Mathew Steltz

Captain James Matero  
The Cold Spring Volunteer Fire Company  
The North Highland Volunteer Fire Company  
The Putnam County 911 Emergency Dispatchers  
The Putnam County Intelligence Committee  
The Fairview Fire Department  
The Veterans Affairs Hudson Valley Health Care System

Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to acknowledge and appreciate those who give so much of themselves to keep us safe.

HONORING SOUTH ABINGTON  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. TOM MARINO**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor South Abington Elementary School, and a very special group of third grade students, recognizing their efforts to found and promote the Paws for Peace initiative.

Inspired by a children's book, Paws for Peace is an initiative started by six third-grade students from South Abington Elementary, with one goal: end the cruelty and suffering of animals in puppy mills. Many puppy mills engage in inhuman practices, including forcing dogs to live their entire lives in cages.

Paws for Peace encourages people to adopt animals from local shelters and pet rescues, rather than turning to puppy mills, using the slogan "Adopt, don't shop!" Through local and social media, members of Paws for Peace have been able to spread their message of animal welfare and humanity, creating a great impact throughout the 10th District.

With the assistance of Principal Robert D. Bugno, and teachers Judy Szymanski and Emily Saslo, third graders Olivia Arcuri, Paige Caskey, Ashley Hamilton, Christina Leo, Gianna Marturano, Mattie McGuinness, and Grace Phillips have truly made a difference in their community. They have demonstrated a heartfelt commitment to their cause, and I am proud to applaud their efforts here today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my constituents, and ask my colleagues to join me in praising their commitment to all walks of life in Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4970 because it represents a missed opportunity to renew the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA. VAWA exists because women have a human right to live in dignity without fear of criminal activity being perpetrated against them, and local and national law enforcement agencies must have specific tools to protect that right.

The bill before this House will undermine the progress our nation has made toward pro-

tecting and supporting victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. It runs counter to the intent of VAWA by cutting vital existing protections for battered immigrant women, and excludes important protections for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning, LGBTQ, victims, as well as Native American women. This bill fails to protect some of the most vulnerable victims and leaves them without access to essential services.

Three in five Native American women have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Up to 33 percent of the LGBTQ community are victims of domestic violence. These are not merely statistics; these are people we represent and they need our support.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

HONORING ROBIN GREGORIUS,  
ALABAMA SMALL BUSINESS  
PERSON OF THE YEAR

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Robin Gregorius, who was recently selected the 2012 Alabama Small Business Person of Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Ms. Gregorius' personal story is a testament to her determination to realize her dream of establishing an assisted living center that addresses the needs of her patients for the comforts and of home rather than a care facility.

The daughter of immigrant parents from the former nation of Czechoslovakia, Ms. Gregorius grew up on a farm in Robertsedale in Baldwin County, Alabama.

Her career as a registered nurse took her across the country, both near and far, including the cities of New Orleans and Los Angeles. Yet, she returned to the Mobile area to put her knowledge to work for local patients who would benefit from her new approach to assisted living care.

In a recent interview with the Mobile Press-Register, Ms. Gregorius noted that over her career she had observed that her older patients longed for "homey" surroundings in their care facilities with home cooking—important touches that were often lacking in assisting living quarters. And equally important, the staff in many care facilities seldom offered the "family touch" that many older patients sought.

Ms. Gregorius knew there was a better way and she sought to implement a new approach of "assisted living with a heartbeat." While the journey to fulfilling her dream was a long one, involving two decades of saving money—often working double shifts to earn for a down payment—she eventually secured a \$1 million bank loan. The results have been rewarding.

Today, she owns and operates the Country Gables Assisted Living Home in Grand Bay where she and her staff of 14 care for patients in a novel way. As she put it, her care facility "is pretty much run like a big bed-and-breakfast hotel, except it's breakfast, lunch and dinner with a 24-hour continuum of care."

Ms. Gregorius is joined by her mother, Lahoma, and her sister, Ramona, in running their small assisted living facility like a large

family home. Their hard work has been rewarded with the satisfaction of their patients and the knowledge that County Gables is a special place.

Fittingly, in March, Robin Gregorius was named as Alabama's Small Business Person of the Year. On May 20, 2012, she will officially receive her award at a Small Business Administration conference honoring the nation's other Small Business awardees here in Washington, DC.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and my colleagues in the Alabama Delegation, I wish to extend personal congratulations to Ms. Gregorius and her family for not only receiving this wonderful honor, but also for their substantial contributions to the lives of many local seniors.

HONORING POLISH MUSEUM OF  
AMERICA

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the more than 110,000 Polish-American constituents in the fifth Congressional district in Illinois, I proudly recognize the 75th anniversary of the Polish Museum of America.

Ever since the inaugural mayoral election where three Polish-American citizens cast their votes for our first mayor, the Polish community has been influencing the culture and direction of the city of Chicago.

The Polish Museum of America is one of the oldest ethnic museums in the United States. The museum was founded in 1935 as a way to promote Polish culture, literature, customs and history as well as attest to the Polish presence in North America.

The Polish Museum of America has one of the most extensive archives and libraries on Polish history in the world, including original prints of flyers, posters, books, and an amazing genealogical research section. The library and archives of the museum are truly invaluable resources for both the Polish and the non-Polish communities of Chicago.

The museum holds many important historical collections, two of which are a collection of personal belongings of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, the second prime minister of Poland, as well as the items from the 1939 World Fair Polish Pavilion. Along with these treasures of Polish history, the PMA frequently houses modern art and other temporary exhibits which represent the proud culture of the Polish people.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure and honor to congratulate the Polish Museum of America on 75 years of deepening all of our understanding and respect of the rich Polish history, traditions, and culture. I wish them even more success in the years to come.

RECOGNITION OF MS. LESLEY  
KILP HAENNY

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Lesley Kilp Haenny in

the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management on the occasion of her departure from the Bureau's Office of Congressional Affairs.

Ms. Haenny is ending her federal service to join her husband, Jeremy Haenny, a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, who was deployed three times to Afghanistan and recently transferred to the State of Washington.

Ms. Haenny distinguished herself through exceptional service while serving as a Congressional Liaison for the Bureau's Office of Congressional Affairs. Many Members of this chamber and our staffs have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Haenny over her four-and-a-half years of service with the Bureau.

Every day she provided key support for not only the Bureau and the Department of the Interior but also in assisting every Member of Congress and the constituents they serve. During her time in the Liaison office, Mrs. Haenny was instrumental in ensuring successful communication that kept Members of this body informed of the Bureau's activities in managing the nation's vital offshore energy resources, both renewable and conventional, in a way that ensures environmentally and economically responsible development. Her keen abilities in organization and interpersonal relationships were critical to the timely and successful communications with this body on the mission and program operations of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Haenny for their exemplary service to our nation. I wish them safe travels and continued success in this new endeavor.

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#### HONORING BUD CLARK

### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor a longtime friend and community servant from my District.

William Clark, Jr., or Bud as he was known by everyone, passed away recently at the age of 78.

Bud was born in Flint, Michigan, and lived most of his life in that state. Following business school at the University of Michigan, he went to work in the automobile industry and had a very successful career in management at General Motors.

East Tennessee—and my District in particular—has become one of the most popular places to move to in the entire country because of its incredible quality of life. I first met Bud when, like many others from his home state, he moved to Tennessee to retire.

Although he was not a Tennessean by birth, Bud quickly became more involved in the community than almost anyone I know. He undoubtedly touched the lives of hundreds of people in my District in many positive ways.

Bud became active in the American Legion Post 120 and 256, served in the Loudon County Veterans Honor Guard, the Loudon County Republican Party, the Piney Ruritan

Club, the GM Club of Tellico Village, Friends of the Tellico Village Library and was a member of First Baptist Church of Tellico Village.

I have nothing but the highest respect and regard for anyone who serves this country in the Armed Forces, and Bud did so admirably during the Korean War from 1951–1953. He was a very patriotic American who loved this country very much.

I offer my condolences to Bud's wife of 34 years, Connie; daughters, Kim, Karin, Kris, and Keri; 5 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, 3 brothers and 2 sisters.

Mr. Speaker, I will remember Bud Clark as a good family man with a deep faith in God. I urge my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to join me in recognizing the many contributions he made to my District. This Nation is a better place because of his service and example.

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#### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

### HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2012*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Rule and urge a “no” vote on the flawed bill my Republican colleagues will bring to the floor. They had an opportunity to bring the bipartisan Senate Violence Against Women Act, but chose not to.

The Violence Against Women Act has been bipartisan and noncontroversial for almost 20 years now. The update passed the Senate on a bipartisan basis just last month.

Why does everything have to be a partisan fight? Over the past year, my Republican colleagues in the House have blocked an important jobs package, stalled the national transportation and infrastructure bill, dragged their feet on help for students and the impending increase in the student loan rate, and now they have turned what has been a bipartisan effort to protect the victims of domestic violence into a senseless political fight.

Republicans would not even allow debate on any amendments so we could address its flaws.

In fact, their legislation not only rolls back longstanding, bipartisan provisions, but it leaves out protections for our LGBT community, Native American women and immigrants.

Unlike the bipartisan Senate version, the House Republican bill does not include a provision prohibiting any Violence Against Women Act funds from discriminating against anyone based on their sexual orientation.

The House Republican bill also does not include language explicitly including the LGBT community in the “STOP Grant program” that provides funds to domestic violence service providers.

Studies have shown that the LGBT victims face discrimination when accessing domestic violence services.

We should be working towards stronger domestic violence protections for the LGBT community—not trying to exclude them from do-

mestic violence protections, as the Republican bill would do.

One in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. Many of these domestic assaults go unreported by the victims for fear of retaliation by their abuser.

Immigrant victims are oftentimes the most vulnerable to this cycle because their abusers use their immigration status as a tool to manipulate and control them.

That is why in the 1994 Violence Against Women Act Congress included the “self-petition” provision to ensure that immigrant victims of domestic violence could leave their abuser without fear of losing legal status.

The Republican bill would delay and deny that protection for many immigrant victims.

In my home state of Florida there were 113,378 crimes of domestic violence reported in 2010.

If the Republican bill were to pass, more domestic violence crimes would go unreported, more abusers would be free, and more victims would be harmed.

More children, families, and women would be at risk of continued abuse by their abuser.

This bill works in opposition to the very purpose of the legislation—to protect victims of domestic violence.

Not just some victims—all victims.

So advocates across the country who are on the front lines in aiding women and victims everyday have announced their opposition. Please defeat the rule, so that we can call up the bipartisan, improved version from the Senate.

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#### IN MEMORY OF EDWARD MALLOY

### HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and acknowledge Ed Malloy, who tragically passed away on May 16.

Mr. Malloy was a committed labor leader who served as president of the New York City and New York State Building and Construction Trades council and was a vice president of the New York State AFL–CIO. He was a former steamfitter and a veteran of the U.S. Army who proudly served as Grand Marshal of the 2001 St. Patrick's Day Parade. I was proud to call him my friend.

Ed selflessly dedicated his own life to improving those of the working men and women of New York. He promoted private economic development and public works projects that cut costs and created countless jobs throughout the State. Following the tragic events of 9/11, he heroically led his members in the cleanup and rebuilding of the site.

Ed Malloy's contributions to the State of New York will endure for years to come. My thoughts and prayers are with his members, family and friends. He will truly be missed.



TRIBUTE TO CHARLES N. BIKAKIS

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chuck Bikakis, who recently retired as the Director of the Kern County Veterans Service Department. Chuck has been a motivated and passionate advocate for our veterans in Kern County for the past 14 years.

A veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Chuck received his Bachelor's degree from the United States Naval Academy and entered the Marine Corps in 1960. Chuck retired with the rank of Major after 20 years of service. In that time, Chuck served our country in Vietnam from August 1968 through September 1969.

After his retirement from the Marine Corps in 1980, Chuck relocated to Bakersfield and worked in real estate. He then worked in a Job Developer position with the Kern County Employers' Training Resource starting in January 1994 until the Kern County Board of Supervisors appointed him to the position of Director of the Kern County Veterans Service Department. Chuck held the position of Director of the Veterans Service Department since April 20, 1998.

Shortly after his appointment, Chuck relocated the Veterans Service Department to its current location and established the Kern County Veterans Services center. This one-stop Center now includes a Job Developer from Employers' Training Resource and a computer resource room. He was instrumental in bringing to Bakersfield the California Veterans Assistance Foundation, which operates a transitional housing program for veterans.

There are many other examples of Chuck's leadership that will continue to benefit veterans of Kern County for years to come. Chuck's concern for homeless veterans led to the first Kern County Homeless Veterans Stand Down during October 1999. With the assistance and support of veteran organizations, community volunteers, and local businesses, Stand Down has become an annual event that provides outreach and guidance to homeless veterans to give them the opportunity toward a new beginning away from life on the streets. Chuck has also collected funds to assist the families of deployed servicemembers and was an active participant in the design and development of the Kern County Veterans Memorial and the Bakersfield National Cemetery.

Dedicated to education and service on multiple levels, Chuck's retirement will leave big shoes to fill at the Kern County Veterans Service Department. I commend his service to the thousands of veterans in our area, thank him for his dedication, and join many members in our community in wishing Chuck our best wishes as he embarks into the next chapter of his life.

THE EFFICIENT EXPORT PROMOTION TO HELP AMERICAN BUSINESSES ACT OF 2012

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill with the support of Congressman REICHERT to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our country's export promotion efforts. Over the next decade exports will be this country's biggest growth engine for jobs. Even though most everyone knows that, everyone also agrees the United States does not do a great job of promoting our exports. But with commonsense no-cost reforms, we can take big steps to change that—and create jobs faster and compete better with other countries.

There are about 20 agencies in the Federal Government working hard to promote our exports—and they're all overseen by an effort centered in the called the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee, TPCC, created by President Clinton in 1993.

The fact that most people have never heard of it says a lot about why we're not succeeding. My bill would put more energy into their efforts.

First, this bill would make sure the TPCC and all the agencies it coordinates has a single plan every year, sets clear goals and ensures the export efforts of all of these agencies are coordinated and do not overlap.

Second, my bill would require an annual report to businesses and Congress that looks back on the government's efforts to promote exports, the private sector's progress, where the Federal Government's work succeeded and came up short, how we're competing with other countries and what our next steps are.

Finally, my bill gets businesses and the TPCC much better data so we actually know how we are doing. Right now our Services export and import numbers are up to 35 percent off because Congress does not let the statisticians in the Commerce Department see all the data they need. Businesses want accurate economic data and people who promote our exports have to have it too. This is a place where Congress is in the way and we should fix it.

More than 50 other countries promote their exports and most of those countries do a better job than we do. This bill would go a long way towards making us number one.

This bill would cost the American taxpayer nothing, but go a long way towards making our export efforts more efficient, more accountable, and would help us create more jobs here at home. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO WINFRED YOUNG  
"CHUCK" LORD**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the exemplary life of a beloved and respected citizen of South Alabama, Mr. Winfred Young "Chuck" Lord, who recently passed away at the age of 75.

If we are truly fortunate, we may have an opportunity to get to know a person or two who is an inspiration in all that they do. Such people leave lifelong impressions on family and friends and their example calls us to be our best as well. To all who knew him, Chuck Lord was such an inspiration.

A native of Atlanta and a longtime resident of Mobile, Chuck Lord embodied the qualities of hard work, dedication to family and devotion to faith that made this country great. Hard work met up with him at an early age. Beginning at age 13, he labored to support himself and, at 17, he joined the Navy where he served for three years as a machinist aboard the USS *St. Paul*, a *Baltimore*-class heavy cruiser.

After completing his duty to country, Chuck Lord returned to civilian life, taking a job at McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Company in California. It was also in the Golden State that he met his future wife, Patricia. After a three-month courtship, they married, embarking on a journey that endured for 52 years.

In 1974, they bought a small vacuum business in Mobile. Chuck's hard work and skill led A&A Vacuum to expand to new locations in Mobile and Fairhope, transforming the company into a regional institution.

Chuck Lord was known as a fighter, giving his family and his business his full measure of attention even in the face of serious health conditions. Even as he recovered from heart transplant surgery, he insisted upon helping to run his business. Similarly, when he suffered kidney disease, he chose to undergo dialysis during the evenings so as not to interfere with his work schedule.

Chuck Lord treated his customers with the same dutiful attention to detail, earning him the respect and friendship of many.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I would like to extend my condolences to his wife Patricia, their children, Susan, Michael, Jenny, David, Dan, and Tony; their 28 grandchildren and two great grandchildren, and many friends. You are all in our prayers.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. SPENCER BACHUS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4310) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Chair, the Fiscal Year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act contains badly needed reforms that are vital to our national security and our defense industrial base.

America's small business industrial base has supported our military for generations, and their participation enhances competition, helps control costs, and spurs American innovation. H.R. 4310 recognizes that our defense maintenance needs are best met when we have capabilities both internally in the Department of Defense and in a private sector where work is competitively awarded.

Sections 1631 and 1632 will help maintain a strong small business presence in our defense industrial base which is essential to reducing maintenance and procurement costs as well as maintaining a strong national defense.

It is my strong belief this important legislation will help ensure that the highest level of support services are provided to the men and women who protect our freedom.

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF  
TURKEY COMMEMORATING MAY  
19 AS ATATURK YOUTH AND  
SPORTS DAY

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate May 19 as a significant day in the history of our friend and ally the Republic of Turkey.

In Turkey, May 19 is celebrated as the commemoration of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the Founder of the Republic of Turkey. It was on that day in 1919 when Ataturk landed in the Black Sea port of Samsun and the war of independence began. After the war, he dedicated May 19 to Turkey's youth as a reminder that their "first duty is to preserve and defend forever Turkish independence and the Turkish Republic."

He was an exceptional leader who understood that Islam and modernity are not inconsistent—an important factor to reinforce today with democratic leaders throughout the Muslim world.

Ataturk went on to build a republic based on universal values, secularism, equal rights and democracy under the rule of law—from a disintegrating Ottoman Empire. He understood that advances in women's rights, education, science and technology were crucial to his vision of creating a nation as proud members of the group of civilized nations.

His reforms inspired President John F. Kennedy who said, "The name Ataturk reminds mankind of the historical accomplishments of one of the greatest men of this century. His leadership gave inspiration to the Turkish nation, farsightedness in the understanding of the modern world, and courage and power as a military leader."

Recognizing the importance physical activity has in the health of our nations, the United States and Turkey have a shared vision of promoting the well-being of their nation's youths. Coinciding with Ataturk Youth and Sports Day, President Barack Obama has designated the month of May 2012 as National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. These celebrations promote the value of physical activity in the pursuit of a happier, healthier and more productive nation.

May is a very important month for the United States and Turkey—it's a month where we both honor the importance and health of our youth. What started on May 19, 1919 as a great leader beginning his inspirational journey to transform his people, has culminated in a yearly celebration of his vision becoming a reality. We should all learn a lesson from this man's life. A leader with motivation and determination can lay the roots for a great future.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATTY  
MOZLEY

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Patty Mozley for her 43 years of dedicated service to the students of The Walker School in Marietta, Georgia.

Mozley moved to Marietta in 1969 and began teaching third grade at The Walker School, a position she held for 17 years. She also served as interim principal, and spent her last 26 years as an enrollment advisor.

An avid playwright, Mozley also began The Walker School's drama program, writing and directing the first script. Before her retirement, The Walker School renamed its studio theatre in Mozley's honor.

Students, parents, and communities need more educators like her. She has inspired countless lives and fostered a love for learning in her students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Mozley's outstanding accomplishments and her unwavering commitment to education.

RECOGNIZING EDITOR CAROL  
STARK AND THE JOPLIN GLOBE  
EDITORIAL STAFF

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Editor Carol Stark and her staff at The Joplin Globe for their steadfast coverage of the Joplin tornado disaster.

The Joplin community was dealt a devastating blow when it was struck by a deadly tornado on May 22, 2011. During the entire aftermath of this catastrophe, Carol and her team did not waiver in providing up-to-date coverage to the Nation. Amidst the chaos that included the destruction of half of the staff's homes and the death of a fellow staffer, The Joplin Globe carried on its work and managed to get the next day's newspaper out only an hour late.

Because of her unyielding dedication and leadership during these hard times, Carol is the recipient of the Local Media Association's Editor of the Year award. The Joplin Globe also received the Jesse Laventhol Prize for Deadline News Reporting by the American Society of News Editors on April 2, 2012 in Washington, DC for its coverage of the tornado. These are noteworthy accomplishments and I am proud that they have been acknowledged for their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, Carol Stark and her team at The Joplin Globe have served both our community and our Nation well amidst times of trial and it is an honor to recognize their dedication and work.

RECOGNIZING STEVEN MOCZARY  
AS THE 2012 EGLIN AIR FORCE  
ASSOCIATION TEACHER OF THE  
YEAR

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Steven Moczary, the 2012 Eglin Air Force Association Teacher of the Year. Despite being new to the field of teaching, Mr. Moczary has had a substantial impact on the lives of his students. To be chosen as Teacher of the Year after only one year in the profession is evidence of Mr. Moczary's talent and work ethic. Mr. Moczary's strong background in science, engineering and aviation, as displayed by his Masters Degree in Aeronautical Science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and his Bachelors Degree of Science in Engineering from Texas Tech University, has helped him achieve laudable success in such a short period of time.

Before beginning his career in education, Mr. Moczary served in the United States Air Force as a B-52 Electronic Warfare Officer and Flight Safety professional. As a teacher, he has continued his dedication to aeronautical safety as the Assistant Director of Academic Support for the CHOICE Aviation Institute. In this role, he works with his alma mater, Embry Riddle, to instill in his students a love for aviation, while imparting in them the importance of safety. His hope is to encourage more students to enter the aviation field.

Mr. Moczary's courses at the CHOICE Aviation Institute are among the most invigorating, innovative, and challenging in the entire school district. His knowledge of aeronautics is coupled with a unique ability to engage his students. Mr. Moczary is also able to call on his experience serving in the United States Air Force Safety Center and his vast knowledge of the safety systems and the human interface to communicate valuable information to students about the aviation profession and the science of flight.

Mr. Moczary is described as always having a "can do" spirit that he utilizes in his inspiring attitude to motivate his students. In his position as the Assistant Director of Academic Support, Mr. Moczary counsels and speaks to students about present and future enrollment in aviation programs, often providing them with career counseling. He also reintroduced the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) course to the CHOICE Aviation curriculum. This course teaches students about UAV technology, which can be particularly important to the Florida Panhandle after a hurricane or natural disaster to survey damage and search for missing persons. Mr. Moczary has given back to the community through a course teaching flying safety in high schools and middle schools across the Florida Panhandle.

Described as an invaluable asset to the CHOICE program, Okaloosa County schools, and Embry Riddle University, Mr. Moczary is committed to the success of each of his students. On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Mr. Steven Moczary for his achievement and commitment to aviation education in Northwest Florida. I also commend his honorable service in the

United States Air Force. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing him all of the best.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS IN HONDURAS

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern about the steady deterioration of human rights in Honduras since the June 2009 coup d'état. In recent months, attacks against journalists; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) advocates; land rights activists and other vulnerable communities have increased. I want to draw particular attention to a few tragic deaths that occurred just this month: on May 1st, Santos Alberto Dominguez, a member of the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations (COPINH), was murdered. On May 8th, Erick Martinez, a well-known LGBTI activist, was found dead in a gutter. And on May 9th, Alfredo Villatoro—a popular radio show host—was kidnapped on his way to work and has not been heard from since.

These deaths come amidst numerous reports of abuses committed by Honduran security forces. And yet the vast majority of these abuses as well as Mr. Dominguez and Mr. Martinez's deaths have yet to be investigated and prosecuted. I have repeatedly requested that all U.S. assistance to Honduran police and military forces be suspended as long as Honduran authorities fail to investigate and prosecute these abuses. It is a travesty that U.S. taxpayers dollars are bolstering abusive security forces.

But while the situation in Honduras continues to deteriorate, I am encouraged by the important work of Honduran human rights organizations. These groups are on the frontlines of justice, documenting human rights abuses and offering the support and legal representation that the Honduran state fails to provide. Yet these organizations are receiving threats of sexual violence—particularly targeted at female human rights workers—and death threats without any form of effective protection from the Honduran authorities. There has also been a troubling escalation of threats against international human rights accompaniers. All of these threats must be immediately investigated, and the individuals and groups that are behind them must be brought to justice.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to support human rights in Honduras. The people of Honduras deserve their rights. They deserve their freedoms. And they deserve peace. They have suffered too much. Justice cannot wait a moment longer.

#### THE COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2012*

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

consideration the bill (H.R. 5326) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5326, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2013. While there have been several amendments that have improved the bill, including the increase in COPS funding, I still cannot support the measure in its current form.

One program that is particularly hard hit by this bill and is important for many of my constituents, and citizens across the country, is the Legal Services Corporation. The Legal Services Corporation is the largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans, and makes aid available to some 60 million people nationwide. Once again, the Republican majority is proposing to cut millions of dollars from its budget, and leave thousands of the poorest among us underserved just when they need help the most.

The mission of the Legal Services Corporation is to provide at-risk citizens like the elderly, veterans, and single mothers with legal assistance when they need help from a trained lawyer or paralegal. The people we are talking about helping are mothers trying to protect their children from an abusive spouse; senior citizens trying to prevent their homes from being foreclosed on; and veterans trying to secure the benefits they are entitled to.

The economic downturn and the collapse of the housing market left many of our families in greater need of legal aid than ever before. We must make sure that access to well-trained legal assistance is not only available to wealthy Americans who can pay for it out of pocket, but also to the least among us.

In Connecticut, the cuts to funding will probably mean another round of layoffs in addition to the cuts the program was already forced to make last year. This will again decrease the number of trained staff available to handle calls when citizens who are confused and intimidated by the legal system reach out for help. Millions of dollars in additional cuts will mean that tens of thousands of calls from people seeking advice will go unanswered, and thousands of ongoing cases will remain unresolved.

Mr. Chair, for this reason, and for several others, I have decided that I cannot support this bill in its current form and hope that through negotiations we are able to find some way of rolling back these destructive cuts to a successful, longstanding program that benefits millions of our fellow Americans.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY COLONEL CHANDLER C. (SKIP) SHERRELL

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor U.S. Army Colonel Chandler C. (Skip) Sherrell who is retiring after 26 years of service to our nation as an Army Aviation Officer. During his distinguished career, COL Sherrell served the nation in peace and war in

numerous positions of steadily increasing responsibility. COL Sherrell has led soldiers in combat, trained soldiers for war, and served as an advisor and assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), the Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA), and as a DoD Fellow to the United States Congress. He has served his Nation in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bosnia, Germany, and Korea, as well as in demanding assignments in the United States. His decorations for his service include awards for valor. He is an outstanding Army aviator, leader, and soldier, and he is deserving of our recognition.

COL Skip Sherrell concluded an outstanding career by serving for two years as the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Aviation & Missile Life Cycle Management Command (AMCOM). He brought a wealth of expertise in aviation operations to the AMCOM Command Group. Prior to joining AMCOM, COL Sherrell performed one of the most demanding and critical assignments of his career, serving as the Commander of Task Force (TF) 49. TF 49 was the Army's designation for a composite Aviation Brigade, formed from many units to perform combat operations in Iraq. In twelve months of intensive flying in multiple locations across Iraq, COL Sherrell led TF 49 to complete mission success with an impressive safety record—an outstanding achievement.

COL Sherrell served in a role that few Army officers experience: working as the Deputy Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS). Serving as a liaison to Congress as the personal representative of the CJCS is an important position, but more importantly, he also served as a soldier's advocate on Capitol Hill for equipment modernization and improved systems and protection.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in honoring COL Chandler C. (Skip) Sherrell's exceptional service, dedication and devotion to duty, leadership, and professional competency. He exemplifies the fine tradition of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Department of the Army, and the United States of America. May he know that his nation is greatly appreciative of his dedication, and wishes him the best in all his future endeavors.

#### JUANITA WILLIAMS—100TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, two years ago I had the privilege to be on the House floor to bring tribute to a wonderful woman, Mrs. Juanita Worsley Williams, to acknowledge and celebrate her 98th birthday. I come again today to honor this lady on her 100th birthday on May 18, 2012.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, there are many, many older Americans to celebrate, but this lady is special to me because she was with her husband, Dr. Williams, when he delivered me 69 years ago.

My father, the late Congressman Walter Jones, Sr., and my mother were very close with Mrs. Williams and her husband. My sister

and I were close friends with the Williams children as we grew up. In a small town like Farmville, NC, everyone knows each other and my unique relationship with the Williams family has always been very special to me.

On the 19th of May, Mrs. Williams' family and friends will attend her birthday celebration. It will be a celebration of the 100 years of a lady with a strong religious faith who loves her family and community.

What Juanita Williams has given to the Town of Farmville is hard to measure, but her deeds speak for themselves: church service, Girl Scouts, Daughters of the American Revolution, Children of the American Revolution, Meals on Wheels, and much more.

This is a lady who gives more than she receives. Thank God for Mrs. Juanita Williams and may He continue to bless her, her family and these United States.

RECOGNIZING VICE ADMIRAL  
SALLY BRICE-O'HARA

**HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a leader for her extraordinary service in the United States Coast Guard. Vice Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara served our nation for nearly 38 years, and on May 18, she will retire as Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard. We all owe her a debt of gratitude for her tremendous commitment to service and to our country.

As the 27th Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard, Vice Admiral Brice-O'Hara not only led over 57,000 active-duty, reserve and civilian members and 30,000 Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers in executing all of the Coast Guard's maritime life-saving, law enforcement, environmental protection, ports and waterways security, and national defense operations world-wide, but she also served as the Chief Acquisition Executive responsible for guiding the Coast Guard through its critical, multi-billion dollar recapitalization program. Her leadership in driving the Service toward achieving the highest standards of professional conduct and competency, fiscal stewardship and public accountability led to the Coast Guard's first-ever qualified audit opinion, significant improvements in management of the Coast Guard's deployable specialized forces, and the implementation of numerous Service-wide aviation safety and training enhancements.

Vice Admiral Brice-O'Hara's experience, foresight and commitment to serving her fellow Coast Guard men and women and the people of the United States can be seen in the many accomplishments she achieved throughout her service in the Coast Guard's most important and impactful leadership positions. As Deputy Commandant for Operations, Vice Admiral Brice-O'Hara implemented vital improvements to the Service's operations and mission support execution and coordination through their modernization and stabilization programs; the most significant organizational change initiatives in the Service's history. As Commander of the Fourteenth District, Vice Admiral Brice-O'Hara directed all Coast Guard operations in the Central Pacific encompassing an area of over 12 million square miles. Responsible for

protecting U.S. economic and sovereign interests in this vital region, Vice Admiral Brice-O'Hara ensured the security of our exclusive economic zones, protected our natural resources, and represented U.S. interests to our international partners as the Deputy Commander for East Asia-Pacific Engagement. Her other Flag Officer assignments include Director of Reserve and Training where she developed Coast Guard-wide recruiting, training and management of over 12,000 Coast Guard Ready Reservists, and oversaw all Coast Guard training facilities; and Director of Personnel Management, where she administered Coast Guard-wide human resource and workforce development programs.

Vice Admiral Brice-O'Hara has also served in numerous command positions around the country including several which have had a direct and vital impact on the residents of Southern New Jersey and my Congressional District. As commander of the Fifth Coast Guard District, she directed Coast Guard operations along the mid-Atlantic and was responsible for protecting some of our Nation's most important economic sea ports and military infrastructure. She also oversaw response to the ATHOS I oil spill, the largest oil spill ever to affect the East Coast. Her dedicated leadership helped the Delaware Bay region recover quickly and avoid a lasting negative impact on the regions economy and Bay's sensitive ecosystem. She also served as Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard's only Recruit Training Command in Cape May, New Jersey where she ably prepared recruits for service in the Coast Guard. Finally, she served as Commanding Officer of the Cape May Boat Station, where she oversaw the safety and security of South Jersey's waterways and the search and rescue of hundreds of individuals.

The conduct and leadership of Vice Admiral Brice-O'Hara's has been exemplary. She has been awarded the Homeland Security Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, five awards of the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, six awards of the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and the Commandant's Letter of Commendation.

A native of Annapolis, Maryland, she graduated from Goucher College in 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology and received her Coast Guard commission from Officer Candidate School in 1975. She holds a Master of Arts Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, where she was named a Littauer Fellow, and a Master of Science Degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College. Vice Admiral Brice-O'Hara and her husband Robert O'Hara, a retired Coast Guard officer, have two adult sons, Robert and Brice.

Both as the Chairman of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee and as a grateful citizen, I am honored today to recognize the extraordinary career and distinguished service of Vice Admiral Brice-O'Hara. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank her for her and her family's sacrifices over the past 37 years, and I wish her well as she retires from the Coast Guard.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING IRAN FROM ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2012*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 568, a resolution emphasizing the importance of preventing the Government of Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. I have long held that the United States should make every effort to stop Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and this resolution is consistent with that belief. Allowing them to do so would needlessly create instability in the region, potentially spark a nuclear arms race, and would threaten our ally Israel. As someone who has consistently defended the security of Israel, such an outcome would be unacceptable.

I applaud President Obama for taking a strong and decisive stand on this important issue. H. Res 568 recognizes the President's March 31, 2010 statement that the "consequences of a nuclear-armed Iran are unacceptable," and I wholeheartedly agree. That being said, we should give diplomacy and tough economic sanctions every chance to succeed in dealing with Iran. As I have said in the past, the consequences of rushing to war are grave and should be made with all due consideration. I have high hopes for the talks that the international community is holding with Iran at the end of the month, and look forward to seeing the result. The whole world is indeed watching.

HONORING PASTOR J.S. HOPKINS ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 2, 2012 Dr. J.S. Hopkins is being honored for a lifetime of devotion to the Lord and his 52 years of service as Pastor to the spiritual community of St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in Flint, Michigan.

Dr. Hopkins was born on December 19, 1922 in Flora, Mississippi. He accepted Christ as his personal savior and was baptized on September 19, 1937. From 1942 to 1946 he served in the armed forces of the United States and in 1946, the year he was honorably discharged, he married Miss Lureatha Outland. The couple are proud parents of seven children. It was also in 1946 that Dr. Hopkins was crowned a church deacon and shortly afterward the couple moved to Michigan and Rev. Hopkins went to work for General Motors. He retired from GM in 1978 after 30 years of dedicated service.

After moving to Flint, Dr. Hopkins joined New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, serving on the Deacon Board. In 1957, the Hopkins moved their membership to True Light Missionary Baptist Church and within a year he

was ordained as a minister. On May 9, 1960 Dr. Hopkins was called to pastor Temple Missionary Baptist Church, which later became the St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church. Dr. Hopkins' inspired leadership, vision and courage has been an immense blessing to the St. Mark Family. His spiritual, civic and social responsibilities have included being President of the Baptist Ministers Fellowship Alliance of Flint; Board of Directors, Great Flint O.I.C.; Chairman, Annual Awards Committee, Concerned Pastors for Social Action; Dedicated Chairman of the C.P.S.A Courier; Founder of the Genesee County Christian Institute; Member of the Chaplaincy Advisory Council, Michigan Department of Corrections, and; Advisor to the Wolverine State Convention.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. J.S. Hopkins on his well-deserved retirement and dedication to the Flint community. His message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and service to St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church are an inspiration to us all.

#### PORTS AS SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATORS ACT

**HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, during my short time in Congress, I've worked hard to highlight the importance of our ports, not only to my district in California, but to our national economy. Ports support 13.3 million American jobs and generate \$3.15 trillion in economic activity. That is why I founded the PORTS Caucus to educate Members of Congress on the importance of ports to our national economy. As a member of the Small Businesses Committee, I also understand that economic recovery is going to be fueled by the job-creating power of our small businesses.

That is why I am introducing the "Ports as Small Business Incubators Act," which will join these two economic forces and further strengthen our economy. In 2005 alone, North American incubation programs assisted more than 27,000 companies that provided employment for more than 100,000 workers and generated annual revenues of \$17 billion. My bill creates a grant program available to Port Authorities interested in creating their own small business incubators.

The Ports as Small Business Incubators Act will allow port authorities to apply for a grant to create a small business incubator. This program will encourage port authorities to give opportunities to entrepreneurs who need them most. These newly-created small business incubators will be designed to foster small businesses owned by women, veterans, and minorities. Finally, this program will also encourage businesses that develop a crucial part of our economy: green jobs. Port authorities can work with small businesses that focus on clean energy and improved air and water quality.

By passing this bill, we will ensure that our entrepreneurs are given the chance to succeed. This program will nurture our new businesses and provide a much-needed boost to our recovering economy.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall Vote No. 208 on the evening of May 7, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall Vote No. 208—Quayle (AZ) Amendment: "no."

#### COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5326) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise to oppose H.R. 5326, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year 2013.

This bill violates the bipartisan agreement Congress struck with the President last August when we enacted the Budget Control Act of 2012. That legislation created a framework to reduce the deficit by two trillion dollars. It provided balanced spending caps that reduced the nation's deficit while protecting our national priorities and the fragile economic recovery. The House Republican Leadership decided to ignore this agreement months after it was enacted by demanding an additional \$19 billion in cuts in this bill and other appropriations bills. This bill is \$1.6 billion less than the fiscal year 2012 Commerce, Justice, Science bill and about \$731 million less than the Senate's version. These unnecessary cuts reduce our investments in key areas like law enforcement, access to justice for the poor, scientific research, efforts to protect of environment and funding for our space program.

These cuts are unnecessary and force Members of Congress to make decisions to cut one necessary program at the expense of another critical program. For example, the original bill funds the Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring Grants Program (COPS) at \$217 million less than the level requested by the Administration. An amendment was adopted to increase funding for the COPS grants to current level, but it took critical funding from NASA. If the Republican leaders would have abided by the Budget Control Act agreement, we would have been able to fund critical COPS grants and NASA. Maryland's economy depends on money to keep cops on the street and fund NASA facilities like the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD.

I also strongly oppose the inadequate funding levels for the Legal Services Corporation,

which is the single largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans. The bill funds the Legal Services Corporation at level that is \$74 million below the President's request. The Obama Administration stated that tens of thousands of low-income Americans, including many military families and veterans, would be denied assistance with civil legal problems if these cuts are adopted. This would prevent them from receiving fair treatment in the courts. Our justice system should be open to everyone, not just those who can afford representation.

I also strongly object to the plethora of ideological policy riders added to the bill to hamstring the Obama Administration's efforts to reduce border violence, protect the environment and uphold civil rights protected under the U.S. Constitution. The bill prevents federal law enforcement's ability to investigate and curb gun trafficking along U.S. Mexican border. The bill prevents the Administration from continuing efforts to prevent overfishing and protecting our oceans and wildlife. The bill prevents the Department of Justice from challenging state voter suppression laws, state immigration laws that potentially violate the U.S. Constitution, and the ability for the federal government to offer federal benefits to legally married same-sex couples.

I hope my colleagues will join me in opposing this harmful legislation. I will monitor the progress of this bill in the Senate and conference. I am hopeful that future changes and improvements will give me a chance to vote on a more acceptable alternative.

#### CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS KIM YOUNG HWAN, YU JAE GIL, KANG SHIN SAM, AND LEE SANG YONG

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, today I want to bring attention to the cases of four human rights activists who have dedicated themselves to pro-democracy efforts in North Korea. Kim Young Hwan, Yu Jae Gil, Kang Shin Sam, and Lee Sang Yong reportedly were arrested in Dalian, in Communist China, and remain imprisoned by Communist China's Ministry of State Security in the Liaoning Province, near the border with North Korea.

These human rights activists are in serious danger. Many fear that Kim in particular, once a North Korean regime insider who has become one of the most outspoken advocates for freedom and human rights for the North Korean people, has been subjected to harsh interrogation and even torture by Chinese state security or North Korean security thugs. Even while living in South Korea, he often suffered harassment and intimidation for his activism and work on NKnet by pro-North Korean sympathizers. As the Daily NK reported on May 16, 2012, if Kim was transported to the Sino-North Korean border to be interrogated by North Korean agents, "then what is the difference between throwing a piece of meat to a dog and handing Kim to the North Korean National Security Agency, whose men come and go from Dandong as if it were their own house?"

The conditions of the other three activists are unknown because they have been denied consular access to representatives of South Korea, and they have been refused family and attorney visits as well. Like Kim, they were arrested on March 29, 2012 under Communist China's nebulous "threat to national security" edict, but further reasons for their detainment have not been provided. There are well-founded concerns that they have undergone harsh interrogations.

I commend the "Committee for the Release of North Korean Human Rights Activist Kim Young Hwan" for raising awareness of this critical human rights issue, and urge human rights advocates to press for the immediate release of these brave pro-democracy activists.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO TAIWAN  
PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU ON  
HIS SECOND INAUGURATION

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**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, May 20, 2012, marks Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou's second and final inauguration. It is not only Taiwan's democracy that its citizens and the world will celebrate that day, but also Taiwan's economic achievements of the last 60 years.

Just as it was an early Asian proponent of democratic principles and ideals, Taiwan was also an early adapter and proponent of what is commonly today called globalization. Taiwan, Asia's first Economic Tiger, embraced market reforms in the 1950s and quickly launched some of the best known, and most efficient, original equipment manufacturers that came to serve many U.S. firms. Today, Taiwan is a technology powerhouse and the island is firmly entrenched in the top tier of developed world markets.

While many other markets have shown a disturbing tendency to turn inwards when global economic conditions get tough, Taiwan has consistently kept its trade and investment doors open. A founding member of the Asia Development Bank in 1966, Taiwan also joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001 and further acceded to the VVTO's Government Procurement Agreement in 2009.

Since his first inauguration in 2008, President Ma has steadily removed many of the longstanding trade and investment barriers to mainland China, positioning Taiwan as a global gateway to and from the so-called "Greater China" market. This new outlook culminated in the 2010 signing of the Economic and Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) between Taiwan and mainland China. The ECFA benefits not only Taiwan firms and consumers, but aids U.S. interests by protecting intellectual property rights.

I encourage all of my colleagues in congratulating Taiwan President Ma on his inauguration, applaud Taiwan's many economic achievements since the 1950s, and support enhanced economic relations between the United States and Taiwan.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VOTER  
EMPOWERMENT ACT

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**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Voter Empowerment Act, with 123 of my colleagues. The right to vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democratic society. It controls everything we do from the time we're born until the moment we die. And that's why the leaders standing with me today believe voting should be simple, easy and accessible to every citizen.

But there are 51 million Americans who are not registered, and it's harder for them to register today than it was just one year ago. In this age of technology, our country is moving backward, not forward. Since the beginning of last year, 176 bills have been introduced in 41 states making it harder and more difficult for people to participate in the democratic process.

In the last election 3 million eligible voters showed up to the polls to vote and were turned away because of failures in our registration system. We need to do something about this. The Voter Empowerment Act represents the leadership of many members of the Democratic Caucus who believe we must include the voice of every American citizen.

The American people should be asking why there is not a bipartisan push to enable Americans to cast a ballot that will be counted. We must not be silent while leaders we elect take our voting rights away. The vote is the soul and the heart of the democratic process. People died for the right to vote, and some of them were people I knew. I hope we will not return to the days of overt discrimination before we decide to do something about it.

The Voter Empowerment Act modernizes the voter registration system in this nation. It helps voters with disabilities, members of the military and young people to fully access their right to vote and to have their vote counted. The bill restores the integrity of the voting system, by providing well-informed, well-trained poll workers who know the law, and ensuring that election officials don't have a vested interest in the outcome of political campaigns. It protects voters from deceptive practices and intimidation and prohibits voter caging. It will ensure that every vote is counted. The bill creates a national hotline so that problems are reported, corrected and prevented in real time, and it reauthorizes the Election Assistance Commission, the only agency with election administration expertise, to ensure the highest standards are being met nationwide.

Today with the introduction of the Voter Empowerment Act, we are making a major step. We are asking all of the American people and the press to pay attention to these problems because they are a threat to democracy as we know it.

I ask all members, from both sides of the aisle to join us in this effort to open up the democratic process to every American.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE RE-  
GARDING IMPORTANCE OF PRE-  
VENTING IRAN FROM ACQUIRING  
A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPA-  
BILITY

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2012*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a cosponsor of H. Res. 568 to commend Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN and Ranking Member BERMAN for crafting this bi-partisan resolution and to urge my colleagues to support the bill.

As President Obama has made clear, it is unacceptable for Iran to develop a nuclear weapon. The U.N. Security Council has passed numerous resolutions demanding that Iran comply with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and suspend its nuclear enrichment activities. The IAEA has repeatedly found Iran to be in violation of the U.N. resolutions.

A nuclear-armed Iran would pose a grave threat to the State of Israel, a country the President of Iran has stated should "be wiped off the map." A nuclear Iran would also trigger a nuclear-arms race in the Middle East that would further destabilize an already volatile region. It is in the national security interests of the United States to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

The economic sanctions imposed on Iran have succeeded in bringing the Iranians to the negotiating table in Istanbul. It remains to be seen whether the Iranians are simply engaged in stall-tactics or are willing to end their effort to produce weapons-grade nuclear material. I know the Obama Administration will insist on a verifiable agreement when talks resume later this month. This resolution should send a strong signal to the Iranian regime that Congress stands with President Obama on this critical matter.

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SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT D.  
DARELL DONES

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**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate D. Darell Dones, Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), who will receive a doctorate degree in Biodefense Terrorism from George Mason University tonight, May 17, 2012.

For 23 years, SSA Dones has worked with the FBI. Seven years ago, he was assigned to the Behavioral Science Unit (BSU). As a criminal behaviorist, SSA Dones provides a criminal and behavioral consultation of extreme violent offenders to requesting law enforcement agencies. He is also responsible for teaching basic and advanced investigative techniques and courses concerning Psychosocial Behavior, Mindset, and Intelligence of Violent Street and Prison Gangs, Applied Psychology, and Violent Criminal Analysis. Most recently, SSA Dones participated in a series of seminars titled "Operation Gang Up," in my district with me and Pennsylvania State Senator John Yudichak. SSA Dones plays a critical role in this community-led, anti-gang initiative.

SSA Dones' research interests include psychosocial behavior of radical extremists and violent criminals, including U.S.-based street and prison gangs. The dissertation for his doctorate degree broadly hypothesizes whether or not foreign terrorist groups are attempting to radicalize U.S. gangs into using weapons of mass destruction against American citizens and targets. SSA Dones' efforts are aimed at providing a more accurate account of the psychosocial mindset, behavior, and causation of violent criminal groups.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Supervisory Special Agent D. Darell Dones for his service to our community, and for his many years of service to our country and its continued safety.

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE HEARING ON CHILD CUSTODY

**Hon. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, May 29, 2012.*

MR. LEON PANETTA,  
*Secretary of Defense,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SECRETARY PANETTA We appreciate your interest stated during the February 15, 2012 House Armed Services Committee (HASC) hearing in protecting child custody rights for our men and women in uniform.

As you know, legislative language addressing this issue has already passed the House of Representatives on six separate occasions. It has passed five times as part of the National Defense Authorization Act, every year from 2008 through 2012. Additionally, in 2008 this language passed the House as a stand-alone bill (HR 6048) by voice vote. Sixty members from both sides of the aisle signed on to HR 6048 as co-sponsors. Most recently, the bill was included in the Managers Package in the FY12 House NDAA and was supported by the Department of Defense (DoD).

Enclosed are letters of support that both Secretary Gates and Secretary Stanley provided for this legislation last year. Also enclosed is the 2010 HASC letter to Secretary Gates. As we move forward with the current legislative session, we look forward to the same level of support from the DoD in addressing this important issue and ensuring that our men and women in uniform have their parental rights protected.

Sincerely,

Michael Turner, Rob Andrews, Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, Chairman, Adam Smith, Ranking Member, Mac Thornberry, Vice Chairman, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Walter B. Jones, W. Todd Akin, J. Randy Forbes, Jeff Miller, Joe Wilson, Frank A. LoBiondo, John Kline, Mike Rogers and Trent Franks.

Bill Shuster, K. Michael Conaway, Doug Lamborn, Rob Wittman, Duncan Hunter, John C. Fleming, Mike Coffman, Thomas J. Rooney, Todd Russell Platts, Scott Rigell, Chris Gibson, Vicky Hartzler, Joe Heck, Bobby Schilling and Jon Runyan.

Austin Scott, Tim Griffin, Steve Palazzo, Allen West, Martha Roby, Mo Brooks, Todd Young, Silvestre Reyes, Loretta Sanchez, Mike McIntyre, Robert A. Brady, Susan A. Davis, James R. Lan-

gevin, Rick Larsen, Jim Cooper and Madeleine Z. Bordallo.

Joe Courtney, David Loebsack, Niki Tsongas, Chellie Pingree, Larry Kissell, Martin Heinrich, William L. Owens, John Garamendi, Mark Critz, Tim Ryan, C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Hank Johnson, Betty Sutton, Colleen Hanabusa, Kathleen C. Hochul, and Jackie Speier.

6TH ANNUAL D.C. LATINO PRIDE

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 6th Annual D.C. Latino Pride, the national capital region's celebration of our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) Latino communities.

The Washington, D.C. metropolitan area has had an identifiable GLBT Latino community since the early 1960s. However, the community remained largely invisible until 1987, after the first LGBT March on Washington, D.C. D.C. Latino Pride's parent organization, The Latino Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender History Project, began in 2000. The organization grew out of a private archive kept since 1993 by its founder, José Gutierrez, who in turn organized the first D.C. Latino Pride in 2007.

It has been both a pleasure and an inspiration to watch D.C. Latino Pride grow from a panel discussion on the day before the annual Capital Pride parade, to this year's series of events between May 20 and June 7: La Corona, La Plática, La Misa, and La Fiesta. The four events incorporate the elements of D.C. Latino Pride's 2012 theme: "History, Celebration, Identity, and Diversity."

The volunteers who staff the Latino GLBT History Project and organize D.C. Latino Pride also embody the 2012 theme. Its President, David M. Pérez, is also the Director of Development of the League of United Latin American Citizens; José Gutierrez works at La Clínica del Pueblo and on the Mayor's GLBT Advisory Council; its Treasurer, Manuel Cosme, is the C.F.O. of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Secretary; Jorge Andres Sotos, is a civil rights attorney in private practice; Board Member Esther Hidalgo is a manager at Leslie Cashen Photography and a Library and Archives Assistant at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land; 2012 Latino Pride Co-Chairs Sergio Lopez and Oskar Moran work, for People for the American Way and NASA's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate-Aviation Safety Program Office, respectively; Development Chair, Raul Olivo, is a manager; and the immediate past Latino Pride Co-Chair, is a health educator and advocate for Transgender Health Empowerment.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing the 6th Annual D.C. Latino Pride, welcoming all those who will attend, and congratulating the volunteers for work well done.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY COLONEL RICHARD E. CROGAN

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of U.S. Army Colonel Richard E. Crogan. His dedication to soldiers as a leader, warrior, and innovator has had a profound and lasting effect on United States Army Aviation. As the Commander for the Aviation Center Logistics Command (ACLC), COL Crogan supported an Army at war by providing maintenance, sustainment and logistics support and proficient U.S. and Allied Aviation Officers.

COL Crogan was responsible for oversight and quality assurance on the largest aviation service support contract in the U.S. Army. He was tasked with maintaining 587 rotary wing aircraft, providing over 500 launches every day to support an ever increasing need for army aviation. COL Crogan was personally responsible for providing the aircraft required to professionally train aviators and provide the Army's next generation of great warriors. Aviation maintenance is an expensive proposition and COL Crogan's innovative leadership and creative solutions have shown a total cost savings during his command of more than \$750,000,000.

COL Crogan's great leadership contributed significantly to the elimination of the flight training backlog at Fort Rucker which reduced the time aviators spent training from 22 months to 12 months. Aviators will now report to their units ten months earlier to begin missions and the Army will see enormous cost savings in a time of fiscal reduction. COL Crogan raises the bar for those around him, as demonstrated by ACLC winning the Army Chief of Staff Supply Excellence Award in 2011.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in honoring Colonel Richard E. Crogan's exceptional service, dedication and devotion to duty, leadership, and professional competency. He exemplifies the fine tradition of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Department of the Army, and the United States of America. May he know that his nation is greatly appreciative of his dedication and wishes him the best in all his future endeavors.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING IRAN FROM ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY

SPEECH OF

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2012*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 568, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the importance of preventing the Government of Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability. I reluctantly missed this vote due to a longstanding commitment to

give the commencement address at Passaic County Community College, in my district, but had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

I am a proud to co-sponsor this legislation. It is completely unacceptable to allow Iran to obtain nuclear weapons, and the government of Iran has isolated itself from the community of nations because of its refusal to negotiate or suspend its program. I have long supported strong sanctions on the Iranian regime to pressure them to abandon their nuclear program.

A nuclear Iran would pose an existential threat to Israel, our greatest ally in the Middle East. I have always been a strong supporter of Israel's right to exist and defend itself, and I believe that the nation of Israel truly shares the ideals of freedom and democracy with the United States. Additionally, as a state sponsor of terror, the possibility that Iranian nuclear weapons could fall into the wrong hands is all too real. This would greatly increase the chance that a nuclear weapon could be detonated anywhere in the world. For these reasons, we simply cannot afford to contain a nuclear armed Iran.

I commend the House of Representatives for passing this legislation by an overwhelming bipartisan majority, which demonstrates the incredible level of support in the United States Congress and among the American people for protecting Israel and preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons or nuclear weapons capability.

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MY PRESENT VOTE ON H. RES. 568

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I voted present today on H. Res. 568 because of my concern that it contains language that could create a blank check for war with Iran. As best said by Col. Lawrence Wilkerson, former Chief of Staff of Secretary of State Colin Powell, "This resolution reads like the same sheet of music that got us into the Iraq War." This resolution threatens to undermine upcoming U.S.-Iran negotiations on May 23, 2012. While I am not disputing the fact that a nuclear-armed Iran would pose a serious threat to Israel and U.S. national security interests, I am concerned that the tone of this resolution could be used as fodder for future conflict.

While I am an ardent supporter of Israel and remain committed to supporting legislation that ensures their security, I urge my colleagues to support more balanced policies and diplomatic solutions as we enter into negotiations with Iran. As we struggle to get our economy back on track, we simply cannot afford the economic and social costs of another war.

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A TRIBUTE TO DR. KAMEL FUAD MUAKKASSA

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Kamel

Fuad Muakkassa, a neurosurgeon whose passion, intellect and generosity changed the lives of everyone around him, died on Sunday at the age of 62.

Dr. Muakkassa's life was one dedicated to attending lives. A supremely skilled neurosurgeon, he had a zest for life so profound that it will live on in all those who had the privilege of knowing him. He was married to the love of his life, Rola Mansour for 27 years. He enjoyed spending time with his wife, his children and grandchildren, upon whom he imparted many of his best qualities, including his giving nature, his unique love of life, his humor and his wit. Dr. Muakkassa mastered an extraordinarily wide range of talents and insisted on sharing his expertise by teaching those around him. His passions included playing golf and backgammon, travel and international affairs. All of this was in addition to the undeniable impact of his life's work: his relentless clinical and humanitarian achievements in the world of neurosurgery.

As Primary Founder, President and CEO of The Center for Neuro and Spine Inc. (CNS) and former Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery of Children's Hospital of Akron, Dr. Muakkassa was a Board Certified Neurological Surgeon who had been serving the community for over 27 years. He most recently co-founded Akron General's Neuroscience Institute in 2011, which focuses on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitations of the disorders of the brain, spine and peripheral nervous system. Dr. Muakkassa performed more than 8,000 neurosurgical procedures and treated over 10,000 patients and had the uniquely broad background of addressing both pediatric and adult spine, brain and peripheral neurological disorders. Dr. Muakkassa advanced the treatment options in his community by being the very first surgeon in Akron to perform an Anterior Cervical Discectomy with Fusion and Plating. Thousands of these surgeries are now performed here annually. Additionally, Dr. Muakkassa was the first surgeon to perform cutting-edge awake surgery for treating epilepsy patients at Akron General Medical Center back in 1986. Other firsts include placing pumps or spinal electrodes for pain management and spasticity, vagal nerve stimulators for depression and seizures and untethering complex spina bifida tumors.

Dr. Muakkassa graduated from The American University of Beirut with a degree in Medicine in 1974. He went on to complete his residency in General Surgery where he served as Chief Resident. Dr. Muakkassa continued his education with a residency program in Neurosurgery at The Upstate Medical Center in New York where he was again elected Chief Resident. Pursuing his pediatric interests, Dr. Muakkassa studied Pediatric Neurology at Strong Memorial Hospital and completed his Pediatric Neurosurgery fellowship at the prestigious Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto where he served as Chief Fellow.

Dr. Muakkassa most recently served as Associate Clinical Professor in Neurosurgery at Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine (presently NEOMED). He also served as Chief of the Neurosurgery division at Barberton Citizens Hospital and Mercy Medical Center. He is published in peer review journals and received multiple awards including the Summit County Award of Excellence for Outstanding Medical Services to the Community, Teacher of the Year Award and the

award for medical services to the Bosnian war victims. He was also a member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), the Congress of Neurosurgeons (CNS), Summit County Medical Society, Ohio State Medical Association, International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery, Ohio State Neurological Society and the Joint Section on Neuro-trauma and Critical Care of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Kamel devoted considerable time and resources to charitable organizations. Most notably, he was president of the Druze Orphans and Charitable Organization, which provides housing, education and healthcare to Lebanese children in need.

Dr. Muakkassa, survived by his wife, Rola; his son, Fuad; his daughter, Leila and grandchildren, will forever be an accomplished Doctor, philanthropist, husband, and father whose dedication to medicine, and selflessness will be carried through the legacy he has left in the field of medicine.

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RECOGNIZING THE 90TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF TEMPLE ISRAEL

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow Temple Israel of Miami will be celebrating its 90th anniversary. Temple Israel is a pillar of the South Florida Jewish community. It is one of South Florida's oldest treasures and our community has truly been blessed over the years by its presence.

From the very beginning, Temple Israel's founders believed that they could create an organization that would make a positive change in the community. They sought to create bonds of loyalty within the international Jewish community, and within the South Florida community. For 90 years now, the Temple Israel congregation has consistently lived up to this purpose. The early leaders set a tradition to "live Judaism" by being actively engaged in local, national and world issues. Temple Israel's congregation continues to be among the most civically engaged members of our South Florida community.

The Temple Israel congregation has not only had a positive impact on the Jewish residents in South Florida, but also the community as a whole. From housing the Bridgeport Academy charter school that provides education for students from diverse backgrounds, to their tutoring and housing programs like the Dorothy Serotta Social Justice Forum program, Temple Israel's congregation is actively involved in the community year round. The members of Temple Israel's congregation are a shining example of "Tikkun Olam." They carry on the Temple's legacy of courage, compassion, service, and inclusiveness.

I cannot thank Temple Israel enough for its leadership and positive impact as we celebrate its 90th anniversary. I look forward to seeing how the organization evolves as it continues to make a significant mark on our South Florida community.



NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4310) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Chair, I submit the following list of organizations supporting Amendment 8, the Bartlett/Flake Amendment:

- American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)
- Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC)
- Associated General Contractors (AGC)
- Business Coalition for Fair Competition (BCFC)
- Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT)
- Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC)
- Merit Elevator Contractors Association of America (MECAA)
- National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC)
- National Black Chamber of Commerce (NBCC)
- National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)
- National Right to Work (NRTW)
- National Taxpayers Union (NTU)
- Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council (SBEC)
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- Women Construction Owners & Executives, USA (WCOE, USA)

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4310) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Chair, I submit the following letters:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

*Washington, DC, May 11, 2012.*

Hon. HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON, *Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: I write concerning H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, as amended. There are certain provisions in the legislation which fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee with respect to

the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation which fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I request you urge the Speaker to name members of the Committee to any conference committee named to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the committee report on H.R. 4310 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

JOHN L. MICA, *Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *Washington, DC, May 11, 2012.*

Hon. JOHN MICA, *Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. I agree that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON, *Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, *Washington, DC, May 11, 2012.*

Hon. HOWARD "BUCK" MCKEON, *Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Financial Services in H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. The bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services under rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive the Committee on Financial Services' right to a sequential referral. I make this commitment with the mutual understanding that this will not prejudice the Committee on Financial Services with respect to its prerogatives on this or similar legislation. Further, it is our mutual understanding that the Committee on Financial Services be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any issues relating to the provisions that fall in our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support of any such request.

Further, I appreciate your agreement to include this letter and a copy of your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest in this matter in your committee report and in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 4310.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

SPENCER BACHUS, *Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *Washington, DC, May 11, 2012.*

Hon. SPENCER BACHUS, *Chairman, Committee on Financial Services, House of Representatives, Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. I agree that the Committee on Financial Services has valid jurisdictional claims to a certain provision in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Financial Services is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON, *Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, *Washington, DC, May 11, 2012.*

Hon. HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON, *Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013.

Our Committee recognizes the importance of H.R. 4310 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over the bill, I do not intend to request a sequential referral. This is, of course, conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forego a sequential referral waives, reduces, or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Further, I request your support for the appointment of Science, Space, and Technology Committee conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this and any similar legislation. I also ask that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest be placed in the legislative report on H.R. 4310 and the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

I look forward to working with you on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

RALPH M. HALL, *Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *Washington, DC, May 11, 2012.*

Hon. RALPH HALL, *Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House of Representatives, Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. I agree that the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology is not

waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, DC, May 11, 2012*

HON. HOWARD "BUCK" MCKEON,  
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: I am writing to you concerning the bill H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. There are certain provisions in the legislation which fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive this committee's right to sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill the Committee on Veterans' Affairs does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 4310 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

JEFF MILLER,  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, May 11, 2012.*

HON. JEFF MILLER  
*Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, House of Representatives, Cannon Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. I agree that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,  
*Washington, DC, May 11, 2012.*

HON. HOWARD "BUCK" MCKEON,  
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Natural Resources in matters being considered in H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013.

Our committee recognizes the importance of H.R. 4310 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over the bill, I do not intend to request a sequential referral. Of particular note, in Section

28XX—Transfer of Administrative Jurisdiction, Fort Lee Military Reservation and Petersburg National Battlefield, Virginia, the Committee agrees only to a 1.7 acre land exchange. This waiver, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forego a sequential referral waives, reduces or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources and that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest will be included in the Committee Report and as part of the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill by the House.

The Committee on Natural Resources also asks that you support our request to be conferees on the provisions over which we have jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, May 11, 2012.*

HON. DOC HASTINGS,  
*Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, House of Representatives, Longworth Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. I agree that the Committee on Natural Resources has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Natural Resources is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,  
*Chairman.*

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state for the record that on May 17, 2012, I missed several rollcall votes due to a longstanding commitment to give the commencement address at Passaic County Community College, in my district.

Had I been present I would have voted:

"Nay"—rollcall Vote No. 259—Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of amendments to H.R. 4310.

"Nay"—rollcall Vote No. 260—H. Res. 661—Rule providing for further consideration of H.R. 4310—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013.

"Aye"—rollcall Vote No. 261—H. Res. 568—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the importance of preventing the Government of Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability, as amended.

"Aye"—rollcall Vote No. 262—H.R. 5740—To extend the National Flood Insurance Program.

"Nay"—rollcall Vote No. 263—Rohrabacher (R-CA): Amendment No. 4—Prohibits funds

made available by this Act from being used for assistance to Pakistan in fiscal year 2013.

While Pakistan has often not behaved as a good ally should, I do not believe it is in our national security interests to cut off all funding for military assistance and cooperation. It is an undeniable fact that we must work with the Pakistani government in order to keep our troops safe and supplied, and therefore cutting off all funding would not be prudent.

"Aye"—rollcall Vote No. 264—Lee (D-CA): Amendment No. 5—Limits the use of funds made available in this Act to only the withdrawal of all members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense (DoD) contractors from Afghanistan.

I strongly support an accelerated drawdown of our troops from Afghanistan, where they have been fighting for far too long. While we must continue to help the Afghan people to build their country with humanitarian and diplomatic support, it is time for our troops to leave.

"Aye"—rollcall Vote No. 265—Connolly (R-VA): Amendment No. 6—Withholds funds from the Coalition Support Fund until the Secretary of Defense certifies that Pakistan has opened the Ground Lines of Communication, is allowing the transit of NATO supplies through Pakistan into Afghanistan, is supporting the retrograde of U.S. equipment out of Afghanistan.

I believe this amendment takes the correct approach by providing leverage to correct some of Pakistan's most egregious behavior while rewarding them for cooperation with our military efforts.

"No"—rollcall Vote No. 266—Rooney (R-FL): Amendment No. 7—Directs that foreign nationals suspected of terrorism be tried only by military commissions.

I do not believe we should be taking away the tool of our robust domestic court system from the President. Military commissions are often an appropriate venue, but our domestic courts have tried and convicted terrorists on numerous occasions and are often the best tool we have for trying and convicting those who seek to harm Americans.

"No"—rollcall Vote No. 267—Bartlett (R-MD): Amendment No. 8—Prevents the DoD from requiring contractors to enter into a project labor agreement (PLA) as a condition of winning a federal construction contract.

Project labor agreements are an important tool that our government uses for large scale construction jobs to ensure they are safe and efficient. They are often cheaper than not using PLAs and this amendment would impose an unnecessary mandate on our government.

"Yes"—rollcall Vote No. 269—Markey (D-MA): Amendment No. 11—Prohibits any funds made available by this Act, as well as any funds authorized and appropriated to the DoD through FY2023, from being used for the research, development, testing, and evaluation of a long-range penetrating bomber aircraft.

Our current bomber fleet is scheduled to be active for several more decades. This amendment will save \$18 billion over the next ten years; funding could be better spent investing in our education, infrastructure and healthcare.

"Yes"—rollcall Vote No. 270—Polis (D-CO): Amendment No. 12—Reduces the funds authorized in this Act for the ground-based mid-course missile defense system by \$403 million and would direct that amount to deficit reduction.

The GAO recommended this reduction, and the Pentagon has suspended this program

until the problem with the recent failed tests need to invest in education, health care and wherever they can be found, including the de-  
can be fixed. With our deficit so high and the infrastructure so great, we must find savings fence budget.