

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) ON THEIR MAY 20, 2012 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Republic of China, Taiwan, on its presidential inauguration, which is taking place on May 20, 2012. President Ma Ying-jeou of the Chinese Nationalist Party was re-elected to a second term on January 14, 2012. That day marked another successful election for the people of Taiwan and the many accomplishments of President Ma over the last four years.

Under President Ma's leadership, Taiwan has become a true economic success story. Unemployment has remained low at 5.3 percent. At the same time, salary, wages, and well-paid jobs have risen. Taiwan is currently the world's 18th largest economy with a GDP of U.S. \$501.7 billion. In addition, on April 29, 2009 the World Health Organization invited Taiwan as an observer at the World Health Assembly; which is a significant step forward for Taiwan's international standing and the health of the people of the East-Asian and Pacific region.

Over the past four years, President Ma has strived for Cross-strait peace, stability, and improved relations between Taiwan and China. Today, there are direct flights, postal services, and new shipping routes between Taiwan and China. In addition, a landmark free trade agreement with China has slashed tariffs on hundreds of goods and produced numerous job opportunities for both Taiwan and China.

Equally important, Taiwan has worked hard to maintain a longstanding U.S. security partnership. The Taiwan Relations Act has been instrumental in maintaining peace, security, and stability in the Taiwan Straits and the Western Pacific since its enactment in 1979.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working closely with our allies to find solutions for ensuring Taiwan's long-term security, and to deepen our dialogue with the people of Taiwan. I applaud President Ma's dedication to maintaining peace and stability for Taiwan and his support for our shared democratic values; and I look forward to working with him during his second term.

HONORING ROCK SPRING CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rock Spring Congregational United

Church of Christ in Arlington on the celebration of its 100th anniversary on May 20, 2012. Founded a century ago by a group of neighbors gathered at a home near a stop on the Old Dominion trolley line, from its humble beginnings this church congregation has grown tremendously, and along the way has become a bedrock of the Arlington community and beyond.

In the 1930s, Rock Spring's women formed Arlington's first library, Rohrer Children's Library, which is now the oldest public library in Arlington. Today it holds over 5,000 books and remains open to the community, serving as an invaluable resource.

The County's population grew after World War II, yet there were no kindergartens in Arlington. To help meet the need, Rock Spring's women became the driving force behind the 1944 opening of the still-thriving Rock Spring Cooperative Pre-School, which operates on church property.

In the 1950s and 60s, Rock Spring's congregation and individual members supported and actively worked for the desegregation of the Arlington Public Schools and other public places.

The church and its members have supported and led movements to create social service and volunteer organizations in Arlington and Northern Virginia including: Hospice of Northern Virginia (now Capital Caring), Meals on Wheels, FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC), AMEN (Arlingtonians Meeting Emergency Needs) and the Arlington Housing Corporation.

Numerous Rock Spring members, including the late Virginia Delegate Mary Marshall, and long serving Arlington County Board members Ellen Bozman and Jim Hunter, have served as public office holders and on local, regional and state boards and commissions.

Looking towards the future, Rock Spring members have declared their church to be a "Just Peace" and "open and affirming" congregation, and a place where a welcome is extended to all. They continue the church's tradition of activism and charitable work through activities such as the "Fifth Sunday" initiative, gardening for AFAC, and youth mission trips to build houses.

I would like to ask my colleagues in the House to join me in commending the Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ for its 100 years of commitment of service to Arlington, Northern Virginia, and the wider world, and to encourage their congregation to continue its faithful activism for the next century. I send my sincere thanks for their unwavering service to Northern Virginia.

REMEMBERING MR. LEON LYNCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and profound respect that I

take this time to remember one of Northwest Indiana's most valued citizens, and a true champion of workers' rights, Mr. Leon Lynch. Mr. Lynch dedicated his life to serving the needs of the United Steelworkers (USW), and he was tremendously successful in his efforts to improve the quality of life for workers in Northwest Indiana and across the nation. Mr. Lynch passed away on Friday, May 4, 2012, but his legacy will forever be remembered in the hearts and minds of the many people whose lives he touched.

Throughout his extraordinary career, Leon Lynch accomplished many visionary goals. In 1956, he joined USW Local 1011 while working at the Youngstown Sheet & Tube Company mill in East Chicago, Indiana. Over the years, Mr. Lynch served in many capacities, and because of his strong leadership skills and willingness to take initiative, his career continued to flourish. In 1968, he was named a USW staff representative and later became an international representative. In 1976, Leon was appointed the International Vice President of Human Affairs for the USW, making him the first African American to serve as a vice president for a major labor union, and he was re-elected to this position a remarkable six times. Recognizing the impact he had on behalf of his union membership, Leon was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the Advisory Council on Unemployment Compensation in 1994 and to the Air Traffic Service Board of the Federal Aviation Administration in 2000. In 1995, Mr. Lynch was elected to serve as a member of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) Executive Council.

Mr. Lynch retired from his position as the International Vice President of Human Affairs for the USW in 2006. He is remembered as a great leader who will leave a lasting impact on generations of union workers to come. In 2005, having recognized the tremendous contributions he made to its members, USW Local 1011 dedicated its career development facility, the Leon Lynch Learning Center, in his honor. This outstanding facility offers guidance for steelworkers to prepare for employment opportunities.

Mr. Lynch also gave much of his time to many organizations and committees throughout his life. Leon was a member of the Democratic National Committee, the Labor Roundtable of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the A. Philip Randolph Institute, the National Endowment for Democracy, and the Workers Defense League.

Leon leaves behind a loving family. He is survived by his wife, Doris Tindal-Lynch; his adoring daughters: Tina, Tammy, Sheila, and Maxine; and five beloved grandchildren. He also leaves to cherish his memory many dear friends and family members, as well as a saddened but grateful community and nation.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in remembering the great life of Mr. Leon Lynch. His remarkable contributions to the Labor Movement, both locally and across the nation,

• 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.

are most worthy of our admiration. His life of service is to be commended, and his legacy serves as an inspiration to us all.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

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. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the Granger Amendment #44 to H.R. 4310 that was included in the En Bloc Amendment #3. As one of the co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I believe this amendment embodies the spirit of the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 in providing assistance to Taiwan for its own defense.

Through the TRA, we are able to conduct arms sales to Taipei. Over the past 30 years, we have done this time and time again. Unfortunately, the Obama Administration has failed to proceed on Taiwan's top request—the F-16 C/D aircraft. Taiwan has an aging fixed wing aircraft fleet, and with the growing military gap across the Taiwan Strait, it is critical that we sell them this aircraft. The Granger Amendment does just that by requiring the President to move forward on the sale of no fewer than 66 F-16 C/Ds.

Mr. Chair, the Taiwan Caucus sent letters in 2010 and 2011 urging the White House to move forward on this matter. In 2010, 136 bipartisan Members signed that letter, and in 2011, 181 Members joined in the effort. Unfortunately, those letters were received with mostly silence. However, the White House cannot ignore this amendment.

I urge my colleagues to uphold our commitment to Taiwan and support the Granger Amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. CHRISTOPHER DORSEY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my esteemed privilege to recognize the achievements of Mr. Christopher Dorsey, who serves as the director of the Dillard Center for the Arts Jazz Ensemble. He is the recipient of the 2011 "Jazzonian" Excellence in Jazz Education Award.

Mr. Dorsey has been leading the Dillard High Jazz Ensemble to the sweet sounds of success in recent years. The Jazz Ensemble took first prize at the "Swing Central" jazz competition in Savannah, Georgia in both 2010 and 2011. Also in 2010, they took 2nd

place at the "Essentially Ellington" Jazz Band Competition. In 2011 and 2012, the Dillard Jazz Ensemble was awarded back-to-back first prize honors at the "Essentially Ellington" Jazz Band Competition at Lincoln Center in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of the success that both Christopher Dorsey and the Dillard Jazz Ensemble have attained under his leadership. I wish him and the program much continued success.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST JASON K. EDENS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the greatest acts of true and chosen service require sacrifice. From time to time, these acts of sacrifice are small and yet noble. Then there are the moments where the act is total and complete, ultimate in its finality and lasting in its devotion. I rise today to honor Army Specialist Jason K. Edens for his fidelity to freedom and freedom's cause.

Spc. Edens was a 2007 graduate of Franklin High School. Determined to join the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, he joined the Army to improve the chances of achieving his dream. He was deployed in the Global War on Terror and assigned to the 1st Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division in Fort Bliss, Texas. He was wounded in an enemy attack in Laghman province in Afghanistan and died at Walter Reed Hospital in Maryland.

A beloved member of the Williamson County community, Specialist Edens will be greatly missed by his wife, Ashley, his parents, his family, and all who knew him. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring Spc. Edens as we remember all those who have given the ultimate act of sacrifice for their country.

TRIBUTE TO DR. KENT L. BECHLER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to communities of Corona and Norco are exceptional. Our area has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Dr. Kent Bechler is one of these individuals. At a retirement reception on May 23, 2012, Kent will be honored for his work as the Corona-Norco Unified School District Superintendent.

For the last five years, Dr. Kent Bechler has been the superintendent of the Corona-Norco Unified School District (CNUSD), the ninth

largest school district in California serving more than 54,000 students. Prior to heading the Corona-Norco Unified School District, he served as superintendent in Walnut Valley Unified and Duarte Unified School Districts. Dr. Bechler has served K-12 education for 32 years.

Since assuming the CNUSD Superintendent position, he has guided the district through many challenges and many accomplishments. With collaboration and problem solving, the district has survived the state budget crisis by successfully implementing a retirement incentive program that eliminated the need to impose layoffs. To address overcrowding, the district opened two new elementary schools, and began expansion of campus facilities as six schools through modernization projects.

Under his leadership, the district has experienced a steady increase in academic scores for students, the development of a planned systemic professional development program, gains in technology including 13 grants, collaborative labor agreements that have not only maintained but enhanced the district fiscally, and leadership development and professional collaboration time.

In March, Corona-Norco Unified School District was named one of four American school districts selected as a 2012 finalist for the one million dollar Broad Prize for Urban Education. The Broad Prize for Urban Education is the largest education prize in the country, honoring school districts that demonstrate the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement, while reducing achievement gaps among poor and minority students.

Dr. Bechler has extensive training experience in management, leadership, systems, policies and procedures, strategic planning, labor relations and developing collaboration and teamwork within organizations. He is well known for developing trusting relationships, team building and resolving organizational conflict. His academic work includes teaching adjunct classes at the university level and consulting with educational institutions, business and other organizations. He was recently named the 2012 California State Superintendent of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators.

Dr. Bechler received a Bachelor's Degree in social work from Azusa Pacific University, a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from California State University, Los Angeles and his Doctorate of Education from Claremont Graduate University.

Dr. Bechler was born in Saginaw, Michigan and raised in South Central Los Angeles. He has traveled extensively throughout South America, New Zealand, Australia, and Mainland China playing basketball. He resides in Upland with his wife Karen and together they have three children and two grandchildren.

In light of all Kent Bechler has done for the students, parents and communities of Corona and Norco, it is only fitting that he be honored as he retires from the School District. Dr. Bechler's tireless passion for education and public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of our communities and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires and moves onto the next phase of his life.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CREAL SPRINGS SCHOOL IN CREAL SPRINGS, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Creal Springs School, in Creal Springs, Illinois, on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary.

Creal Springs was first named Eau Mineral by the French settlers in Southern Illinois who were drawn to the natural springs found in the area. As the town grew, its name was changed to Sulphur Springs and later, Creal Springs, after one of the prominent landowners.

As legend of the curative powers of the sulphur spring waters spread, Creal Springs developed into a thriving resort destination in the late 19th Century.

As the community grew, schools were developed. The Creal Springs Seminary was chartered in 1884 as a college and conservatory of music and was the first college in Williamson County. In 1912–1913, the Creal Springs school building was constructed to provide educational facilities for students from kindergarten to 11th grade.

Initially, there were two grades per classroom on the building's main level while the upper grades were located on the upper level. The upper level also contained an auditorium, complete with a stage and changing areas. The basement contained two merry-go-rounds as well as a wood shop.

As the community and the needs of the school evolved, there would be a number of changes. A new gymnasium was added in 1939 and a new addition for grades K–1 was constructed in 1954. Creal Springs School would become part of Marion Community Unit School District #2 in 1953 and, in the 1970's, community pressure would prevail in keeping the school as grades K through 8.

Through the years, Creal Springs School has received many awards, recognizing its excellence in education. In 1939 it was placed on a list of "Recognized Elementary Schools in Williamson County" and the high school was rated the "Highest 3 year High School of Williamson County." In more recent years the school received the Golden Spike Award and the Academic Improvement Award from the Illinois State Board of Education and, most recently, Creal Springs School won the 2011 Disney's Planet Challenge grand prize for middle schools.

After 100 years of educating the youth of Creal Springs, a new school building has been built and will be ready to welcome the students for the 2012–2013 school year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the administration, faculty, staff and students of Creal Springs School as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary.

HONORING THE THREE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE 26-YEAR-LONG CIVIL WAR IN SRI LANKA

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the three year anniversary of the end of the 26-year-long civil war in Sri Lanka.

Although this war ended three years ago, and a United Nations panel of experts found evidence of war crimes and the Government-established Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission called for an inquiry into the events surrounding February 21, 2002 to May 19, 2009, a credible plan of action has yet to be determined.

Evidence of child soldiers, the killing of captives and combatants seeking to surrender, large-scale shelling of "No Fire Zones," and the rape and torture of civilians fleeing the conflict zone are extremely serious. Serious crimes such as these—committed against civilians on such a large scale during war—must be investigated and those responsible held accountable. Accountability is important for the benefit of the victims and their families—for the trust necessary for reconciliation in Sri Lanka to be established and for the entire structure of the rules of war on which our soldiers and all innocent civilians depend.

A resolution recently adopted in March by the United Nations Human Rights Commission "calls upon the Government of Sri Lanka to implement the constructive recommendations made in the report of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission and to take all necessary additional steps to fulfill its relevant legal obligations and commitment to initiate credible and independent actions to ensure justice, equity, accountability and reconciliation for all Sri Lankans." Furthermore the UNHRC Resolution "requests the Government of Sri Lanka to present, as expeditiously as possible, a comprehensive action plan detailing the steps that the Government has taken and will take to implement the recommendations made in the Commission's report, and also to address alleged violations of international law."

Mr. Speaker, the government of Sri Lanka needs to take concrete action that brings accountability and reconciliation and puts forth an implementation plan if the people of Sri Lanka are to move forward.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me and co-sponsor House Resolution 177 commending the international community in pressuring the government of Sri Lanka to acknowledge their crimes against humanity and to move forward with a reconciliation process.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, on May 17th, I was unable to vote on rollcall 263, to H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act of FY13. This was Representative ROHR-

ABACHER's amendment, prohibiting the availability of funds for assistance to Pakistan in Fiscal Year 2013. I wish to have the RECORD show I would have opposed this amendment.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

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:

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Chair I rise in support of amendment No. 46 to H.R. 4310 "National Defense Authorization Act," NDAA, offered by Ranking Member ADAM SMITH and Rep. JUSTIN AMASH. It would strike section 1022 of the FY2012 NDAA and amends Section 1021 of same Act to eliminate indefinite military detention of any person detained under AUMF authority in U.S., territories or possessions by providing immediate transfer to trial and proceedings by a court established under Article III of the Constitution of the United States or by an appropriate State court.

This amendment would bar any President or any other government official from ordering the military to put anyone in the United States, or its territories or possessions, into indefinite detention without charge or trial, or to put anyone in the United States on trial before a military commission.

Federal criminal courts are open, operating, experienced, and secure—and are the appropriate venue for any proceedings here in the United States itself.

The Bill of Rights applies to all persons within the United States and its territories, this amendment is consistent with 232 years of constitutional precedent as it does not pick and choose between which persons on located on U.S. soil will receive constitutional protections.

Further, the amendment bars the transfer of anyone in the United States to the military for indefinite detention without charge or trial. This provision is consistent with the Posse Comitatus Act, and would provide an additional protection against any misuse of civilian law enforcement as a way to put suspects into military detention without charge or trial.

It is fully consistent with the Constitution, with the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, and with the Non-Detention Act of 1971. It will reinforce the protections that most Americans assume apply—and do apply—within the United States.

Since 2001, this executive power has only been utilized 3 times which makes it clear that it is not necessary to protect our national security; however, creates a gap in our civil liberties.

This amendment would repeal section 1022 of last year's NDAA. Section 1022 requires the military to put some civilian suspects into military detention.

The current Administration has waived application of section 1022 to many groups of potential suspects, it has not foreclosed the possibility of section 1022 being applied to all categories of civilians, including even within the United States itself. To ensure this provision will not be used against those living in the United States under section 1022 of last year's NDAA is to repeal it.

Our military is designed to fight our battles overseas and to protect our borders they are not designed to enforce domestic laws.

The military has not been required to enforce domestic laws since the Civil War. We have a Department of Justice, State and Federal Prosecutors, and local law enforcement that have been successful for hundreds of years.

The amendment reaffirms the importance and availability of due process protections for all persons within the United States. It prohibits the NDAA detention provisions from providing any authority for the military to detain persons under any claim of authority under the NDAA or the Authorization for Use of Military Force of 2001.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting civil liberties and upholding the constitution by supporting this amendment.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. LUKE UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to congratulate Saint Luke United Lutheran Church on its 100th anniversary. In honor of this momentous milestone, a celebratory reception will be held on May 19, 2012, at The Senior Center in Michigan City, Indiana. For 100 years, Saint Luke United Lutheran Church has been committed to providing spiritual guidance as well as charitable contributions to numerous organizations and individuals.

In 1912, Saint Luke English Lutheran Church was founded in Michigan City, Indiana, under Reverend Dobberstein. At the time, the people living in the area saw the need for an English-speaking Lutheran Church, so Saint Luke's began holding services at the local YMCA, as well as in one of the Sunday school classrooms at Saint Paul's Church. In 1915, the congregation, consisting of twenty families, witnessed the construction of their first church building. Later, in 1969, to accommodate the needs of the growing congregation, the current church building was erected on Coolspring Avenue in Michigan City. In 2002, Lutheran Church of the Dunes joined parishes with Saint Luke, and the church became the Saint Luke United Lutheran Church. Today, the church has an impressive membership of 112 families.

Saint Luke United Lutheran Church, under the leadership of Reverend John Mikenas, provides much support to charity organizations and has built an outstanding community outreach program. The congregation has been dedicated to serving those in need and has focused its charitable efforts in many ways including: assisting soup kitchens throughout the

Michigan City area, organizing a food and warm clothing drive for the Salvation Army, and supporting the men's homeless shelter in Michigan City. Saint Luke's has also created a program for families in need of assistance with utility and medical bills, as well as another program that provides homemade soup and fruit baskets to the homebound. In addition, Saint Luke's is dedicated to the youth of the community and runs a vacation bible school during the summer months. The Saint Luke Youth Group also participates in mission trips and assists the elderly in the community.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the congregation at Saint Luke United Lutheran Church for its exceptional community service ministry and in congratulating the parish on its 100th anniversary. The great work of this truly admirable congregation continues to touch the lives of countless individuals, and for their selfless service, the leadership and members at Saint Luke's are worthy of the highest praise.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

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. McDERMOTT. Mr. Chair, last year, Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2012 that granted unprecedented powers to the president, including ability to indefinitely detain without trial American citizens suspected of terrorism. I strongly opposed this provision and voted against passage of the entire Act.

On December 15, 2011, after the bill had passed, I spoke on the House floor condemning these dangerous and unnecessary measures. I was concerned that our civil liberties would erode if we leave the interpretation of the law to the commander-in-chief. As we continue our counter-terrorism efforts at home and abroad, we are leaving enormous leeway to the current president, the next president, and the president after that to gather intelligence and detain individuals without charge or trial.

Today, government surveillance is more intrusive than ever. Congress, which once seemed poised to shut Guantanamo Bay, has instead passed bipartisan law after law ensuring its indefinite operations. In my district, the Seattle Police Department recently acquired surveillance drones, but no policies have yet been drafted to guide their use. It is not clear whether these drones will be used only to collect evidence on specific crimes or become an invasive, all-encompassing surveillance operation without proper oversight.

This week, we're voting on the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2013, and the House had an opportunity to challenge some of these far-reaching provisions in current law.

Earlier this morning, I voted for the Smith-Amash amendment to the FY13 NDAA, which would strike Section 1022 of the FY12 NDAA and amend Section 1021 to eliminate indefinite military detention of those detained in the United States. In short, this amendment would explicitly ban any president or government official from ordering the military to place anyone in the country into indefinite detention without charge or trial. It also reaffirms due process protections for all persons within the United States.

I am deeply disappointed that this bipartisan amendment did not get enough votes to be adopted into the FY13 NDAA.

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
LOWELL MILLER

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Lowell Miller of Hope, Ind. Mr. Miller was the owner of Hope Hardwoods Inc. and a partner in Hope Warehouse. He passed away on March 14, 2012, following a tragic logging accident.

He was a former president of the Indiana Forestry Council and past board member of the Indiana Hardwood Lumberman's Association (IHLA). Mr. Miller earned the prestigious Legacy Award from the IHLA.

Mr. Miller was an active member of the St. Louis Crossing Baptist Church. He also was dedicated to his community, serving as treasurer of the Hope Lions Club, president of the Hope Town Council, and a member of Hope Economic Development Board. He was a founding donor of the Hawcreek-Flat Rock Area Endowment Fund.

He loved spending time with his family and friends, and he leaves behind a wonderful wife, Kim, loving children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He enjoyed camping and four-wheeling, reading history books, and riding his motorcycle.

Mr. Lowell Miller's involvement in the Hope community and his generosity will not be forgotten. I offer my most sincere condolences to his wife and family as they mourn his passing.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF MS. CYNTHIA BERRY OF LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the service and dedication of one of my own constituents, Ms. Cynthia Berry. For almost five years now Ms. Berry has been an essential part of the Long Beach foster care program.

Ms. Berry's story is simple but inspiring. She graduated from college and took in her first foster children in her early 20's, ready to open her heart and home to try and give those less fortunate the warm and happy childhood she had experienced. When she went on to nursing school it was too time consuming to give

the children everything they deserved, so she took a break from the foster care system.

After becoming a single parent and raising her daughter, Ms. Berry decided it was time once again to become a foster parent. Over the past five years she has selflessly brought 20 children through her home, and showed them a type of love and nurture their own families were not able to provide.

At 50 years old she is showing no signs of slowing down, and is currently in the process of adopting her three most recent children who are all under the age of five. In California there are over 80,000 children in the foster care system, the majority of whom are placed there as a result of parental abuse or neglect.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus of Foster Youth I am amazed by the way Ms. Berry works with the families of her children to help them become better parents. This way they will hopefully have the opportunity to return to a safe and happier home.

Most of the children that pass through her home are able to go back to their own families after being cleared by the state, but when they are unable to they continue in the system until they are 18. From there they are pretty much on their own with limited financial support from the state. Their only real hope is people like Ms. Berry, who get them out of the system.

In 2008, there was an average of 123,000 children waiting to be adopted. Over the course of the year only 55,000 of these children managed to be adopted.

It is vital that these foster homes are warm and nurturing places a child feels safe in. These children have already experienced so much pain in their lives, and this might be their first experience of having a caring parent watching out for them. Ms. Berry provides them with that love and security.

For all her work and dedication Ms. Berry is being honored at an open house reception put on by Aspiranet, the agency that she works with. She will share her story and experiences with all the children she has helped over the years. Since May is National Foster Care Month it seems fitting that a woman of her caliber should represent the Long Beach foster care system.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Berry is the type of woman we should all look to for inspiration. She is hardworking, selfless and above all, a caring mother to all her children, biological or not. When we are feeling overwhelmed, overworked or just unhappy about our own lives, we should look to Ms. Berry, who does it all with a smile, and asks for nothing in return except the future success of the kids she loves so much.

HONORING BILL HOUSLEY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor one of the kindest men I have ever known.

Bill Housley passed away recently at the age of 78. He was longtime friend of mine who touched the lives of everyone he knew in many positive ways.

Bill spent many years in service to my District, serving as Director of Sales for the Knox-

ville Convention and Visitors Bureau, a member of the Knox County School Board for 12 years, and a volunteer to many community causes.

He also had a deep faith in God, and was an active member of Smithwood Baptist Church.

My District is home to the University of Tennessee, and I have always said the colors orange and white are just as patriotic in East Tennessee as the colors red, white, and blue.

Bill was a graduate of the University of Tennessee and one of the biggest Tennessee fans I knew. Bobby Denton, known by almost every Tennessee fan as the Voice of Neyland Stadium, was also very close to Bill. Bobby said on the news of Bill's passing, "He loved East Tennessee, loved his family, and loved a good joke. Any time he came in the room he would light it up with laughter."

Bill showed great courage during his illness and would try to cheer up people who came to see him even in his final days.

I too will always remember Bill fondly for his sense of humor and devotion to family and friends. He was a very patriotic American who loved his country and always showed great compassion to others.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my condolences to his wife, Carolyn; children, Dan and Cindy; and four grandchildren.

I urge my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to join me in celebrating the life Bill Housley. Our Nation is a better place because of his service.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Foster Care Month, which is observed each May to raise awareness about the challenges that are faced by children in the foster care system.

Every year, nearly 30,000 young adults leave the foster care system at the age of 18 without the support of a permanent family. As these young people transition out of the system, they are at a higher risk for unemployment, poor educational opportunities, health issues, increased rates of incarceration, and homelessness.

I am honored to be involved in recognizing the tireless efforts of individuals working to improve the foster care system and in shedding light on the needs of foster youth.

Approximately 400,000 American children are in need of safe and permanent homes because their own families are facing a crisis and are unable to care for them. The issues faced by young people in the foster care system and those coming out of it deeply concern me. This is why I have been continually involved in raising awareness of issues facing the child welfare system for a number of years.

Last month, I was proud to host a stop of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youths nationwide listening tour where we learned first-hand about the challenges and successes of Florida's child welfare system from government officials, child welfare advocates, as well

as current and former foster youth. My membership in the caucus, along with my work with programs such as Angels in Adoption, have made me better aware of not only the problems facing the foster care system, but also the many people who have dedicated their lives to making it better.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly proud of the work that is being done in my congressional district, and applaud the efforts of the countless individuals across the Nation working to give foster youth a voice.

COLLEGE GRADUATES NEED JOBS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in Wednesday's Politico, Karen Agness, the director of academic programs at the American Enterprise Institute, wrote a column regarding recent college graduates and their search to find a job. Agness writes, "Government data last year found that 53.6 percent of people under age twenty-five with a bachelor's degree—about 1.5 million people—were unemployed or underemployed. It is the highest percentage in more than a decade, reflecting just how far the economy is from recovery."

Although last month's jobs report claims our unemployment rate has declined, people still do not have jobs. College graduates across the Nation are disappointed by the lack of job availability and frustrated with the Administration's failed policies. House Republicans have passed dozens of job creating bills and have a plan for America's Job Creators. I encourage the Senate to pass take up these pieces of legislation and help every college graduate find what they are looking for: a job.

In conclusion, God Bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

IN CELEBRATION OF MERRILL JOHNSON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Merrill Johnson's upcoming 100th birthday on May 24, 2012. Mr. Johnson lives in my hometown of Columbus, Ind., with his beloved wife of 73 years, Irene. Together they have three children: Edward, Merrilyn, and Douglas, all of whom still reside in the Hoosier state.

Mr. Johnson was born near Clayton, Ind., in Hendricks County. He attended grade school in the area, and in 1935 he met his wife at the local Christian Church where her brother was serving as minister.

Mr. Johnson worked for Noblitt-Sparks (later Arvin Industries) for 33 years, retiring in 1977 as the Director of Labor Relations. Prior to working at Arvin, he worked for both Bridgeport Brass in Indianapolis and Link-Belt Company. After he started working, Mr. Johnson studied accounting, labor law and psychology through an extension program of the collection

of Indiana University, Purdue University, Butler University, Indianapolis Central University (now University of Indianapolis), and Franklin College.

An avid writer and photography lover, Mr. Johnson regularly contributes a two-page column, "Four Seasons Musings" to his retirement community's monthly newspaper.

Throughout his 100 years, Mr. Merrill Johnson has been dedicated to his family and friends, and I am grateful for his contributions to our great state. I am honored to commemorate a life of integrity and service to his family and his community.

RECOGNIZING FOX CHAPEL AREA
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the students, faculty, and administration of Fox Chapel Area High School in Pittsburgh, PA, for their participation in the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. On March 16, 2012, the students of Mrs. Jen Klein's Advanced Placement Government class hosted local veterans to be interviewed about their service in the military.

Nine veterans visited Fox Chapel Area High School where students collected first-hand accounts of their experiences serving in the military, including World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. These stories will become a part of the permanent collection at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Along with the veterans' biographical data, their personal stories will be preserved so that future generations can understand the sacrifice and commitment they made for our country.

The Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center was created by Congress and signed into law in 2000. To date, over 74,000 records have been collected from veterans across the country. As the largest oral history program in United States history, this program relies on volunteers throughout the nation to collect and preserve the first-hand interviews of America's wartime veterans. Because of their participation, the students of Fox Chapel Area High School's names and interviews will be a part of the permanent collection.

The Veterans History Project gives our servicemen and women the opportunity to share their stories of service to our country in a way that no one else can. As the future leaders of America, these students exemplify the best that our schools have to offer. For their outstanding work and dedication to this project, I would like to commend and thank the following students of Fox Chapel Area High School:

Alexander Carlier, Ishan Chatterjee, Zachary Ferguson, Ben Freeman, Alexander Fox, Alexander Goodwin, Sarah Henry, Steven Ho, Loteta Lee, Johnny Lou, Jack Millard, Minu Nagashunmugam, Cristian Nicolescu, Sarah Ogren, Erin Ross, Nicole Segall, Ryan Shymansky, Andrew Tabas, Carly Trakofler,

Connor Whelan, Samantha Wiley, Hannah Davis Leizerowski, Emily Owens, Tanner Patsko, Morgan Tucker, Emma Thompson, Josh Norkevicus, Erin Zoller, Ana Roc Martinez, Graydon Leonard, Gisselle Manson, Benjamin Klaas, Chloe Artice, Jacob Snyder.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

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. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the Duncan Amendment to prevent appropriations from being used to implement the Convention on the Law of the Sea. As Ranking Member of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee and as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I know the importance of this treaty for both the Coast Guard and the Navy. Signing the Convention would allow both military services to prevent potential conflicts at sea with other nations. It would also lock in critical navigational rights that will ensure the timeliness and operational readiness of the services. This is a bipartisan issue, and I regret this amendment attempts to make it a partisan one.

Both the Navy and Coast Guard are enthusiastic and supportive of the potential that the Convention on the Law of the Sea holds. In fact, earlier this month Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Robert Papp gave a speech in which he said the Convention would "better enable the Coast Guard to protect Americans from the sea, protect Americans from threats delivered by sea, and protect the sea itself."

This amendment is the wrong policy given the many benefits that we stand to gain by joining the Convention. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment.

HONORING JOHN F. MURPHY
HOMES

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John F. Murphy Homes of Auburn, Maine, on the occasion of its 35th anniversary.

John F. Murphy was one of Maine's foremost advocates on behalf of the developmentally disabled. In 1954, Mr. Murphy used his standing on the Lewiston Board of Finance to open the Garcelon School as an educational facility for mentally retarded children. After his passing in February of 1976, members of the Lewiston Auburn Association for

the Mentally Retarded formed a foundation in Mr. Murphy's honor to continue his work.

On May 18, 1977, the John F. Murphy Foundation for the Mentally Retarded was officially established with the mission to provide housing for individuals with developmental disabilities. In March of 1978, they opened their first home at 23 Pleasant Street in Lewiston for six people. Today, the agency provides direct support to hundreds of Mainers and their families, employs more than 700 people in the greater Lewiston-Auburn area, and generates millions of dollars in local economic activity.

John F. Murphy Homes has helped to raise awareness about intellectual disabilities and the need for group care facilities. The organization's remarkable success is owed to the outstanding vision of its founders and the tireless work of its employees.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating John F. Murphy Homes on achieving 35 years of exemplary service to the Lewiston-Auburn community.

REMEMBERING THE THIRD ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE END OF THE
CIVIL WAR IN SRI LANKA

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the third anniversary of the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka.

Although the war ended on May 19, 2009, 90,000 Tamil war widows in the north and east continue to struggle to resume their lives without their husbands.

Many have not been able to return to their original homes and must cope with disabilities, both their own and their children's, caused by shelling and the lack of medicine and intentional starvation at the end of the war.

They have returned to a devastated land in which there is little remaining infrastructure and few jobs and which is occupied by a military force whose soldiers do not speak their language.

Making a return to normal life even more difficult is the lack of accountability for their husbands' deaths and the horrors these women and their children underwent at the end of the war, including physical, sexual, and gender-based violence.

Sri Lanka's Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission did not adequately deal with accountability by its armed forces.

At its March, 2012 session, the U.N. Human Rights Council called on Sri Lanka to "take all necessary additional steps to fulfill its relevant legal obligations and commitment to initiate credible and independent actions to ensure justice, equity, accountability and reconciliation for all Sri Lankans."

If Sri Lanka does not take up this task immediately, there must be international action to provide accountability.

This is why, Mr. Speaker, I am a co-sponsor of H. Res. 177, which calls for an international investigation into what occurred in Sri Lanka at the end of its civil war.

I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to this bill. The Violence Against Women Act has never been a divisive piece of legislation until this Tea Party Majority came into power. Instead of bringing the bipartisan bill already passed by the Senate to this floor for a vote, House Republicans are attempting to pass a partisan and discriminatory bill that eliminates protections for violent crime victims.

The Republican bill on the floor this week eliminates long-standing critical protections for immigrant women who are the victims of crime and abuse. This bill rejects the new protections adopted by the Senate for gay and transgender individuals. The LGBT community experiences domestic violence at roughly the same rates as other populations, but these survivors often face discrimination when seeking the services they need to escape abuse. The bipartisan Senate bill included provisions to ensure LGBT victims can find refuge and access needed services.

This bill also eliminates the new provisions for Native American victims. One in three native women is raped in her lifetime, three in five suffer domestic assault, and a majority of the perpetrators are non-Indian. Considering these horrific statistics, I am dismayed that the bill the Republican majority brought before us today does not include adequate protections for Native women. The provision included at the last minute—section 1006—actually takes a step backward by placing the burden on the woman seeking protection, who would have to travel to a federal court and hire legal counsel. It forces tribal women to rely on federal law enforcement, who already decline to prosecute more than half of the violent crimes in Indian Country, and an even higher percentage of sexual assault cases.

According to the National Congress of American Indians, in one alarming case, a woman was assaulted by her non-Native boyfriend and had her nose broken. When she filed a police report, she heard that the injury was just broken cartilage, and that the case would not be prosecuted because U.S. attorneys will not take a domestic violence case unless the disfigurement is permanent. This is the status quo that the bill before us will maintain. It is unacceptable, especially with a better bipartisan alternative available.

The Violence Against Women Act reauthorization bill passed by the Senate, S. 1925, had provisions that provided for tribes to prosecute a non-Indian for domestic violence in a constitutional manner. Defendants would still have access to free counsel, to due process, and to a jury of their peers including non-Indians. These common-sense provisions were developed during years of consultation with tribes and were recommended by the U.S. Department of Justice after studying the crisis. Tribal communities need this authority at the local level to protect their mothers, sisters and daughters from abuse.

If the House passed the bipartisan Senate bill, it would send a clear message that this

country does not tolerate violence against women, regardless of their ethnicity or sexual orientation. Moreover, it would show Congress' commitment to reducing domestic violence, protecting women from sexual assault and securing justice for victims.

Over a decade ago, VAWA passed the House and Senate by votes of 371–1 and 95–0, respectively, and then this overwhelming support was repeated in 2005. Yet here we are today, with my colleagues across the aisle turning this into a divisive and partisan issue.

It is wrong, it is unfair to victims of domestic violence, and it is the latest example of this Tea Party Republican Majority's failure to find common ground even on issues that have been historically non-controversial. We must do better for all women who experience violence, which is why I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill. I remain hopeful that the House will have the opportunity to consider the Senate-passed bipartisan language instead.

The purpose of VAWA has always been to ensure that all victims of violence are protected and that their basic human rights are upheld, no matter one's sexual orientation, ethnicity, or legal status in this country, and this bill shirks that responsibility.

THE DEATH OF DC LEGEND CHUCK
BROWN

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I say goodbye to a great artist, consummate professional and my friend, Chuck Brown. Chuck dedicated over 50 years to filling the hearts and spirits of both young and old with the infectious sound of his soulful music. No man, woman or child could remain seated when Chuck took the stage, as he played his signature brand of music that he coined "Go-Go." While my friendship with Chuck only begin 6 years ago, the "Godfather" as he is affectionately known by DC natives, has been rockin' and rollin' since the early 60s.

He was deeply loved and he will be sorely missed. My heart goes out to his family, loved ones and Washington, DC. We truly lost a legend yesterday.

IN TRIBUTE TO DAVID HADLEY

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to David Hadley, who is the quintessence of a community volunteer—and a lifelong friend.

I have known Dave since we were boys. Dave, his brother, Peter, and I were in the Sea Explorers together. Their dad, "Skipper" Al Hadley, was our Explorer advisor. Skipper instilled in us, and our fellow Scouts, the values of patriotism and public service.

Dave took his father's teachings to heart.

In addition to making his mark in girls softball for the past 35 years—to the extent that

the Boys & Girls Club baseball field in Fallbrook, California, is named the Dave Hadley Field in recognition of his longtime dedication to youth sports—Dave has been active in his church and has been advisor to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

During his 35 years of coaching youth softball, Dave has also helped organize youth softball leagues with administrative positions, organized local and traveling teams, and coached "Smurf" softball programs for kindergarten girls. And, like his dad, Dave also taught his players the value of giving back. His former players have gone on to play and coach in the National Pro Fast Pitch League and at numerous high schools, community colleges and colleges.

Also in keeping with his dad's example, Dave's daughters, Heather and Holly, also were recipients of Dave's coaching and example. He also is providing guidance, direction and coaching to his seven grandchildren: Amber, Hunter, Kai, Shea, Mackynley, Ben and David.

Dave's dedication to youth expands beyond the softball field. He has been a Confraternity of Christine Doctrine (CCD) teacher at St. Peter's Catholic Church for 20 years and an executive board member and past president of the Boys & Girls Club of Fallbrook for 22 years.

In addition, Dave served for five years as an Advisory Board member from San Diego County Service Area 81, providing community input to county supervisors. Somehow he also found the time to be an entrepreneur, owning and operating S-K Specialties, a full-service machine shop, for 35 years.

Mr. Speaker, Dave is to be rightly honored for his service to his community. I know my colleagues join Fallbrook, California, and me in thanking Dave for his decades of dedication and in recognizing not only his accomplishments, but in recognizing the accomplishments of those he has mentored and has passed on the values of patriotism and public service.

Well done, my friend.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

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. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of an amendment offered by Representative JOHNSON of Georgia that would include a finding that states the deployment of tactical weapons to South Korea would destabilize the Western Pacific region and would not be in the national security interests of the United States.

Due to increased provocative actions taken by North Korea, I feel there is a thought that the placement of tactical nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula would act as a deterrent

against North Korea's continued desire to build nuclear weapons. I disagree.

Our military's extended nuclear deterrent capabilities are already sufficient to deal with the North Korean threat. The Kim Jung-un regime is aware that with our advanced submarine launch capabilities, our sophisticated stealth bombers, and our ICBM missiles, the United States military has the ability to cause devastating harm to North Korea.

Instead of acting as a deterrent to North Korea, placing tactical nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula will only embolden the Kim Jung-un regime to develop their nuclear capabilities faster, increasing the risk of development or testing mistakes that could harm innocent North Koreans in the process.

Placing tactical nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula without the support of the South Korean, Japanese, or Chinese governments could severely hamper the progress made during the six-party talks. The United States should not unilaterally decide to take a destabilizing action in this region of the world without close consultation with our allies in the region.

For these reasons I strongly urge my colleagues to support the Johnson amendment.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF
TIBET

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the people of Tibet and to thank groups like Students for a Free Tibet for all the work they do to raise awareness on this issue. For too long, the Tibetan people have suffered numerous human rights violations at the hands of the People's Republic of China. In the fight for Tibetan freedom, 35 Tibetans have set fire to themselves since February 2009 to protest China's occupation of their land. At least 23 of them have died. Their sacrifice should not go unnoticed. They have given their lives to show the world the suffering the Tibetan people endure at the hands of Chinese government.

Additionally, there are numerous Tibetans who have been arrested for speaking out against the government and advocating for the freedom of Tibet. These political prisoners need to be set free. Their only crime is standing up for the rights of the Tibetan people. While China continues to enforce policies that encroach on the freedoms of Tibetans, the people continue to conduct peaceful demonstrations. It is our responsibility to support the Tibetan people both politically and financially.

As a body, we should carry on our support for the Tibetan people by continuing to fund areas such as development, refugee programs, and Radio Free Asia and Voice of America. By supporting programs such as these, we encourage Tibetan livelihood and culture. U.S. assistance has supported sustainable development, environmental conservation, and cultural preservation in Tibet since 2000. Let us continue this support to contribute to a better future for Tibet.

We should also continue to support the Dalai Lama's efforts to negotiate a peaceful

solution for Tibet with the Chinese government. The Tibetan people are a peaceful people and we should support their belief system in finding a peaceful solution to this problem. Let us lend our support to the people of Tibet so that they can continue their fight for freedom.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the people of Tibet.

RECOGNIZING HIGH PERFORMANCE
BUILDING WEEK

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize America's engineers, architects, and skilled workforce who construct our new state-of-the-art new buildings and to speak in support of H.R. 2866, the Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act.

Next week is High-Performance Building Week, and America's leading trade groups will come together to promote their efforts to design, build, and maintain buildings to a higher level of performance. Throughout the week, the High-Performance Building Congressional Caucus Coalition—a diverse group of building professionals—will hold a number of briefings on high-performance basics and new technological breakthroughs, conduct tours of local green roofs, and offer other outreach opportunities. These activities will remind attendees that these buildings are not only attainable, but can improve the quality of our lives.

High-performance buildings have eight specific attributes that ensure that the buildings are designed for the people they serve and the environment they impact. These buildings should be accessible, cost-effective, functional, productive, safe, sustainable, aesthetically pleasing, and mindful of historic preservation.

While all of the attributes of high-performance buildings are important, efficiency and cost-effectiveness are increasingly vital given the rising costs of energy. H.R. 2866, the Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act, will help alleviate these rising costs, promoting the construction of truly high-performance buildings. H.R. 2866 will create tax incentives to encourage commercial and industrial entities to go beyond current minimum building requirements—as set by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers—in new construction or retrofit projects, and to also keep up with regular and timely maintenance of their mechanical insulation systems.

Over a five-year period, these incentives have the potential to save American companies \$35 billion in energy costs and reduce our CO₂ emissions by 170 million metric tons. In addition, this bill will not only help building owners save money and use less resources, it will also create jobs. It is estimated that this initiative could support the development of more than 89,000 sustainable jobs for skilled craft personnel to install and maintain mechanical insulation systems.

H.R. 2866 is just one step this body can take to help achieve all these goals and make our country more competitive. During High-Performance Building Week, I encourage my

colleagues to learn more about the work of building professionals and join me in supporting this measure. Our residential, commercial and industrial buildings are more than just places where we live, work, and shop. They can inspire us and reflect our values, and be engines for energy independence and job creation.

ONE LAPTOP PER CHILD

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ketaki Desai, Elizabeth Cullinan, Tim Kelly, and Reginald Cox, four graduate students from Carnegie Mellon's Heinz School of Public Policy and Management, for their first place finish at the Hult Global Case Challenge.

Their innovative program, One Laptop Per Child, seeks to provide durable, low energy laptops for children in 3rd world countries with limited educational resources. This idea garnered the top prize at the Hult Challenge, where these CMU grad students were awarded \$333,000 to encourage and further their initiative.

The Hult Global Case Challenge, now in its third year, is focused on bringing some of the brightest minds in the world together to find ways to solve key social challenges. This year, the three categories—education, energy, and housing—had hundreds of entrants from over 130 countries around the world. Such luminaries as Muhammad Yunus, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize judged the final round; and President Bill Clinton handed out the top awards for each category. CMU's Ketaki Desai, Elizabeth Cullinan, Tim Kelly, and Reginald Cox won first place in the education category.

One Laptop Per Child seeks to provide greater educational resources for children ages 6 through 12 in impoverished areas of the world. OLPC has designed laptops with several key features geared towards helping these children. They cost significantly less to manufacture than the standard laptops we use here in the U.S.; they are pre-loaded with lots of educational software, and have wireless internet built in; they are low energy, ensuring that even children in communities without electricity can use them, then recharge the laptops using solar energy; the laptops' screens can be read in sunlight—an important feature because so many of these children go to school outside; and, perhaps most importantly, these laptops are extremely durable and rugged, because, let's face it, kids are going to be kids, no matter where they are in the world.

By providing children with these laptops, One Laptop Per Child hopes to broaden children's worldview, and enrich their educational experiences, because, as they see it, education is the foundation for the other solutions to problems like a lack of shelter or running water. Their goal is to donate and distribute 20 million laptops to poor children throughout the world over the next 5 years.

This is just one more example of the innovative work that's being done in Pittsburgh, and I am proud to be their representative.

Congratulations to these grad students and to all the bright minds in Pittsburgh working so hard to solve the world's problems. I thank them for their dedication.

INTRODUCTION OF CLEAN WATER
RESEARCH BILLS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to describe two bills I am introducing regarding clean water research—H.R. 5826, The Coordinating Water Research for a Clean Water Future Act of 2012, and H.R. 5827 the Energy and Water Research Integration Act of 2012. These two bills will help focus the Federal government's research efforts on clean water, a critical natural resource that we too often take for granted.

As a Representative from the great state of Texas, I know how important water is to public health, the economy, and the environment. Moreover, Texans certainly are not alone. Whether facing unpredictable and extreme weather conditions in places like Idaho where increasingly difficult dam and reservoir management is making it harder to protect property and lives; the drawdown of aquifers in the Powder River Basin from coal-bed methane operations; or the billions of taxpayer dollars spent to upgrade water infrastructure in the East, water is an ever-present topic of dinner conversation and political tension across the country.

As of last week, in Texas alone more than a thousand community water systems were forced to limit water use in order to avoid shortages. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the 12-month period between October 2010 and September 2011 was the driest in Texas since 1895. The dry conditions have been so severe that large portions of the State are categorized as being in "an exceptional state of drought," the worst condition on the Federal government's drought monitor scale.

Throughout my career I have fought to ensure that future generations have access to clean water. My introduction of these two bills builds on the accomplishments of the former Chairman of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, Bart Gordon, who introduced similar legislation that moved through the House of Representatives in the 111th Congress.

The first bill, H.R. 5826, will authorize coordination of water research activities to ensure a future where clean water is abundant, affordable, and accessible for generations to come. To do this, the country needs to better coordinate federal research among agencies which oversee and protect this natural resource. The bill elevates the importance of ensuring clean and reliable water supplies through the implementation of a National Water Research and Development Initiative at the Office of Science and Technology Policy of the White House. The Initiative will improve the Federal government's role in coordinating federal water research activities that identify, characterize, and address changes in U.S. clean water use, quality, supply, and demand.

H.R. 5826 is drafted based on a range of expert recommendations, including those from

the 2004 National Research Council report, "Confronting the Nations' Water Problems; the Role of Research," and the 2007 Office of Science and Technology Policy report "A Strategy for Federal Science and Technology to Support Water Availability and Quality in the United States."

The second bill, H.R. 5827, "The Energy and Water Research Integration Act" focuses attention on the energy-water nexus, a term used to describe the energy required to provide reliable water supplies and the water required to provide reliable energy supplies. The bill directs the Secretary of Energy to integrate water considerations into the Department of Energy's energy research. The bill requires the Secretary to seek to advance energy technologies and practices that would minimize freshwater withdrawal and consumption, increase water use efficiency, and utilize non-traditional water sources with efforts to improve water quality.

H.R. 5827 is based on hearings held in the 110th and 111th Congress when the Science and Technology Committee reviewed federal research related to water, with particular attention on the energy-water nexus. At the request of the Committee, the Government Accountability Office conducted five studies on the energy-water nexus. As GAO has aptly pointed out in its reports on this issue, energy and water are two critical resources that are intrinsically and reciprocally linked. For example, the energy sector is the fastest-growing consumer of water right now and will account for 85% of the growth in domestic water consumption in the United States between 2005 and 2030. The GAO's reports showed that very substantial quantities of water are needed to produce energy from a wide range of resources, such as for cooling thermoelectric power plants, growing and converting feedstocks into biofuels; and extracting oil shale and natural gas. GAO's work also demonstrated that the development of oil and gas sources often results in the production of large volumes of wastewater that must be managed or treated. Furthermore, GAO's work has also shown that significant amounts of energy are needed to extract, transport, treat, and use water in urban environments.

In many ways, these seminal reports confirmed what we already knew, and that is that water availability and quality are essential for public health and a strong economy, but demands for, and threats to, these resources are growing. We can no longer afford to take it for granted. Whether it is billions of dollars in lost revenue for our agricultural sector, or reduced electric reliability due to low cooling water supplies for power plants, the country is already feeling the impacts of reduced water availability and quality.

That is why communities and businesses across the country want to see more water research and better coordination. The bills are supported by small businesses like NanoH₂O, who see the need for innovative technologies in the water sector, as well as national organizations like Alliance for Water Efficiency, the Water Innovation Alliance, the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), and the Water Research Foundation. The Water Environment Research Foundation also supports the Energy and Water Research Integration Act.

Given this diverse base of support and the passage of similar bills through the House in

the 111th Congress, I hope that the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and the House will be quick to take up these pieces of legislation and move them expeditiously.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269: 263—"nay", 264—"nay", 265—"yea", 266—"yea", 267—"nay", 268—"nay", 269—"nay".

Had I been present, I would have voted as above.

IN TRIBUTE TO JUDGE MARY
THOMASINE GRAYSON MASON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolinians are grateful to pay tribute to Judge Mary Thomasine Grayson Mason who is an inspiration for achieving the distinction of being the Southern Lady who makes a difference. Her extraordinary talents were recognized by her dear friend, U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond, who recommended her appointment in 1971 by President Richard M. Nixon as Federal Administrative Law Judge. Over the years during her residency in West Columbia she became a beloved friend of the Wilson family.

Upon her death this month the following obituary was published in the Post and Courier of Charleston, South Carolina.

JUDGE THOMASINE MASON

SUMMERTON, SC.—Judge Mary Thomasine Grayson Mason, widow of Edgar Fleming Mason, died Friday, May 4, 2012, at her homeplace in Summerton, South Carolina.

Born November 7, 1917, in the St. Paul community near Summerton, she was the daughter of James Fulton Grayson and Anne Gentry Grayson.

She graduated Summerton High School and attended the University of South Carolina. She completed her undergraduate degree in three years, graduating with honors from the University of South Carolina in 1938.

Because her father did not consider the study of law a proper career for a young lady, Judge Mason taught school in West Columbia for one year. In 1940, she enrolled in law school at the University of South Carolina, one of the first two women to attend.

With war having broken out in Europe and fearing she may not get to finish law school, Judge Mason sat for and passed the bar exam during her junior year of law school. She was admitted to the South Carolina Bar on June 12, 1941, and graduated from law school June 1, 1942.

During World War II, she worked as a Civil Service Representative assigned in Atlanta, Athens, and Charleston.

After the war and with her father's health failing, she returned to Summerton and worked with her brother operating the family farm, cotton gin, seed processing, and grain elevator.

She continued her studies at North Carolina State College earning a degree in Cotton

Classing and leading to her work as a cotton merchant. She later practiced law in Manning and served as a trial attorney with the Civil Division of the United States Department of Justice in Washington, DC.

Judge Mason was elected to the South Carolina Senate in 1966 representing Clarendon and Sumter Counties. She was the second woman to serve in the South Carolina Senate, and on February 22, 1967, she was called to preside over a session of the Senate becoming the first woman to preside in that body.

In 1960, she served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles and attended the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City in 1968.

She served the Clarendon County Democratic Party as a party precinct secretary for more than a decade.

In 1971, she was appointed as a Federal Administrative Law Judge for the Social Security Administration's Office of Disability Adjudication and Review.

During her tenure, she was the first Administrative Law Judge to sit on the Appeals Council as an Acting Member of the Council, and she served as Hearing Office Chief Administrative Law Judge for 17 years.

A proud South Carolinian she has served her state and community in numerous volunteer positions, including the Board of Trustees of Clarendon Memorial Hospital for 16 years, the South Carolina State Mother of the Year Search Committee, the Alumni Council of the University of South Carolina Alumni Association, and the American Red Cross as an Area Director for Clarendon County. She was a member of Summerton Baptist Church, the Daughters of the American Revolution, several garden clubs, and Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

A member of the American Legion Auxiliary for over 60 years, she worked with Palmetto Girls State, serving as director for more than ten years and as a counselor, committee member, or legislative leader for more than 40 years.

In her professional life, Judge Mason was a member of the South Carolina Bar Association, the Richland County Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the Federal Executive Council.

In 2008 in recognition of her distinguished career as a public servant and community leader, Judge Mason was awarded the Order of the Palmetto by Governor Mark Sanford.

Active in sports and recreational activities throughout her life, Judge Mason loved the outdoors and enjoyed spending time on Lake Marion. At the age of 79, she decided she could no longer continue to water ski, so she learned to drive a jet ski.

She is survived by loving and devoted nieces, MaryAnne Grayson Moore and her husband Nebraska Edward Moore, II, of Summerton and Cora Gene "Cookie" Grayson Culbertson of Lawrenceville, Georgia; great nephews, Nebraska Edward Moore III and his wife Stephanie Faltus Moore of Summerville, Mason Palmer Bethea Moore and his wife Jodi Woods Moore of Belgrade, Montana, and James Fulton Grayson, IV and his wife Susan Walton Grayson of Grayson, Georgia; a great niece, Elisabeth Grayson Mills and her husband Alan Mills of Gainesville, Georgia; and several great, great nieces and nephews. Judge Mason was preceded in death by her brother, James Fulton Grayson, Jr.; and her nephew, James Fulton Grayson, III. The family extends grateful appreciation and acknowledgment to caregivers Roberta, Tee, Willene and Maggie and to Southern Care of Florence, SC.

Graveside services will be held on Sunday, May 6, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. at the Summerton Evergreen Cemetery with the Rev. Brent Hutsell and Rev. Bob Ashba officiating. Pall-

bearers are Thomas H. Gentry, Alton Truesdale, Nebraska Edward Moore III, James Fulton Grayson, IV, Eugene A. Failmezger and R.P. Felder, Jr. Following the services, the family will receive visitors at the home located at 1664 Jack Touchberry Road, Summerton.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Summerton Evergreen Cemetery, c/o Ellen Ardis, PO Box 366, Summerton, SC 29148. Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church St., Manning, is in charge of arrangements, (803) 435-2179. www.stephensfuneralhome.org. Visit our guestbook at www.legacy.com/obituaries/charleston.

HONORING FR. THOMAS BERNAS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fr. Thomas Bernas, Pastor of St. Richard Catholic Church in Chicago, Illinois, for his 15 years of dedicated service to the parish.

Born in 1958 in Evergreen Park, Illinois, Fr. Tom has spent his life in service to the local community. Attending St. Pancratius Grammar School and then Quigley Preparatory Seminary South, Fr. Tom started his Catholic education at an early age. Graduating from high school in 1976, he enrolled at the Loyola University of Chicago, completing his degree at the university in 1980.

Fr. Tom entered seminary in 1989 at the St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois. Ordained in 1994 at Holy Name Cathedral, seat of the Archdiocese of Chicago, by Cardinal Bernardin, Fr. Tom was assigned to St. Richard Catholic Church in 1997 as an administrator; his conscientious and tireless work for the parish resulted in his appointment as pastor in 1999.

Throughout his 13 year tenure as pastor, Fr. Tom devoted his time and energy to improving the community of St. Richard Catholic Church and the surrounding area. Through prudent financial practice, he overhauled the parish's finances, paying off its debt and keeping it debt-free. Upon becoming pastor of St. Richard's, Fr. Tom completed several renovation projects initiated by his predecessor that included re-painting the church, replacing the organ, and installing an elevator to facilitate handicapped access. He also oversaw the construction of the St. Richard Parish Center that now houses all parish offices and a gymnasium used by the St. Richard Grammar School children as well as many community groups. Additionally, he supervised a complete renovation of the priest's residence and further transformed the health of the church with a recent building renovation and floor plan reconfiguration to enrich the spiritual experience of all worshippers.

Fr. Tom has continued to engage in all aspects of community life far beyond his expected duties. Each year he has hosted the Archer Heights Civic Association Halloween Party for community children in the church hall and an annual blessing of Chicago firefighters, paramedics, and police officers.

Through a diligent and caring approach, Fr. Thomas Bernas has transformed the fortunes of St. Richard Catholic Church and touched

the lives of many members of the local community. Please join me in celebrating the accomplishments of Fr. Tom, a model citizen and an inspiration to us all. I thank him for his service and wish him the best as he starts his new assignment at St. Rene Goupil Parish.

COMMENDING A MAJOR ADVANCEMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise my colleagues of an important decision issued earlier this week by the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Blood Products Advisory Committee (BPAC) that will revolutionize HIV testing and the fight against AIDS. The 17-member advisory panel unanimously recommended approval of the first over-the-counter HIV test. The OraQuick In-Home HIV test detects the presence of HIV antibodies in roughly 20 minutes after a simple oral swab.

OraSure Technologies, a company in my congressional district, has been at the forefront of HIV/AIDS diagnostics for over a decade. If the FDA follows the recommendation of the advisory panel and approves OraSure's In-Home HIV test, it will be the first oral fluid rapid test made commercially available over-the-counter.

BPAC's decision represents a significant milestone in the nation's fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Disease status awareness enables individuals to protect their health and the health of others. Over-the-counter testing will provide an option for individuals to get tested in the privacy of their own home and importantly, is expected to reach traditionally underserved communities. According to an FDA analysis, the OraQuick test is predicted to lead to 45,000 new positive HIV/AIDS diagnoses and avert more than 4,000 HIV transmissions within the first year of deployment.

Nearly 50,000 Americans become infected with HIV each year and some 240,000 are unaware of their status. The availability of an over-the-counter test will lead to greater testing, increased diagnoses, reduced transmissions, earlier treatment and saved lives.

It is my honor to commend OraSure in leading the way in transforming diagnostic testing through innovative new technologies, and I am proud of the company's dedication and accomplishments in making HIV/AIDS testing more accessible.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. ALFREDO GUTIERREZ JR.

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Alfredo Gutierrez Jr. Dr. Gutierrez was a beloved and trusted doctor and dedicated former mayor of Del Rio, Texas. On April 24, 2012, at the age of 80, Dr. Gutierrez passed away from heart failure. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Olga Hernandez Gutierrez, seven children, seventeen grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Dr. Gutierrez was a leader and role model in the Del Rio community. His passion and love for Del Rio was most exemplified through his work as a doctor and leadership as mayor. Dr. Gutierrez served for 20 years as Del Rio's mayor, earning the title "dean of Del Rio's mayors." He was also as equally dedicated to serving the community through his medical practice, delivering nearly 5,000 babies over a career that spanned five decades. Only after suffering a heart attack in 2010 did he decide to close his practice.

While Del Rio has lost an icon and hero, Dr. Gutierrez's impact and passion for the community will certainly live on.

TAIWAN PRESIDENT MA YING-JEU'S SECOND INAUGURATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, Ma Ying-jeou will be sworn in for a second term on May 20, 2012, as Taiwan's president. It's worth saluting President Ma on this special occasion, as the United States has a no better friend or ally than Taiwan. For decades, Taiwan has been of significant security, economic and political interest to the United States. Today, Taiwan's 23 million people enjoy self-governance with free elections, and Taiwan's economy is the 17th largest in the world—and growing. Taiwan is the ninth-largest U.S. trading partner, including the sixth-largest market for U.S. agricultural exports, a significant economic consideration for my district.

Going back to the onset of the Cold War, Taiwan and the United States have stood beside one another in some of our countries' darkest hours and most challenging times. Taiwan was an indispensable link in America's Korean War effort. U.S. General Douglas MacArthur rightly labeled Taiwan "an unsinkable aircraft carrier in the Pacific" when speaking of the joint U.S.-Taiwan Korean War effort. Taiwan ground troops fought side by side with U.S. forces in the fierce battles at, below and above the 38th Parallel. The Washington-Taipei alliance was later institutionalized in the Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty and Formosa Resolution of 1955. Taiwan was also a key base, and intelligence-gathering source, for U.S. forces in the Vietnam War. Under President Ma's leadership, our relationship has remained strong, as he has sought U.S. support for his policies, including U.S. arms sales, to ensure Taiwan is in a strong position to continue cross-strait talks.

The United States has stood by Taiwan as it has faced challenges from across the strait over the last 62 years. And while travel, trade and investment flourish across the strait today, threats remain, as Beijing refuses to renounce its right to use force against Taiwan. And yet, Taiwan has shown that a strong democracy can thrive even in the face of continued threats.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in congratulating President Ma on his second inauguration. I also would ask my colleagues to remain mindful of the promise we made to the people of Taiwan almost 33 years ago under the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) of 1979, the cornerstone of our two nations' bilat-

eral relationship. Ties or tension across the Taiwan Strait affect global peace and stability, and a more stable East Asia is not only in the best interest of Taiwan, but also in the best interest of the United States.

HONORING SOUTH GIBSON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to honor the first ever graduating class of South Gibson High School, located in Medina, Tennessee.

Undoubtedly the work of starting a brand new high school is extremely difficult but today's graduation offers the opportunity to celebrate in a job well done. Congratulations to Principal Phil Rogers and his dedicated team of teachers and staff in preparing the young minds of the Class of 2012 to enter their next phase of life.

The vision of South Gibson High School is to create a community of empowered learners. Although today ends their journey in high school; the ever-changing demands of the 21st century economy requires them to always be thinking, challenging, and innovating. And it's that kind of life-long learning that will keep America's place, as President Ronald Reagan said, "a shining city on the hill."

Please join me in honoring the first graduating class in the history of South Gibson County High School.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

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. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chair, I offer this bipartisan amendment with Congressman JEFF LANDRY to increase transparency surrounding the issuance of waivers allowing foreign vessels to carry cargo between points in the United States. I thank Congressman LANDRY for his leadership on this issue.

A report recently released by PriceWaterhouseCoopers found that in 2006, the most recent year for which data were available, the Jones Act fleet supported nearly 74,000 direct jobs in the U.S. shipbuilding and domestic waterborne transportation industries.

These jobs, in turn, supported more than \$36 billion in economic output in 2009 and provided \$6.5 billion in labor compensation.

Among other provisions, the Jones Act requires that a vessel cannot carry cargo between two U.S. points unless the vessel has been built in the United States, and is owned and crewed by Americans.

The Jones Act can be waived in the interest of national defense. However, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) must first assess whether Jones Act-qualified vessels are available to carry the cargo under consideration.

Following the release of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in 2011, the Department of Homeland Security waived the Jones Act dozens of times despite the availability of Jones Act-qualified vessels.

According to documents provided by the Department of Transportation, waivers were issued at the request of firms such as Shell Oil Company, ConocoPhillips Company, and BP Products North America.

As a result, the American oil released from the American Strategic Petroleum Reserve was then carried by vessels flagged in such countries as Liberia, the Marshall Islands, Singapore, the Bahamas, and Panama.

The amendment I offer with Congressman LANDRY is a simple one. Let me be clear: though I think waivers should be issued only in the rarest of circumstances, this amendment does not prohibit the issuance of any waivers.

Instead, it would require the Maritime Administration (MARAD) to include in its assessments of the availability of Jones Act-compliant vessels information on the actions that could be taken to enable Jones Act-qualified vessels to carry the cargo for which a waiver is sought.

MARAD would also be required to publish its assessments on its website and provide notification to Congress when a waiver is requested or issued.

Adoption of these provisions will significantly enhance the transparency surrounding the issuance of Jones Act waivers so that we can assess whether every possible opportunity to utilize Jones Act-compliant vessels in the coastwise trade has been utilized.

I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to support our bi-partisan amendment to ensure that every available step is taken to utilize American mariners to carry American cargoes on American ships between American ports.

KIPP BALTIMORE'S BRAD NORNHOLD WINS BALTIMORE CITY "TEACHER OF THE YEAR"

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, Bradley Nornhold was a founding teacher at KIPP Ujima Village Academy when the public charter school opened in 2002. In the past ten years, Brad has been a transformational force in the lives of the students in Northwest Baltimore. As a middle school math teacher, his results speak for themselves. In 2011, his seventh grade students produced the highest math test scores in the city as measured by the Maryland School Assessment. Brad makes no excuses and leaves no child behind. 100 percent of his students passed the test. The advanced scores were the fourth highest in the State of Maryland.

But test scores do not tell the whole story. Brad's students embrace the work that it takes to produce such results, and believe that the

work they do will pay off in the future. KIPP Ujima Village Academy serves a student population where 87 percent of the students live below the poverty line, as measured by free or reduced priced lunch applications. The school's mission is preparing these students for college by giving them the academic and personal skills necessary to succeed in the most rigorous college preparatory high schools. Brad makes that mission a reality every day. Because of the work ethic and focus he has taught them, all of his current eighth graders have gained acceptance to private or public college preparatory schools with admission requirements. Every one of them will be going to a high school in which they had to earn admission. And most of his students will be starting their freshmen year in sophomore geometry. Of his 78 eighth graders, 51 have already taken and passed the High School Assessment for freshmen algebra.

Brad's efforts for his students do not end with eighth grade graduation. His former students visit on a weekly, if not daily, basis. They come back to see their teacher, talk about math, and inspire his current students to follow their path to college. The students of KIPP Ujima Village Academy have been privileged to call Mr. Nornhold their teacher. For many of them, their life paths will be forever changed because of the time they spent in his classroom.

LUIS QUINTANA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Luis Quintana for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Luis Quintana is a 12th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Luis Quintana is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Luis Quintana for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN MOORE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to southern California are exceptional. Southern California has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unself-

ishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Brian Moore is one of these individuals. At a luncheon on May 31, 2012, Brian will be honored for his work as the original Deputy District Engineer for Project Management in the Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District. After 35 years of service with the Corps of Engineers, Brian will be retiring.

As the Deputy District Engineer for Project Management, Brian serves as Deputy to the Commander and Senior Civilian in the District and directs the Programs and Project Management Division. The Division is responsible for management of all the District's major programs and projects. The Los Angeles District covers projects for civil works, military, and environmental programs in Southern California, Southern Nevada, and Arizona and has a workload of more than a billion dollars in fiscal year 2009. The Programs and Project Management Division has nearly 100 project managers, schedulers, and budget analysts assigned to the management of more than 400 projects in navigation, flood control, environmental restoration, military construction, and environmental cleanup.

The Division also manages more than \$300 million in projects for other agencies such as Department of Homeland Security, the Veterans Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and others. Mr. Moore has over 35 years of experience with the Corps of Engineers in planning, construction, and project management. He is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Civil Engineering and holds a Master Degree in Water Resources Systems from Cornell University. He is a licensed professional engineer in the State of California.

I have come to know Brian well through many years working together on a variety of public projects in southern California. I can personally attest to Brian's incredible work ethic, professionalism, and positive attitude. Brian is married to Dr. Nancy Moore who is a research engineer at Rand Corporation in Santa Monica. Both he and Nancy are avid skiers and Mr. Moore also enjoys golf.

In light of all Brian Moore has done for southern California, it is only fitting that he be honored as he retires from the Army Corps of Engineers. Brian's tireless passion for public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of our region and the state and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires and moves onto the next phase of his life.

BURMA SANCTIONS

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I address the Congress today with deep concern over the Administration's lifting of sanctions against the dictatorship of Burma.

We are working to get support, assistance and even proposing the transfer of weapons to the opposition in Syria, but yet, in Burma—a place where there are at least 500,000 dis-

placed people in one area and some report over 70,000 new displaced people due to attacks against the Kachin perpetrated by the actions of dictators—this Administration is rewarding the regime and their brutality.

Why do our policies give value to the lives of the opposition in Syria while denying the value of the lives of ethnic minorities and democratic activists in Burma?

The Administration's actions expose a shameful approach—one that allows U.S. businesses to invest in a land still drenched in bloodshed and where some prosper through the oppression of others. We should not be lifting any sanctions against dictators in Burma until they prove over time that they will stick to their word and they actually end their attacks against the people of Burma.

It is absurd to be lifting sanctions while a well-known brutal dictatorship continues to attack, displace, and even kill the people within its country.

REP. BARROW MOTION TO
INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4348

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, now is not the time to delay or jeopardize the renewal of a job-creating national transportation program by insisting on a deal-breaking provision already rejected by the U.S. Senate. This motion to instruct needlessly puts millions of private sector transportation, manufacturing, engineering, and construction jobs at risk.

We desperately need long-term investments in our decrepit and failing transportation system. We need to bring certainty to states and the private sector in transportation project planning. But the continued temporary extensions of transportation authorities as passed by the House of Representatives are costing us jobs.

We are getting substantiated reports from the 50 states that they are delaying or even canceling transportation investments and projects for this construction season because of the uncertainty in federal funding. According to AASHTO, seven states will forgo at least 60,000 private sector jobs this construction season. I am certain the number would be more than a 100,000 forgone jobs if all 50 states were considered.

And remember, with strong buy American provisions in the bill, these are not just construction jobs. These are manufacturing jobs and sophisticated engineering jobs—jobs we need to keep and continue to create in this country.

Unlike the House transportation bill that would keep us limping along with 60-day and 90-day extensions, the Senate transportation bill would provide two years of funding. Instead of forgoing hundreds of thousands of jobs for this construction season alone, the Senate bill would maintain or create millions of jobs and begin making the investments we need to address the 150,000 bridges in need of repair or replacement and the 42 percent of the National Highway System pavement in fair or poor condition—to say nothing of the needed investments to move our transportation system into the 21st Century.

The Senate transportation bill also includes a desperately needed one-year extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. This program provides an essential lifeline for more than 700 rural federally forested communities and 9 million schoolchildren across the nation. For Oregon, these payments may mean the difference between keeping criminals in our jails and sheriffs on the road or financial insolvency and the dissolution of county governments.

Congress can debate the XL pipeline any day of the week. And we should. Let's have a debate about the route, expedited approval, and environmental reviews. Let's have a debate on energy policies to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, bring down the price of gas for American consumers, and lead to a more secure energy future. But it's telling that Republican leadership has refused to bring a clean XL pipeline bill to the floor of this House. Instead, they insist on attaching it to must-pass legislation to score political points and to try to embarrass the President—these are not serious efforts to legislate.

With the national unemployment rate still hovering around 8 percent and the real unemployment rate closer to 15 percent it is absolutely unacceptable that Congress would take any risk of jeopardizing what should be a bipartisan effort to maintain or create millions of private-sector American jobs.

I urge my colleagues to reject this motion and to quickly pass a conferenced transportation bill that makes desperately needed investments in our transportation system, creates jobs, and helps ensure rural counties across the nation are able to offer basic government services.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, at this moment, there are more than 400,000 young Americans in the foster care system. They face both enormous chances of hope and opportunity, but also hardship. Like all children, they need guidance and they need an advocate.

During National Foster Care Month, we work to improve the reality of our Nation's foster youth and especially honor the dedicated foster families who care for these youth. All children deserve loving, safe, and stable homes. Each year there are thousands of foster youth who age out of the system without a permanent family. Studies show that these youth are more likely to end up homeless, commit to a life of crime, or suffer from undiagnosed or untreated mental health challenges. Within the foster care system, there are bright stars of help and hope.

Today I'd like to share a story of one such extraordinary foster parent: Mrs. Eula Gardner Dowdy. Over the years, Eula Gardner Dowdy of Clarksville and her late husband have brought more than 100 children into their home as foster children. The Dowdy house became a home to children regardless of age, race, creed, or ability. Backgrounds changing, the one constant for these children was their need for love and caring, and Eula's willing-

ness to welcome them into her family. The 2006 Tennessee Foster Parent of the Year, Eula has received many deserving accolades for her contributions to the Clarksville community.

There are countless Eula Gardner Dowdy's in our great country whose love enriches the children that enter their homes. I rise today to thank all those who bring foster children into their hearts and make a lasting and powerful difference in lives of those children. During National Foster Care Month, I ask my colleagues to rise with me in thanksgiving for the many foster parents who are wonderful examples of devotion to the youth of today so that they may have hope for a better tomorrow.

MALLISYN BRUCE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mallisyn Bruce for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Mallisyn Bruce is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mallisyn Bruce is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mallisyn Bruce for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

SECOND INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ma Ying-jeou will be inaugurated as President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) on May 20, 2012. On January 14, 2012, he won reelection and I sincerely congratulate him for his achievement.

I would like to applaud the effort that President Ma and his people have put forth to develop a strong democracy that promotes freedom, liberty, and the rule of law. To people around the world, Taiwan is a beacon of democracy and it is an honor to recognize their continued commitment to this distinguished ideal.

The United States and Taiwan have a long history of economic cooperation and friendship over the years. As a friend of Taiwan in the United States Congress, I would like to add that many of my colleagues and I strongly support our commitments to Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act. This partnership between the United States and Taiwan is invaluable

and we look forward to continuing to work together in the future. We also support Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations such as the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Again, on the occasion of Mr. Ma's inauguration, we wish Mr. Ma and his people continued success in all their endeavors.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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. MULVANEY. Mr. Chair, I rise today to bring to your attention a non-partisan, good governance issue—accountability and transparency. Specifically, accountability and transparency for the War Budget, which for accounting purposes is treated separately from the Department of Defense (DoD) Base Budget.

The Government Accountability Office, GAO, the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, and the Congressional Research Service, CRS, have all testified before Congress about the limited transparency in DoD war cost estimating and reporting) Despite this challenge, members from both political parties have worked in a bipartisan manner to support our 43rd and 44th Commanders in Chief to ensure that our troops have the war-related resources they need to win the Global War on Terror. As we move forward, it is my hope that we will preserve this spirit of bipartisanship while also working to overcome the challenge of providing good faith estimates about what our war effort actually costs.

Last year's Budget and Control Act, BCA (P.L. 112-25) appropriately recognized the distinction made by previous Congresses between the Base Budget and the War Budget. It places specific limits, or caps, on the Base Budget; the War Budget, however, has no limit. This creates a potential loophole for the President and/or Congress to evade the BCA limits by moving money for regular activities from the Base Budget to the War Budget's unlimited resources.

This is the first full cycle of Budget requests, authorizations, and appropriations under the BCA. Despite the varied views on the law, the President and the Congress have a duty to abide by its letter and spirit unless an alternative law is agreed upon. This bill is not about finding an alternative replacement for the BCA; it's about making sure the men and women in harm's way have the appropriate legal authority and resources to effectively fight on our behalf. It should also be about providing for our troops in an accountable and transparent manner.

The FY2013 Budget Request calls for shifting \$6.1 billion in basic compensation for military personnel from the Base Budget to the War Budget. The troops associated with these

costs are currently not deployed in overseas combat operations. Rather, they are part of the troop reductions set to begin next year. This means the FY2013 War Request and this bill's War Budget are overstated by \$6.1 billion with basic compensation costs that have traditionally been funded through the Base Budget. As the GAO has stated, "Costs that are incurred regardless of whether there is a [war] operation, such as the base pay of active duty military personnel, are not considered [war-related]" (emphasis added)." This new use of the War Budget for base pay was highlighted earlier this year at a House Budget Committee oversight hearing entitled *The Department of Defense and Fiscal Year 2013 Budget*. It is a clear circumvention of the BCA limits.

As we move forward in the Budget process, we should aim to ensure our troops receive full, base salaries and benefits from their usual source—the Base Budget. After all, the primary reason we employ troops is to protect our nation, and we need to continue to use the Base Budget to compensate our troops. This bill undermines public reporting of accurate War costs by accepting the President's request to shift \$6.1 billion in base salaries from the Base Budget to the War Budget. However, neither the President's request nor this bill actually funds the DoD. So, in the days ahead I urge us to work towards preserving the integrity of the law by restoring accountability and transparency between the Base Budget and the War Budget.

If we fail to bring to light any potential exploitation of BCA loopholes in the law's early years of enforcement, then we simply make tomorrow's challenges greater while willfully turning a blind eye to the oversight record provided by the GAO, CRS, CBO and other credible sources.

H.R. 4310 was reported out of the Armed Service Committee and passed the House on a bipartisan vote of 56–5 and 299–120, respectively. I applaud the Armed Services Committee for including report language that states, "[Section 403] would require that the [FY2014–2017] Department of Defense budget request include amounts for the end strength of the regular component of the Army and the Marine Corps in the base budget and not through emergency, supplemental, or overseas contingency operation funds." I hope the bipartisan majority supporting the bill will have the opportunity this year to accelerate its call to fully compensate our troops in an accountable and transparent manner.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
PETER VALENCIA

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the career achievements of Peter Joseph Valencia, Jr. who recently celebrated his 70th birthday while in service to the third Congressional District of New Mexico. Mr. Valencia was born and raised in Farmington, New Mexico and received his B.A. in Economics from Fort Lewis College and his M.A. in Business Education from Adams State College. He then served in the U.S. Navy in the 1960s on the Flag Allowance Staff of Rear Admiral Monroe in San Diego, California.

After his time in the military, Mr. Valencia worked in Employee Relations for El Paso Natural Gas Company in Farmington and was later appointed by two New Mexican Governors to serve as the Deputy Commissioner for the New Mexico Motor Transportation Department. In 1981, he returned to Farmington to run his family's business; however, when then-U.S. Congressman TOM UDALL opened a new district field office in Farmington in 1999, Mr. Valencia was a perfect fit for a position that he continues to hold to this day.

Mr. Valencia has devoted his life to public service and is proud to be able to continue to serve the people of San Juan County at the age of 70. He is a staple of San Juan County and has developed a sterling reputation while partnering with the Navajo Nation, Jicarilla Apache and neighboring Chapter Houses. As a Field Representative, Mr. Valencia has maintained a level of excellence and diligence in helping all people of Northwest New Mexico.

Along with his service to New Mexico's third Congressional District, Mr. Valencia is a dedicated family man. He has been married to his wife Lynda Valencia, a retired public school teacher and administrator, for over 40 years and has three children—DeAnza Sapien, Peter Valencia III and Felix Valencia—and a granddaughter, Miranda Sapien.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I ask my colleagues to stand with me in thanking Mr. Peter Joseph Valencia for his leadership and excellent service to the people of San Juan County, the surrounding communities of New Mexico, and this country. Please join me today in recognizing his remarkable achievements and wishing him many more years of success.

HONORING FIRST BOOK

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring First Book on the occasion of their twentieth anniversary and in celebrating their work on behalf of children in need, here in the District of Columbia and across the country.

First Book is a nonprofit organization that provides brand-new books and educational resources to schools and community programs that work with children from low-income families. Since 1992 it has distributed over 90 million new books to children in need.

First Book was founded in Washington, DC, twenty years ago this week, by Peter Gold, Elizabeth Arky, and Kyle Zimmer, who recognized the critical need for books among the children of the city's poorest neighborhoods, and how this limits children's futures. The children of the District of Columbia were the first beneficiaries of First Book's work, and D.C. children have been a special focus of the organization over the years, even as it expanded to every state in the union and Canada. In the past two years alone, First Book has provided more than 300,000 brand-new books to children across this city.

Ms. Zimmer continues to lead the organization today, and her vision and passion have enabled First Book to grow into a world-class

social enterprise with an unsurpassed record of success.

First Book's commitment to the children, teachers, and local community leaders they serve is realized through the organization's ground-breaking business models. Reflecting the best of social sector and private sector partnerships, First Book works with the publishing industry to create new and innovative ways to get books and other educational resources to children who would otherwise go without them. By providing access to a steady stream of new and quality books, First Book is elevating the quality of education, giving teachers the resources they need to help their students become more successful in school and in life.

I ask the House to join me in honoring Kyle Zimmer and her colleagues at First Book, and further ask the members to introduce First Book to teachers in their home districts. The more schools and community programs join First Book's network, the closer we will come to achieving equity in education for all children.

KYLER MCGEHEE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kyle McGehee for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kyle McGehee is a 12th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kyle McGehee is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kyle McGehee for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE
LITTLE ROCK ROTARY CLUB

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Rotary Club of Little Rock and their members who have served in our nation's Armed Forces.

The Little Rock Rotary Club was organized in 1913 and chartered as the 99th club in 1914.

As well as being Arkansas's oldest civic organization, with its more than 450 members, it is also the largest.

The main objective of Rotarians is serving their community, and the Little Rock Rotary Club carries this out through their numerous community projects.

For example, they support youth and educational opportunities through international student exchange programs, and, each year, they award eight different scholarships to Arkansas's college students.

Along with serving our community, many members of the Little Rock Rotary Club have bravely served in our nation's Armed Forces. They will be recognized next week in Little Rock, and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their bravery and their service to our nation and preserving our freedoms.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF LITTLE ROCK VETERANS

Dan G. Beranek, Tom Bonner, Harvey F. Brown III, Sam L. Chaffin, James B. Conner, Samuel D. Cummings Jr., Eugene G. Eberle Jr., Victor A. Fleming, Irving B. Goldberg, Wayne A. Gruber, Thomas Harding Jr., James T. Harvey, Richard B. Homard Ph.D., Gerald K. Johnson D.D.S., J. Floyd Kyser, Aaron Lubin, Maxwell J. Lyons II, Jack R. McCray, George E. McLeod, Carleton McMullin, Patrick D. Miller, Marc Oudin, Prosper F. Paul, Eugene M. Pfeifer III, Ashley S. Ross Jr., Ted L. Snider, William Boyd Ward, E. Grainger Williams, George G. Worthen, Calvin D. Biggers, Ralph G. Brodie, Robert A. Callans, Joseph Thomas Clements III, Reggie A. Corbitt, Steve Michael Daugherty, John A. Festa, James F. Gadberrry, William C. Goolsby, Lynn Ray Hamilton, James E. Harris, Richard F. Hatfield, Barry D. Hyde, Greg M. Joslin, Beverly J. Lambert III, Robert M. Lyford, William Aubert Martin, Bob G. McKuin, Roger McMennamy, David F. Miller Ph.D., Walter W. Nixon III, James J. Pappas M.D., Arthur J. Pfeifer, Carl S. Rosenbaum, Elwood W. Smith, Arthur E. Squire Jr., Alfred L. Williams and Jerry C. Wilson.

SECOND INAUGURATION OF
PRESIDENT MA JING-JEOU

HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Taiwan on the second inauguration of President Ma Ying-jeou. In so many respects, Taiwan has come a long way in its progress. Taiwan has become one of the world's leading economic forces, despite enormous pressure and obstacles.

As a close ally and friend of Taiwan, we celebrate the rapid advancement of the island nation. Given our close ties with Taiwan—ties that include our common defense and economic cooperation—their progress as a nation is vital for American interests. I am proud to be a member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

A basic element of our common economic well-being is trade. Taiwan is a major trading partner of ours and a major importer of one of our largest industries, agriculture. Taiwan imports large amounts of wheat, corn, and soybeans, mostly from the United States. Poultry and pork production is a staple of Taiwan's livestock sector and drives demand for imported corn and soybeans from the United States, Taiwan's prime supplier.

In these trying days of world economic upheaval, it is certainly gratifying to know we not only have a good friend but a good customer in Taiwan. By their continued imports of our products, Taiwan helps to provide American

jobs, which is more important than ever for the American people.

Good luck President Ma. We wish you the best in your second term.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. CHIP CRAVAACK

OF MINNESOTA

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. CRAVAACK. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment, which would express a sense of Congress that fighter wings performing the 24-hour Aerospace Control Alert missions provide an essential service in defending the sovereign airspace of the United States in the aftermath of 9/11.

Mr. Chair, the tragic events of 9/11 exposed holes in our nation's air security and reinforced the need for the U.S. military to take the steps necessary to significantly increase our ability to intercept hostile aircraft. Today, there are fighter jets placed at strategic points all across the United States, charged with the mission to provide air defense through the detection, deterrence, and if necessary, defeat of hostile air attacks. These sites, known as Aerospace Control Alert sites, have fully armed aircraft and trained personnel on 24-hour alert, 365 days a year.

One such Aerospace Control Alert site resides in my district. The 148th Fighter Wing of the Minnesota Air National Guard, also known as the "Bulldogs," operates out of Duluth, Minnesota, and provides force protection of our country's northern border between Madison, Wisconsin, and Portland, Oregon. The Bulldogs have been performing the ACA mission successfully for years and were selected for the Raytheon trophy, which is awarded for outstanding performance to an Air Force or Air National Guard fighter unit with a mission in air defense. In fact, I am proud to say that the Director of the Air National Guard, Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III announced just this month that the 148th Fighter Wing was selected as the 2012 Air Force Association Outstanding Air National Guard Flying Unit.

Given the importance of the 24-hour Aerospace Control Alert mission to our national security, I was greatly concerned when I learned a few months ago of NORAD's proposed reduction of the 24-hour alert mission requirement at two Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) sites in the Continental United States. It is my understanding that this proposal was submitted in line with the President's budget request for FY 2013 and the U.S. Air Force's decision to make force structure changes.

My concern grew when I learned of a January 2012 GAO report that reviewed NORAD's 2010 analysis on whether it could change the number and location of its fighter sites without affecting the military's ability to defend the country against airborne attack. GAO's conclusion was that this NORAD analysis did not

adequately balance risk with targeted budget reductions.

I recognize that our country's current fiscal reality necessitates the Department of Defense to tighten its belt and look for ways to do more with less.

However, I think it is imperative that decisions that directly affect our nation's ability to defend itself should be made on the basis of risk-management principles that balance risk and costs.

Therefore, I also rise today in support of Section 352 in the underlying bill, which would direct the Secretary of Defense to maintain our nation's existing eighteen ACA sites until the Secretary submits a report that shows the cost-benefit analysis and risk-based assessment of how future ACA changes would affect the DOD budget and force structure.

I would like to thank Congressman LOBIONDO for adding this important provision to the bill, and I urge the adoption of my amendment in recognition of a critical asset in our nation's defense system.

REMARKS ON THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge—a great feat of technological and engineering mastery, a San Francisco landmark, and a national treasure. Today, it is my distinct honor and high privilege to mark its 75th birthday on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Proving that in times of hardship, America has always invested in big things, the Golden Gate Bridge was built in the midst of the Great Depression. San Franciscans were out of work and saw no end to their woes. Yet voters nonetheless approved the construction bonds to build the bridge. As collateral, San Franciscans were willing to risk their homes, their farms and their businesses—their very livelihoods, in the hope that the toll dollars would help pay back the bonds. The Golden Gate Bridge was a symbol of hope and a vision for the future.

Joseph Strauss envisioned the Bridge, which takes its name from the Golden Gateway that links the Pacific Ocean to the San Francisco Bay. It was Irving Morrow who designed the Art Deco styling and its world-famous international orange color that made the Bridge distinct and unique. The many engineers who constructed the Bridge all shared the American spirit that makes our country great. When it opened on May 27, 1937 Strauss shared his poem, "The mighty the task is done" which encapsulated all that had been accomplished.

Twenty-five years ago, I had the distinct pleasure of participating in the 50th anniversary celebrations where hundreds of thousands of people crowded onto the Bridge to celebrate. The enormity of the crowd was so unexpected that the Bridge flattened under its weight. Today, the Golden Gate Bridge remains the most graceful and spectacular bridge in the world, beloved by our city and visited annually by millions of people

from around the globe. It is a beautiful welcome to the many who flock to America's shores.

Whether as a child first viewing the Golden Gate Bridge being mesmerized by its size, or as a worker whose lifework has kept the bridge strong, or as a traveler who relies on the bridge daily, it is a lasting symbol of San Francisco, of human tenacity and ingenuity, and is resplendent in the Western sun.

With great pride I join all San Franciscans in paying tribute to the Golden Gate Bridge: our constant joy, our faithful companion, and our City's pride.

KYLE QUINTRALL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kyle Quintrall for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kyle Quintrall is a 12th grader at Wheat Ridge High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kyle Quintrall is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kyle Quintrall for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORTH JERSEY AT GARFIELD

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Calvary Baptist Church. Since its founding in 1927, the church has provided a sanctuary of worship and service to the faithful of Garfield, New Jersey and the surrounding area, and I extend my sincerest congratulations as the proud congregants celebrate the church's 85th anniversary.

Under the current visionary leadership of Reverend Calvin McKinney, Calvary Baptist Church carries on the strong tradition of faith, service, and fellowship began by its original members. Its reach extends beyond to those who gather weekly within its walls to worship to all those it services through humanitarian efforts, in the North Jersey area and beyond. Its informed congregation, in matters religious, civic, and political, is a model for the community at-large.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the remarkable Calvary Baptist Church, a venerable house of worship that has touched the lives of

the faith community and all who live in the Garfield area. I join with the grateful congregants, and all of my constituents in Northern New Jersey, in celebrating the 85th anniversary of the Calvary Baptist Church of North Jersey at Garfield. I look forward to the opportunity to celebrate many more anniversaries with our friends at Calvary Baptist Church.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VETERANS OF PIONEER HOUSE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pioneer House of California and its members, as they observe this Memorial Day. The Pioneer House is a non-profit retirement facility that is home to over 22 veterans and two veteran staffers. Each of them has bravely served our country, and dedicated their lives to our freedom. Their service, along with the service of all veterans, has been crucial to maintaining our liberty.

The following men and women are members of the Pioneer House and have bravely served our country: Milo Chun, Jack Cochrane, Helen Lee, George Newhall, George Schmidt, Jeanne Kelly, Arnold Lee, Rod Rasmussen, Thomas McCauley, Nolan Jones, Ted Lochowski, Eddie Rose, Leonard Watson, John Saville, Ninus Harris, Lionel Holmes, Fred O'Shea, John Dierking, James Shields, Lou Adam, Gene Tarr, and George Sleep. Staffers Carolyn Keesor and David Armstrong not only served our country, but provide key support to the facility. As Memorial Day approaches, I would like to personally thank each and every one of them for their service, commitment, and dedication to our country.

Mr. Speaker, as the members of the Pioneer House gather for Memorial Day to honor their fellow veterans, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting these fine individuals for their excellent work and commitment to our nation.

HONORING HARVEY MILK

HON. ADAM E. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Harvey Milk in recognition of the third annual Harvey Milk Day which will be celebrated on May 22nd. As we come together, let us remember that this day is not only a celebration of this incredible leader, it is also a day to recognize every American who believes in Harvey's visionary fight for equality in this great nation.

Harvey entered politics late in life, after becoming frustrated with San Francisco politics and widespread discrimination against gay individuals. In 1977, Harvey won a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, marking the first time an openly gay man had been elected to public office in California. He quickly became one of the world's most high profile

openly gay elected officials, and used his influence to encourage and support the LGBT and minority communities around him. Harvey was dedicated to building support for real change, and to ensuring that no group was unrepresented or unheard. Although Harvey was only in office for less than a year, his tenure had a massive and lasting influence on thousands of lives both inside and outside of San Francisco. His life became an example of the difference one committed individual can make in their community, and Harvey's was a welcome turning point for LGBT individuals in San Francisco and beyond.

Today, we have many more opportunities to follow Harvey's example. But first, we must reaffirm our commitment to LGBT rights, and the right of every American citizen to be a free and equal member of our society.

Recently, we have taken great strides towards this goal. We have increased protection against hate crimes motivated by a person's sexual orientation, fought against employment discrimination against LGBT individuals, increased funding for HIV/AIDS research and prevention, and repealed the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. With President Obama's courageous endorsement last week, we are beginning to take small yet certain steps towards the legalization of same-sex marriage. Despite these small victories, there are still many more battles to fight, individuals to inspire and groups to educate.

Anna Kronenberg, Harvey's final campaign manager, wrote "What set Harvey apart from you or me was that he was a visionary. He imagined a righteous world inside his head and then he set about it to create it for real, for all of us." Each one of us has an obligation to finish the work which Harvey started. This struggle for equality is too important to avoid, and too desperately needed to put off any longer. I urge my colleagues and every American to join me in my fight for equality as we honor and remember Harvey Milk.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the scriptures tell us there is no greater love than one who would lay down his life for a friend. Each day, our families, friends, colleagues, and neighbors live in safety because there are those willing to lay down their lives to protect their communities. Law enforcement officers not only protect and defend; they are a beacon of light for this country and our towns are made better by their valiant service.

Their service is not without sacrifice. Often their families and friends carry their burdens as the law enforcement officers carry ours. Too often, some who wake every morning in service to their communities do not make it home. This year, there will be five more names added to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice while protecting and defending the great state of Tennessee. I join with those gathered, and the families of those lost, to honor Patrolman II Timothy Warren, Deputy Sheriff Richard Bellar, Trooper Andrew Wall, Captain Ralph Braden, and Sergeant James Tim Chapin.

A senator from ancient Rome wrote that in valor, there is hope. I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking those who protect the liberties of this great nation. As we pause to mourn the lives of the 177 law enforcement officers lost in the line of duty last year, we give thanks for the dedication and legacy of the five Tennesseans who sacrificed their lives and sacred honor for our great state. May the words from Rome remind us all of our duty to service, and may they offer us a light of gratitude for those whose service does not lead them home.

MARIYA MIKHAYLOVA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mariya Mikhaylova for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Mariya Mikhaylova is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mariya Mikhaylova is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mariya Mikhaylova for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF AMBASSADOR ANDREW JACKSON YOUNG, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and a great man, Andrew Jackson Young, Jr. Shakespeare once said that: "All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players; They have their exits and their entrances; And one man in his time plays many parts . . ." Ambassador Andrew Young has played many parts in his lifetime including the roles of minister, civil rights activist, Congressman, Ambassador, Mayor and humanitarian.

Ambassador Young will be honored with an 80th birthday celebration on May 20, 2012, in Atlanta, Georgia. This event will be a celebration of Ambassador Young's life and his dedication to uplifting humankind.

Ambassador Young was born on March 12, 1932, to the union of Andrew Jackson Young, Sr., and Daisy Fuller Young. His father was a dentist and his mother was a school teacher.

Ambassador Young attended Dillard University in 1947 for one year before transferring to

Howard University where he received his Bachelor of Science and pre-med degree in 1951. After graduating from Howard, Ambassador Young originally wanted to follow in his father's footsteps and pursue a career in dentistry. However, a greater calling was in store for him and he entered the ministry. He received a Bachelor of Divinity Degree from Hartford Theological Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut in 1955.

It was while at Hartford Seminary that Ambassador Young was exposed to the teachings of Mohandas Gandhi. He became enamored with Gandhi's philosophy of non-violent social change. Later, while serving as pastor of a church in Thomasville, Georgia, Ambassador Young met a young Baptist preacher from Atlanta by the name of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at an Alpha Phi Alpha program at Talladega College.

In 1960, Ambassador Young joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He moved to Atlanta in 1961 and worked vigorously on voter registration drives. He was a gifted strategist who played a great role in organizing various civil rights campaigns in the 1960s. As we all know, these campaigns resulted in the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Ambassador Young was with Dr. King on that tragic day in Memphis when he was assassinated.

Ambassador Young used his involvement in the Civil Rights Movement to fuel his later endeavors. He was Georgia's first African American to be elected to the Congress since Reconstruction. Additionally, in 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed him as the First African American United Nations Ambassador.

In 1981, Ambassador Young ran for and was elected Mayor of the city of Atlanta. He served two terms in this post, pushing many initiatives that still have his stamp on them today.

Additionally, in 1996, he served as the Co-Chair of the Committee that was successful in bringing the Olympic Games to his beloved city of Atlanta.

Ambassador Young has always had a humanitarian spirit and in 1996, along with Carlton Masters, he founded Good Works International, a consulting firm that promotes investment in Africa and the Caribbean. Ambassador Young has used this tool to continue his advocacy for civil and human rights around the world.

Dr. King once said, "Life's most urgent and persistent question is: What are you doing to help others?" Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Ambassador Andrew Jackson Young, Jr. for his lifelong legacy of helping others. My wife, Vivian, and I commend him for his service and thank his family for sharing him with the world for the betterment of humankind. As I stated earlier, Ambassador Young has played many roles during the course of his life. And as the reviews come on the stage of history, there can be no doubt that Andrew Young has been stellar in each and every one.

HONORING OFFICER TIFFANY BISHOP

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National Police Week, to honor Probation Officer Tiffany Bishop. Officer Bishop was fatally wounded August 31, 2011, during a training exercise at the Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison in Jackson, Georgia. At the time of her death, she had served the Georgia Department of Corrections with distinction for six months.

Tiffany was born in Waycross, Georgia and attended Union Grove High School, where she was president of the drama club. She graduated with honors from Georgia State College and University, where she earned a bachelor's and Master's degree in criminal justice.

Officer Bishop was recognized this week on the Capitol steps at the 31st Annual Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this fallen officer, and all those who have died in service to their communities.

RECOGNIZING OLDER AMERICANS DURING THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 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 co-sponsor 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 an extraordinary APIA community member from Orange County for his distinguished contributions to enhancing the moral fabric of my district, the state of California, and our country.

Mr. Pu Hwi Cho has been an active and dedicated community leader in Orange County for over 30 years. Mr. Cho proudly served during the Korean War and continues to be an active member of the Korean American community by volunteering for a number of non-profit organizations that assist Korean immigrants through the U.S. citizenship process. Through his tireless efforts, Mr. Cho has encouraged many Korean American seniors to be active members of their community through civic participation.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO HELP ELIMINATE UNCER-
TAINTY FOR MILITARY AND
OVERSEAS VOTERS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation, with my colleagues Representatives CHARLES GONZALEZ and MICHAEL HONDA, which would help eliminate uncertainty for military and overseas voters when they request an absentee ballot this year that they will get ballots for each of the elections for the full year when voting absentee.

The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act of 2009 repealed several subsections of Section 104 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), which has caused concern among overseas voting groups that this change may result in a situation in which a military or overseas voter might vote in a primary election but not receive ballots for the general election. This legislation would amend UOCAVA to make clarifications to the law and ensure that voters who request an absentee ballot will receive ballots for each election that occurs during the full election cycle.

The MOVE Act was a major step forward in the reform and modernization of UOCAVA; however, this particular change may have unintended consequences. As we are in the 2012 election cycle, we need to ensure that this does not inadvertently disenfranchise large swaths of our military and overseas voters. This bill proposes simple fixes that will help ensure the votes of every overseas American are counted.

LAWRENCE SALAZAR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lawrence Salazar for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Lawrence Salazar is a 10th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Lawrence Salazar is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Lawrence Salazar for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

WINDPLANNERS OF CAMDEN
HILLS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight the outstanding accomplishments of a group of students in my district.

For the last 8 years, the Windplanners of Camden Hills Regional High School have endeavored to bring a full-size wind turbine to their school. What started out as a vision has now become a reality. After conducting feasibility studies, earning the support of their community, raising a half-million dollars, and clearing bureaucratic hurdles, the students erected a 155-foot turbine at their school this spring.

In the first week of operation alone, the turbine generated enough electricity to power six households for a month. Over the years, this project will save their school thousands of dollars, keep hundreds of tons of carbon emissions out of the air, and stand as a tribute to what a committed group can do—whatever their age may be.

I'm very proud of these students and the teachers and community members who have supported them. They have learned real-world lessons that will serve them well—and have taught us all some important lessons in the process.

RECOGNIZING FOND DU LAC
SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR 21ST CEN-
TURY READINESS

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, in order for our students to be competitive in the global economy, we must do our part to ensure that they are acquiring the knowledge and skills they need for success. The skills needed for success go beyond the basics of reading, writing, and math, however. When surveyed, employers continually emphasize that, in our 21st century economy, students need to be adept at critical thinking and problem solving; communication; collaboration; and creativity and innovation, in addition to being proficient in core subjects.

While it's important to talk about these skills, it's even more important to see and recognize where they are being successfully incorporated into educational curriculums at the local level. Fond du Lac School District, located in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, in my congressional district, is doing a lot of innovative work to prepare its students for success in the 21st century economy. Along with officials from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, I recently visited the Fond du Lac School District to learn about their efforts firsthand.

The Fond du Lac School District, through the leadership of Superintendent Dr. James Sebert and John Whitsett, the School District's Coordinator of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, rewrote the school's entire cur-

riculum in 2005 to fully incorporate 21st century skills. This fall, all students will be given Google Chromebooks to help further integrate technology into their education. Also this fall, the Fond du Lac Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Academy will open to many 3rd through 5th graders through lead teacher Sarah Edbauer. The STEM Academy will focus not only on a rigorous STEM curriculum, but it will also place a heavy emphasis on project-based and student-led learning as a method for teaching 21st century skills.

The STEM Academy in Fond du Lac is a good example of how community partnerships can broaden students' educational experience. Mercury Marine, based in Fond du Lac, is a world leader in marine propulsion and technology and a major manufacturer of outboard motors and inboard engines. The company has partnered in the development of the school's STEM Academy because of difficulties it has experienced finding qualified applicants to meet its workforce needs. The company conveyed, as have numerous other employers, that the nature of manufacturing jobs is changing and that successful employees need to be creative, need to be able to problem solve, and need to be able to work collaboratively with other coworkers, amongst other skills. Through the company's partnership with the Fond du Lac STEM Academy, it is hoping to grow a local workforce by getting students engaged in practical, real-world projects that will help them develop the skills they need to be successful when they enter the workforce.

It's important that Congress recognize the work that is being done in communities like Fond du Lac and that we look for ways to support these efforts. For these reasons, Rep. DAVE LOEBSACK and I recently formed the bipartisan Congressional 21st Century Skills Caucus to inform and discuss better ways to promote 21st century skills in our nation's educational system. I invite all of my colleagues to join our efforts.

HONORING MR. LLOYD HAND AND
MRS. ANN HAND

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Lloyd Hand and his wife, Mrs. Ann Hand, on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Hand are a very special couple from Texas who have since established themselves here in Washington, D.C. Both have been extremely successful in doing so, as Mr. Hand became involved in law and politics, while Mrs. Hand started her own business designing and selling custom jewelry.

Mr. and Mrs. Hand are just one couple to leave Texas to come to the Potomac. After first meeting at the University of Texas, the couple has been inseparable ever since. Mr. Hand first entered the political realm as assistant to Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson, and eventually became U.S. Chief of Protocol once Johnson became President. Mr. Hand has served a long and rewarding career in government, and now serves as a senior

counsel at King & Spalding's Government Advocacy and Public Policy Practice Group. Mr. Hand has been able to utilize his decades of experience to provide counsel to Fortune 500 companies and other high-profile clients in this capacity.

Mrs. Hand has also become very successful in her own right. Beginning in 1988, Mrs. Hand started her company, Ann Hand, LLC, out of her home. Her business specialized in custom-made jewelry and design, and through her success she eventually opened a salon in Upper Georgetown. Since then, Mrs. Hand's distinctive pieces have received worldwide acclaim, and many members of Congress have come to value her talent and creativity. Mrs. Hand's pieces are one of a kind, and her business has been commissioned by many different companies and national organizations to design commemorative pieces.

Mr. Speaker, I am so happy to recognize this beloved couple from Texas. Mr. and Mrs. Hand have both made significant contributions to Washington, D.C. Mr. and Mrs. Hand have duly represented our state of Texas by making such a worthy impact on the Potomac, and I am pleased to honor their accomplishments today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. EFFIE
C. GREAR

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Dr. Effie C. Grear, who died on May 16, 2012. Dr. Grear, a widely known and greatly beloved figure in her home town of Belle Glade, Florida and the other communities surrounding Lake Okechobee, dedicated more than 50 years of her life as an educator. She earned her B.A. in Music Education from West Virginia State University, her M.A. in the same major from The Ohio State University, and her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

Highlights of her career included organizing the first bands at Florida A&M University High School in Tallahassee and Smith-Brown High School in Arcadia, Florida. She later became Band Director at Lake Shore High School in Belle Glade and then Assistant Principal at that school. After moving to the Assistant Principal position at Glades Central High School, she eventually became Principal in 1976, a position she held until retiring in 1976.

Dr. Grear had a long record of community involvement as a member of the Advisory Boards of Glades Central High School's Criminal Justice Academy and the Glades Community Development Corporation, the Florida and National Associations of Secondary School Principals, the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission, and the Association of School Curriculum Development. At the time of her passing, she was serving as a Commissioner on the Health Care District of Palm Beach County and its representative to the Glades General Hospital Advisory Board.

Among her many awards and honors are Belle Glade, Florida Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year (1982), Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award from the Urban

League of Palm Beach County (1988), Palm Beach County NAACP Community Service Award (1989), and the Florida Association of Women's Clubs Hattie T. Dorah Woman of the Year Award (1990). In 1991, she was named Florida Secondary School Principal of the Year. The following year, Dr. Grear was honored with the Ida S. Baker Distinguished Black Educator Award by the Governor and the Cabinet in Tallahassee.

In 2000, the Palm Beach County School Board recognized her long record of service to the boys and girls of the Glades area by naming the athletic field at Glades Central High School after her. That same year, I honored her myself with my Educational Leadership Award for Commitment to Boys and Girls in Palm Beach County, Florida. She was recognized again by Palm Beach Community College in 2004, when they gave her their Community Leadership Award during their annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Grear was married to the late William A. Grear, the first African American to serve as a City Commissioner in Belle Glade, Florida. The couple had two children, Rhonda Grear, a Registered Nurse, and William Grear, Jr., a digital technician with Bell South Corporation and former Belle Glade City Commissioner. Dr. Effie Grear enjoyed enormous respect among everyone in the educational field and all those familiar with her devotion to children and her love for her community. She was a good friend and mentor to many and she will be dearly missed.

KYLE ESTES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kyle Estes for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kyle Estes is a 9th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kyle Estes is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kyle Estes for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

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. STARK. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization, NDAA Act. Our country has always spent too much taxpayer money on an outdated, ineffective military apparatus; this year's reauthorization is no different. The pattern of lopsided investment causes us to sacrifice critically needed investments in job growth, health care, education, and economic recovery. Simply put, our level of defense spending does not reflect my values or those of the majority of Americans. Therefore, I will once again vote against the NDAA.

Defense already comprises almost 60 percent of the federal government's discretionary spending. Our nation dedicates entirely too much of its capital to military efforts at great monetary and human costs. We have spent trillions of dollars on wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and lost thousands of lives. The American people have had enough. Almost 70 percent of Americans want a complete and early withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, according to a recent Rasmussen survey.

What's more, two-thirds of Republicans and nine out of ten Democrats support making immediate and drastic cuts to defense spending, according to a recent survey by the nonprofit groups, Center for Public Integrity, the Program for Public Consultation, and the Stimson Center. The average suggested defense cut by those polled came to more than \$80 billion. That amount is almost twice what is due to be cut from defense in the sequester, the bipartisan deal reached at the end of last year to reduce our deficit.

Rather than listen to the American people, House Republicans have chosen to do the opposite—further increasing defense spending in this legislation. They've added an additional \$8 billion above the budget limits that were approved earlier this Congress as part of the Budget Control Act. This is why I joined with Representative BARBARA LEE (D-CA) to offer an amendment to cut that \$8 billion from the defense authorization. Doing so would simply ensure that defense spending falls in line with the limits set by Republicans in their own Budget Control Act. Unfortunately, the amendment was not approved.

The bottom line is that it's beyond time for us to cut defense spending, withdraw our troops, and redirect our focus to the troubles we're facing here at home. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this bill.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

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:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 4310, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013," which provides \$642 billion in budget authority for the Department of Defense and the national security programs of the Department of Energy.

Although the bill is not perfect and contains several provisions that I do not support, on balance I support the legislation because it (1) provides our troops the resources they need to protect and defend our country and themselves; (2) supports military families; (3) makes important investments to keep our homeland safe; and (4) incorporates three critical amendments I offered to strengthen the nation's strategic ports (of which the Port of Long Beach is perhaps the most critical), provide expanded protections for women service members, and enhances the effectiveness of the Northern Command ("NORTHCOM") in protecting the homeland in event of war.

I thank Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their hard work in shepherding this bill to the floor on this bill and for their commitment to the men and women of the Armed Forces.

Let me briefly highlight some of the key provisions that I support.

I support the provisions in the bill providing all service members a pay raise of 1.7 percent, the level included in the President's request, and extends certain special pay and bonuses for active-duty and reserve personnel. The bill limits any annual increase in cost-sharing rates under the TRICARE pharmacy program to the percentage increase in retiree pay, beginning October 1, 2013. I am also pleased that the bill extends access to family housing for six months for service members mustering out due to personnel reductions.

Mr. Chair, combating domestic violence and deterring sexual offenses in both the civilian and military sectors is a national priority. That is why I am pleased that this bill includes provisions requiring secretaries of the military departments to establish special victim teams for investigation, prosecution and victim support in connection with child abuse, serious domestic violence or sexual offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The bill further requires that at least one team in each military department be in place within one year of enactment and that each secretary report within 270 days of enactment with a plan and timeline for the establishment of the remainder of the special victim teams that the secretary has determined are needed.

Mr. Chair, this bill provides the resources needed to protect our troops in harm's way. It provides:

\$2.8 billion for measures to counter IED activities in Afghanistan;

\$3.2 billion for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles in Afghanistan;

An increase of \$321 million in unrequested funds for modernization of M-1 Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles, vehicles that help protect the lives of our troops; and

\$7.6 billion for operations and maintenance of the Special Operations Command, an amount that includes \$2.5 billion in the Overseas Contingency Operations account.

Another reason for supporting this bill is that it provides expanded opportunities for small businesses to participate in Defense Department contracts. For example, the bill includes

several provisions designed to eliminate barriers that have prevented many small and medium-sized businesses from competing for Pentagon contracts. It also establishes new DOD goals for procurement contracts awarded to small businesses. There are also provisions to amend the Small Business Act to establish a government-wide goal for participation by small businesses at not less than 25 percent of all prime contracts for each fiscal year, and 40 percent of all subcontract awards for each fiscal year.

Mr. Chair, as I noted earlier in my remarks, an additional reason why I support this legislation is because it includes three amendments that I offered to improve the bill. I want to thank Rules Committee Chairman DREIER, Ranking Member SLAUGHTER, Armed Services Committee Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for working with me to include these amendments.

My first amendment, Richardson Amendment No. 82, requires the Department of Defense to post on all its websites information on sexual assault prevention and response resources.

In light of technology, many people, particularly service personnel receive the majority of their information via the Internet.

Further, online access to the needed information is particularly important because persons needing sexual assault resource information may be reluctant to seek information in a public setting without fear of losing privacy, or worse retaliation.

My second amendment, Richardson Amendment No. 112, improves the bill by increasing the effectiveness of the Northern Command ("NORTHCOM") in fulfilling its critical mission of protecting the U.S. homeland in event of war and to provide support to local, state, and federal authorities in times of national emergency. This amendment was included in last year's National Defense Authorization Act and I am pleased that it is included again this year also.

The purpose for NORTHCOM's existence is to bring the capabilities and the resources of the U.S. military to the assistance of the American people during a catastrophic disaster. NORTHCOM leaders will be much more effective in saving lives, protecting assets, and enhancing resilience after a disaster has occurred if they are trained in the techniques of effective engagement with civilian leadership. My amendment ensures that such training will be available.

I want to thank my good friend and colleague, Congressman DON YOUNG of Alaska for working with me across the aisle and partnering with me on the amendment, Young/Richardson Amendment 141. This amendment calls for the expedited completion of the study of the Nation's strategic ports called for in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 Conference Report 112-329.

As the representative of a district served by the largest port complex in the nation, I have long been a strong champion on protecting our nation's ports.

My colleagues have heard me say often that "in times of war, the role of the ports is to protect the forts."

This amendment also directs the Department of Defense to provide a copy of the report to the GAO for additional review of the extent to which the facilities and infrastructure serving strategic seaports meet the Department of Defense's requirements.

The completion of this report is vital in the assessment of the structural integrity and deficiencies of the port facilities.

It further examines infrastructure improvements that are needed directly or indirectly to meet national security and readiness requirements.

In addition to assessing the impact on operational readiness, this report will identify potential funding sources to undertake needed improvements.

CONCLUSION

Finally, let me note my strong support for the bipartisan Smith/Amash Amendment, which was accepted and included in the bill. This amendment amends detention provisions enacted last year in order to ensure that any individual detained on U.S. soil has the rights and liberties enshrined in the Constitution. The amendment would ensure that no person detained, captured, or arrested in the U.S. pursuant to the Authorization for the Use of Military Force could be indefinitely detained, held in military custody, or forced to face a military tribunal. As the Constitution states, it makes clear that any person apprehended in the United States would be guaranteed due process provided by a civilian court established under Article III of the Constitution. This commonsense, bipartisan amendment is supported by 27 Retired Generals and Admirals and more than 25 leading organizations, including the Bill of Rights Defense Committee, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church, Union for Reform Judaism, Physicians for Human Rights, and National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

Finally, let me note my opposition to sections 536 and 537 of the bill relating to service members who are gay and lesbian. These provisions are unnecessary and unhelpful for the reasons discussed in the Statement of Administration Policy issued by the Obama Administration. I agree with the Administration's position and oppose the inclusion of these provisions. It is my hope that they will be removed before this bill reaches the President's desk.

In conclusion, I believe the good things in this bill outweigh the bad and for that reason urge my colleagues to support and join me in voting for the bill on final passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 253 I was detained while attempting to reach the House Floor to cast my vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 17, I was unavoidably detained during several rollcall votes, numbers 259, 260, 261, and 262.

Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall 259 and rollcall 260. The rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4310 denied the House the opportunity to consider a number of key issues of interest to members of the House and our constituents. In particular, the rule denied a vote on my amendment to restore important health and safety protections for workers and residents who live near nuclear weapons facilities that will be undermined by the underlying bill. The rule also did not allow for a vote on the amendment offered by Mr. MCGOVERN to accelerate the re-deployment of our troops from Afghanistan that was supported by Armed Services Committee Ranking Democrat ADAM SMITH, Democratic Whip STENY HOYER, Republican Representative WALTER JONES, and others.

Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 261. I support H. Res. 568’s goal of preventing Iran from achieving a nuclear weapons capacity and am on record on numerous occasions supporting legislation to this effect. Yet I do not believe that this resolution is a sensible way to pursue that goal. President Obama has effectively utilized aggressive sanctions and has united the international community diplomatically, which has substantially increased pressure on Iran to agree to a deal to prevent continued uranium enrichment and allow international inspectors to verify that Iran’s nuclear program is not being used for military purposes. Congress should encourage that progress to continue but I am concerned that H. Res. 568 could disrupt the progress that is being made through negotiations and could bring the U.S. closer to war unnecessarily.

In addition, had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall No. 262.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

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. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of amendment #45, offered by Mr. GOHMERT. This amendment clarifies that the Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act and the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) do not deny the writ of habeas corpus—or any Constitutional rights—to those detained in the United States under the AUMF who are entitled to such rights.

Mr. Chair, this amendment is necessary because while the intent in the FY ’12 NDAA was not to allow for the indefinite detention of U.S. citizens without access to legal representation, some have misconstrued it as such. Simply put, this misunderstanding must end today. I support this amendment because I believe that providing for the safety and security of United States citizens is the paramount responsibility of the federal government. As we

continue to fight the Global War on Terror, we must provide the President, the intelligence community, and our troops with all of the tools necessary to carry out this duty. Clearly, we must do this within the framework of our Constitution, and make certain that the Constitutional rights provided for our citizens are not violated.

Mr. Chair, in order to guarantee our citizens’ Constitutional rights, I am further pleased that the text of H.R. 4388, the Right to Habeas Corpus Act—which was authored by Mr. RIGELL of Virginia and of which I am proud to be an original cosponsor—was included in the FY ’13 NDAA. Article 1, section 9 of the Constitution states ‘The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.’ This legislation affirms that and goes on to state that “Nothing in the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107–40; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) or the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81) shall be construed to deny the availability of the writ of habeas corpus in a court ordained or established by or under Article III of the Constitution for any person who is detained in the United States pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force.”

Mr. Chair, with the adoption of Mr. GOHMERT’s amendment and inclusion of Mr. RIGELL’s legislation, we are taking the steps necessary to ensure the protection of our citizens’ rights, while at the same time denying terrorists the same privileges.

Former Attorneys General Ed Meese and Mike Mukasey—as well as other high ranking national security officials from both the Reagan and Bush Administrations—requested in a May 9 letter to the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee that “As the House begins consideration of the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2013, we urge you to ensure that attempts to exploit misconceptions about the NDAA are not successful in harming U.S. national security.” Clearly they are referencing the misunderstanding stemming from the FY ’12 NDAA. They further wrote that “the FY ’12 NDAA included an affirmation of the detention authority provided by the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF). Given the President’s plan to withdraw U.S. combat forces from Afghanistan and the continuing threat posed by groups like al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, this affirmation was a critical step in reinforcing the military’s legal authorities to combat terror.”

As it relates to the other end of the spectrum—providing terrorists the same rights as would be conferred to U.S. citizens, as would be the case if the amendment authored by Mr. SMITH and Mr. AMASH were to be adopted—their letter states that “. . . rewarding terrorists with greater rights for making it to the United States would actually incentivize them to come to our shores, or to recruit from within the United States, where they pose the greatest risk to the American people. Such a result is perverse.”

Mr. Chair, I am glad that because of our actions today, we are making clear the distinction between the rights provided our citizens and those provided to terrorists, while stating unequivocally that U.S. citizens will not be stripped of their habeas privileges.

I urge my colleagues to support Mr. GOHMERT’s amendment.

KYLE BEDFORD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kyle Bedford for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kyle Bedford is a 11th grader at Pomona High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kyle Bedford is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kyle Bedford for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong and unyielding opposition to H.R. 4970, “Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2012.” I urge my colleagues to reject this legislation and appeal to the Republican leadership to bring to the floor the Senate version of this bill which passed with a substantial bipartisan majority. Every Democratic Senator and 15 Senate Republicans, including all of the Senate GOP women, voted for the bill.

H.R. 4970 reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) for five years. It provides federal resources authorized by VAWA directly to organizations and programs that help prevent violent crime and protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. It consolidates grant programs and requires more audits and direct grant applicants to disclose their sources of federal funding. It also includes new benchmarks for visa applicants who are the victims of violent crime.

Madam Speaker, VAWA has never been a partisan issue until this Congress. Twice over the last 20 years, Democrats and Republicans have worked together to reauthorize VAWA and make necessary improvements. But just like on the Highway Bill, House Republicans are abandoning the bipartisan consensus that has always existed on VAWA reauthorizations. The bill rolls back important protections for immigrant victims that put them in a more vulnerable position than under current law by eliminating longstanding confidentiality of VAWA petitions for protection by allowing immigration officials to contact a battered woman’s abusive spouse, tipping off the abuser to the victim’s efforts to leave.

H.R. 4970 also makes it more difficult for undocumented witnesses to work with law enforcement officials, and eliminates a pathway

to permanent residency for victims of major crimes who cooperate with police on serious criminal cases. The bill also completely excludes vulnerable populations such as tribal women, and LGBT individuals.

The House Republican bill removes the key provisions from the bipartisan passed Senate bill improving protections for Native American women and ensuring all victims are assisted regardless of religion or sexual orientation.

The House Republican bill is opposed by hundreds of groups within the domestic violence community, as well as law enforcement, civil rights and faith-based groups.

Drafting a VAWA bill without any input from Democrats and without any Democratic support in the Judiciary Committee goes against how these reauthorizations have been crafted for over two decades. And it has produced a bill that weakens, rather than strengthens, protections for women against domestic abuse.

I oppose H.R. 4970 and urge my colleagues to do likewise.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on May 7, 2012, I inadvertently missed rollcall vote 197 on H. Con. Res. 117. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

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

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on May 17, 2012, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed H. Res. 568, a resolution expressing a sense of the House regarding the importance of preventing the Government of Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability. Despite agreeing with the overall intent of the resolution, I was compelled to vote "present" due to concerns about how the resolution was drafted.

I wholeheartedly believe that stopping the proliferation of nuclear weapons is necessary to ensure the peaceful security of our Nation, and the world. Accordingly, I am gravely concerned about the prospect of a nuclear weapon-armed Government of Iran, which has vehemently antagonized its regional neighbors, particularly our ally Israel. H. Res. 568 expresses this concern and supports a permanent agreement with Iran that assures its nuclear program is entirely peaceful. I also agree with the support expressed in H. Res. 568 for the universal rights and democratic aspirations of the Iranian people, many of whom have suffered greatly in pursuit of these noble causes.

Unfortunately, H. Res. 568 employs dangerously ambiguous language when reframing U.S. policy to prevent this potential nuclear weapon threat. The resolution references nu-

clear weapons "capability" as a new basis for U.S. policy. A loose interpretation of the undefined "capability" term, combined with the resolution's strong rejection of any policy—U.S. or otherwise—that does not prevent a nuclear weapons-capable Iran, can easily accelerate the rhetoric for military action against Iran. Furthermore, the resolution's policy restrictions can only hinder the upcoming P5+1 negotiations with Iran. For these reasons, I voted "present" on H. Res. 568.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

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. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I am in opposition to this bill.

Let me begin by praising our ranking member, the gentleman from Washington, Representative ADAM SMITH. Ranking Member SMITH brought forward a number of excellent proposals that would have significantly improved this bill, especially his effort to eliminate the indefinite detention provisions that were included in last year's bill. He also supported efforts to rein in excess Pentagon spending by supporting Representative BARBARA LEE's amendment to trim \$8 billion from the bill. Had the amendment passed, it would have restored the funding level in the bill to what Democrats and Republicans had agreed to in this year's Federal budget bill.

Unfortunately, the majority chose to vote down both of those amendments and thus continue a misguided, counterproductive detainee policy and still more reckless spending. Moreover, the majority is attempting to interfere with the President's ability to negotiate arms control agreements with Russia, a potentially unconstitutional action. Additionally, this bill continues to fund Cold War legacy weapon systems like the F-35 and V-22 which we neither need nor can afford. Indeed, it's worth remembering that if we proceed with the procurement of the F-35, that program will cost taxpayers in excess of \$400 billion—\$50 billion more than the entire defense budget was a decade ago. We need to think anew about how best to defend our country, not continue to buy weapons to deter a Soviet Union that ceased to exist over 20 years ago.

Finally, this bill continues the deadly folly that is the war in Afghanistan, now the longest war in our country's history. There is no good reason for us still to be involved in combat operations in Afghanistan. We invaded Afghanistan to get Osama bin Laden and his key lieutenants—the men who were responsible for the 9/11 attacks on our Nation. Last year, President Obama authorized the operation that eliminated bin Laden. The chief planner of the 9/11 attacks, Khalid Sheik Mohammed, has been in our custody for years. The Al Qaeda we went to war with in 2001 effectively

no longer exists, and thus the reason we sent our troops to Afghanistan no longer exists, which is why they should come home now but won't, thanks to this misguided bill. It is for all these reasons that I will vote against this bill.

KRISTEN DUNN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kristen Dunn for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kristen Dunn is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kristen Dunn is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kristen Dunn for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING SHERRIE SLICK OF KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of an incredible person. I do so, on behalf of myself, former Senators Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski, the Community of Ketchikan, and the State of Alaska. It is my privilege to recognize Sherrie Slick of Ketchikan, Alaska, for her 25 years of dedicated service as staff to the Alaska Congressional Delegation.

Sherrie is a true community leader and has worked hard to represent the Alaska Congressional Delegation in our Ketchikan office. While we are sad to see her go, we wish her the best during her retirement and future endeavors.

The first thing that comes to mind when I think of Sherrie is her unfailing energy. She has been tireless in her dedication to constituents and her service to the Delegation. She is deeply tied to Ketchikan, and residents value her civic leadership. I am impressed at how Sherrie manages to take on so many projects—from charitable events to Delegation visits, and I always say that Sherrie is so involved that she seems to be in several places at once.

The Alaskans who visited Sherrie over the years, in need of assistance or to voice their opinion on legislation, found her to be both knowledgeable and welcoming. In fact, Sherrie was a staunch advocate for her fellow citizens.

Sherrie is also a great story-teller. I always looked forward to hearing from her about local

happenings when I visited Ketchikan. There was no better guide than Sherrie when members of the Delegation were in town.

To me, Sherrie is a friend, close advisor, and one of the best staffers I have had the pleasure of working with. I know Sherrie is looking forward to a lively retirement, particularly as a grandmother. I'm sure that she will continue to work hard, just as she has during her time serving the Delegation. Today, we remember Sherrie's accomplishments and know that she will achieve many more in the years to come.

BURMA SANCTIONS SHOULD NOT
BE EASED, LIFTED, OR REMOVED

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on March 30, 2012, the Associated Press had an article about the Obama Administration expanding sanctions against the Syrian regime. These new sanctions focused on military and security officials, particularly targeting the Minister of Defense. In a statement, Under Secretary of the Treasury David Cohen said, "The U.S. and the international community will hold to account those who stand with the Assad regime as it trains the instruments of war against Syrian civilians . . . the time has long since passed for Syrian officials at all levels to turn their backs on this bloody regime." The article went on to state that over 9,000 people had been killed in the fighting in Syria.

Jump ahead to today, and reports in the Washington Post that the U.S. is now "coordinating" "more and better weapons" for the Syrian opposition. Persian Gulf states are funding the weapons.

Also today we hear deeply disturbing news that the Administration is "easing" sanctions against the dictatorship in Burma. This has to raise the question of why Administration officials are actively working—in fact "coordinating"—the delivery of "significantly more and better weapons" for the Syrian opposition, but is literally turning its back on and deliberately ignoring the extreme brutality being carried out on a daily basis by the Burmese dictatorship against the people of Burma, particularly the Kachin people.

Why would the Administration lift sanctions against a brutal dictatorship that has years and years of documented, horrific human rights violations against the people of its nation, when in the Middle East, the Administration is supporting the opposition forces fighting against a different brutal dictatorship? Why is it that one brutal dictatorship has the ire and opposition of the U.S. Government, but another dictatorship, that has yet to prove it will uphold and implement its commitments, is being rewarded for continuing to attack, rape, and kill its people?

What is going on that our nation, which says it stands for the protection of human rights and the upholding and protection of basic human freedoms, would decide to help one group fighting a brutal dictatorship while deliberately ignoring, and now, even supporting a terrible dictatorship on the other side of the world? The Administration needs to strongly reconsider its actions in Burma.

This easing of sanctions against a brutal Burmese regime comes in the face of much opposition from the people of Burma, ethnic leaders, democracy activists, NGOs, ASEAN parliamentarians, and Nobel Peace Prize winner Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and is disturbing and puzzling to say the least.

What does this Administration expect to gain for itself by easing sanctions against Burma? It certainly can't be anything that will help the people of Burma, since the ethnic leaders and the democracy groups have urged the U.S. not to lift, ease, or remove sanctions.

United to End Genocide says, "Economic investment is one of the driving forces behind the Burmese army's attacks against civilians in Kachin State. By expediting the rollback of sanctions, President Obama has told Burma's long suffering ethnic nationalities that they aren't part of the equation."

Democracy leader Aung Din with U.S. Campaign for Burma says, "The United States will be responsible for generously rewarding the regime if the war in Kachin State and human rights abuses in ethnic areas do not end, hundreds of remaining political prisoners are not released, and political settlements between the regime and ethnic resistance groups are not realized."

The Vice President of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus (AIPMC), "urged the U.S. Government to maintain sanctions on business activities in Myanmar, warning that a gold rush in the Southeast Asian nation could fuel further human rights abuses, risk fragile ceasefires and arrest ongoing democratic reforms rather than bolster them." As everyone with any knowledge on Myanmar will attest, the changes we have seen to date are far from irreversible. It is ludicrous to reward the current government's untested reforms by paving the way for a gold rush. Fighting in Myanmar's ethnic areas continues and many of the ethnic leaders are concerned that these reforms are just a ploy to pave the way for "development" projects on their lands."

The Central Executive Committee of the United Nationalities Federal Council, which consists of representatives of all the ethnic minority groups—all of whose people have endured horrific attacks at the hands of the Burmese regime—says, "It is necessary for the international community to oppose and pressure Bamah [Burma] Tatmadaw for its wrong actions. Accordingly, we would like to request the international community not suspend or lift the remaining political, military, financial and economic sanctions."

And Nobel Peace Prize winner Daw Aung San Suu Kyi urged great caution in lifting or easing sanctions urging that the American people be allowed to decide whether or not sanctions against Burma should change.

Instead of listening to the people of Burma as well as those outsiders and foreigners working on behalf of the people of Burma, the U.S. Administration has ignored them all. Instead, it has gone the path of cozying up to dictators and believing their promises . . . an odd decision since the dictators have not tended to keep their word in the past. The pattern generally has been that as soon as the dictators have received what they wanted from the West or the international community, they have simply gone back to their old ways while the rest of the world stands by and wrings its hands in consternation. Nothing has been done to hold those dictators to account for their actions.

Now, with the easing of sanctions, the U.S. has given the regime what it wants and has lost any leverage it might have. It is appalling that a country founded on freedom and democracy has taken steps to deliberately undermine democracy and freedom in Burma and instead has chosen to support a dictatorship bent on absolute control of its people.

I wonder if this Administration has read the stacks and stacks of reports detailing the rape, death and destruction of the ethnic minorities and their villages. Has it read its own State Department's report on the dictators' policy of rape of ethnic women? Has it read its own Country Reports over the years that have documented the torture of political prisoners? Has this Administration read reports that have come out in the past month about the 70,000 displaced persons in Kachin State? The latest attacks have all taken place while the regime has allegedly been making "progress" towards democracy and openness.

Would this Administration open up to the Assad regime and remove sanctions while its military was involved in deliberately killing the Syrian people? Clearly not.

The Administration has even sent U.S. military advisors and experts to help the Ugandan Government track and capture the brutal warlord Joseph Kony and his cronies. Yet, despite well known and thoroughly documented violence, brutality, and destruction under the orders of the regime in Burma, the U.S. Government has now decided that the people of Burma no longer matter.

I am ashamed of these actions by the U.S. Government. The sanctions should not be eased, and the Administration must re-impose these sanctions and listen to the people of Burma instead of the siren call of the dictators' money, brutal power, and false promises.

To the people of Burma, I say, please know that you are not forgotten and there are many in the West who stand with you and will work to ensure that your freedoms and rights are upheld and protected. Your voice should not be ignored and you should be able to live in peace in your own country. Shame on those, particularly Western officials, who would tell you by their actions that you have no rights and your life is worthless.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

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. RAHALL. Mr. Chair, today, I voted in favor of Representatives BARBARA LEE's and BARNEY FRANK's Amendment that would limit Defense spending in the coming fiscal year to the amount authorized in the Budget Control Act of 2011.

I am opposed to House Republican efforts to rewrite last summer's budget agreement, unfairly shifting the burden for deficit reduction

to domestic programs while threatening yet another calamitous downgrade in the our Nation's credit rating.

A balanced approach is essential to achieving deficit reduction. I remain optimistic that the Congress can find savings in both domestic and defense programs. Certainly, I will continue fighting to ensure that cuts are not imposed that would harm our active-duty troops, military retirees, and veterans who have already sacrificed so much for our Nation.

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 exchange of letters:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, May 10, 2012.

Hon. HOWARD "BUCK" McKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC

DEAR CHAIRMAN McKEON. I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. This legislation contains subject matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. However, in order to expedite floor consideration of this important legislation, the committee waives consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform takes this action only with the understanding that the committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered.

The committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on this legislation and requests your support if such a request is made. Finally, I would appreciate your including this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4310 on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman.

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

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3210, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. I agree that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform 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 Oversight and Government Reform is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of let-

ters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE,

Washington, DC, May 10, 2012.

Hon. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Education and the Workforce with regard to H.R. 4310 on those matters within the committee's jurisdiction.

In the interest of expediting the House's consideration of H.R. 4310, the Committee on Education and the Workforce will forgo further consideration of this bill. However, I do so only with the understanding that this procedural route will not be construed to prejudice my committee's jurisdictional interest and prerogatives on this bill or any other similar legislation and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to my committee in the future.

I respectfully request your support for the appointment of outside conferees from the Committee on Education and the Workforce should this bill or a similar bill be considered in a conference with the Senate. I also request that you include our exchange of letters on this matter in the Committee Report on H.R. 4310 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

JOHN KLINE,
Chairman.

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

Hon. JOHN KLINE,
Chairman, Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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 Education and the Workforce 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 Education and the Workforce 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 FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, May 11, 2012.

Hon. HOWARD "BUCK" McKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. This legislation contains subject matter that falls within the Rule X jurisdiction of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. However, due to our cooperation in working out text prior to your markup, and in order to expedite Floor consideration

of this important legislation, the Foreign Affairs Committee will not seek a sequential referral or object to Floor consideration of the bill text approved at your Committee markup.

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs takes this action only with the understanding that our jurisdictional interests in this bill, any subsequent amendments, and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered.

The Foreign Affairs Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on this legislation, and requests your support if such a request is made. Finally, I would appreciate your including this letter in your Committee report on the bill, and in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4310 on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN,
Chairman.

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

Hon. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. 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 Foreign 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 Foreign 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,
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,
May 11, 2012.

Hon. HOWARD "BUCK" McKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In recognition of the importance of expediting the passage of H.R. 4310, the "Fiscal Year 2013 National Defense Authorization Bill," the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence hereby waives further consideration of the bill. The Committee has jurisdictional interests in H.R. 4310, including intelligence and intelligence-related authorizations and provisions contained in the bill.

The Committee takes this action only with the understanding that this procedural route should not be construed to prejudice the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence's jurisdictional interest over this bill or any similar bill and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to the Committee in the future, including in connection with any subsequent consideration of the bill by the House. In addition, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence will seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation.

Finally, I would ask that you include a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter in the Congressional Record during the House debate on H.R. 4310. I appreciate the constructive work between our committees

on this matter and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

MIKE ROGERS,
Chairman.

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

Hon. MIKE ROGERS,
Chairman, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, 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 Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence 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 Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence 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 ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, May 11, 2012.

Hon. HOWARD "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: I write concerning H.R. 4310, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013." I wanted to notify you that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will forgo action on H.R. 4310 so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

This is done with the understanding that the Committee on Energy and Commerce is not waiving any of its jurisdiction on this or similar legislation. In addition, the Committee reserves the right to seek conferees on H.R. 4310 and requests your support when such a request is made.

I would appreciate your response confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4310 and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

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

Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 Energy and Commerce 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 Energy and Commerce 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 SMALL BUSINESS,
Washington, DC, May 11, 2012.

Hon. HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, 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 Rule X (q) of the Committee on Small Business.

In the interest of permitting the Committee on Armed Services to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive the right of the Committee on Small Business to sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill the Committee on Small Business does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X (q) jurisdiction, including future bills that the Committee on Armed Services will consider. 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 issue and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,
Chairman.

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

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business, 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 Small Business 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 Small Business 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 THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, May 11, 2012.

Hon. BUCK MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: On May 10, 2012, the Committee on Armed Services ordered H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, as amended, to be reported to the House. As a result of your having consulted with the Judiciary Committee concerning provisions of the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, and having made amendments to the bill in consideration thereof, I am able to agree to discharging our committee from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 4310, as amended, at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction

over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X 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 for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4310, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in your committee's report on H.R. 4310 and/or in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

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

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, 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 the Judiciary 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 the Judiciary 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.

KENDRA IRVINE-JOHNSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kendra Irvine-Johnson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kendra Irvine-Johnson is a 12th grader at Pomona High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kendra Irvine-Johnson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kendra Irvine-Johnson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING DR. JAMES DEEGAN
FOR HIS 28 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO ECKERD COLLEGE

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. James Deegan, the Vice President and Dean of Special Programs at Eckerd College, upon his retirement after 28 years of service to the college's students, faculty and staff.

Dr. Deegan is a nationally recognized advocate and expert in the field of lifelong learning and was an architect in developing a unique program called Eckerd College's Senior College. Now known as the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Eckerd College, the program has provided a series of noncredit, continuing education courses for our local residents. Senior College was the third program at Eckerd targeted toward retirees, but each offers something different. Elderhostel is marketed nationally and provides short-term residential learning programs for people from all over the country. The Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College (ASPEC)—started in the early 1980s and incorporated into Special Programs in 2002—offers the intense connections of a close, almost familial, membership group that meets together regularly. ASPEC members are also more integrated into Eckerd's residential program, working with faculty, hosting a freshman picnic, mentoring African American students, and sponsoring lectures for the community. Senior College, in contrast, offers classes, tours, and discussion groups for local residents who come and go according to their interests and schedules. They tend to be younger retirees who want to meet a wide range of people and be more active.

Upon arriving at Eckerd College in June 1984 as the third Dean of Special Programs, Jim has told me that he was immediately impressed with the variety of programs that took seriously the concept of lifelong learning, with programs for young children through retirees. Under Jim's direction, Eckerd's Special Programs now stand out nationally.

Among the other programs developed under Jim's direction is the Leadership Development Institute, which was established in 1980. Its original offering was the intensive, five-day Leadership Development Program in affiliation with the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, North Carolina. This leadership course is offered worldwide by CCL and has probably been attended by more people than any other leadership program.

Special Programs expanded under Jim's leadership with the creation of the Center for Conflict Dynamics. The idea grew out of a request from the Center for Creative Leadership for an original assessment instrument on conflict. Special Programs met the request by contracting with some of Eckerd's psychology faculty to develop the Conflict Development Profile. The successful tool solidified the college's relationship with the Center for Creative Leadership and became the foundation for an expanding range of services for corporations and government agencies seeking to improve their "conflict competence." The Profile has since been translated into multiple languages and is sold worldwide, and the Center for Con-

flict Dynamics is now working with clients in Germany, Brazil, and China.

The Leadership Development Institute has also expanded its services during Jim's tenure. In addition to the core Leadership Development Program, the institute has added other CCL-affiliated courses, developed original open-enrollment courses, and added customized leadership training taught on-site at companies. Since 1980, LDI has taught more than 450 5-day Leadership Development courses to more than 7,500 students and served another 3,000 students in other courses.

Mr. Speaker, it is a true honor to salute Jim Deegan's contributions to Eckerd College and our community over the past 28 years. Under his stewardship, Eckerd is one of the few undergraduate institutions of its size to have a continuing education program the size of Special Programs. It has generated significant revenue for the college and it has transformed lives—from the graduates who never thought they'd earn a diploma to retirees who needed a sense of belonging, from international students finding their way in a new country to countless Eckerd employees who learned to believe in themselves. I would ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. James Deegan for a job well done and in wishing him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
AMERICA'S VETERANS ON THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
VIETNAM WAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the start of the Vietnam War. It is with a profound sense of gratitude that I honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's Vietnam veterans; the commitment and determination of our Armed Forces in the battle for freedom; the unique contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the war; and the crucial contributions made by our allies to stem the spread of tyranny.

By the time John F. Kennedy was elected President in 1960, the United States and the Soviet Union had already been locked in a bitter ideological, political and military struggle for more than a decade over the essential question of whether human beings are truly endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Soviet aggression had already spread across Eastern Europe, Asia and the Middle East; and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev had famously declared to the West, "We will bury you." In his inaugural address, President Kennedy pledged to "pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, and oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and success of liberty." It was in that spirit, in 1962, that the President sent U.S. military advisors to assist the people of South Vietnam to resist the aggression of the communist forces of the North.

Over the course of the next 13 years, more than two-and-a-half million American soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guards-

men would serve in Vietnam. Allied nations such as South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Thailand all contributed forces and materiel to the effort as well. U.S. forces sent to Vietnam were the most educated of all of America's previously deployed military forces. Nearly eighty percent had a high school degree or better when they entered military service. The average infantryman in Vietnam saw about 240 days of combat in one year due to the enhanced mobility made possible by the helicopter. By way of comparison, the average infantryman in the South Pacific during World War II saw about 40 days of combat in four years. Of those who served in Vietnam, over 150,000 were wounded, more than 2,500 would become prisoners of war and over 58,000 would make the ultimate sacrifice for defense of freedom and service to our nation.

On the home front, Americans were, for the first time, able to tune in on their televisions and see the war in living color. This technology allowed newscasters such as Edward R. Murrow and Walter Cronkite to bring daily updates on the war to the American public in their own living rooms. The war became the inspiration for popular music, movies, and novels. America's experience in Vietnam led to the replacement of the military draft with an all-volunteer force, the reduction of the voting age to 18, and the passage of the War Powers Act. Americans developed a more pragmatic view of their relationship with the government, and the war renewed in many Americans a belief in the necessity of active involvement in the political process. In 1962, no one could possibly have predicted the profound cultural impact the war would have on generations of Americans; but Vietnam's lasting legacy on the American psyche cannot be denied.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is my honor to recognize the service and sacrifice of those Americans who served in our nation's Armed Forces during the Vietnam War. Their dedication to duty, their service to country, and their enormous contribution to halting the spread of tyranny around the world bear testament to the strength of the American spirit. My wife Vicki joins me in saluting our nation's Vietnam War veterans, and we wish them all the best.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 5326 "COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013"

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5326, which makes appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013. Although the bill provides adequate funding levels for many programs that I support, they are far outweighed by the unpalatable provisions in the bill. That is why I will vote no on final passage.

Let me list some of the more objectionable provisions of this bill.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The bill reduces funding by \$93 million for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). I also oppose the \$92 million reduction from the President's FY 2013 Budget request for the Census Bureau. A cut of this magnitude threatens the Bureau's ability to implement Economic Census data collection activities that peak in FY 2013, hindering the successful development of critical benchmarks for Gross Domestic Product estimates.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

I strongly oppose the level of funding provided in the bill as reported by the Committee for the Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring Grants Program, which is \$217 million below the President's FY 2013 Budget request. This reduced funding level would result in the loss of approximately 1,200 police hires/rehires, including veterans. In addition, some communities seriously impacted by crime would not be able to support enough police officers to effectively respond.

The Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program offers local, state, federal and tribal law enforcement access to intelligence databases, investigative support and research, equipment loans, training and publications, and field staff support, among other services. RISS is a proven, trusted and cost-effective program that has contributed to 52,350 arrests and yielded \$857 million in narcotics, property and case seizures. This represents a 223 percent return on federal investment. Today, state and local law enforcement agencies are experiencing reductions in funding and resources and are turning to RISS to cope. Nevertheless, RISS funding was severely decreased from \$45 million in FY2011 to \$27 million in FY2012 and a recommended \$27 million in FY2013. I requested an additional \$18 million for this program to return funding back to \$45 million.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) is to reimburse municipalities for the costs incurred incarcerating undocumented immigrants convicted of crimes. This program is vitally important to my home state of California. In 2009, California received \$159 million in SCAAP funds, representing over 40 Percent of the funds allocated nationwide. These funds are an important contribution towards California's cost of incarcerating undocumented immigrants, which is over \$1 billion annually. The Committee recommended federal funding for SCAAP at \$165 million, which is a cut from FY2012 levels by \$75 million and which falls below my request by \$785 million.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION (EEOC)

I also believe strongly that the Committee's funding level for EEOC, which is \$7 million less than the FY 2013 Budget request is inadequate. As the Administration points out in its Statement of Administration Policy, funding at this level would prevent EEOC from filling critical investigator positions lost through attrition, which would increase EEOC's backlog and weaken its ability to enforce Federal laws that protect individuals from discrimination based on their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or genetic information.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION (LSC)

I also strongly oppose the level of funding provided in the bill for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), which is \$74 million below the FY 2013 Budget request. At this funding level,

tens of thousands of low-income Americans, including many military families and veterans, would be denied assistance with civil legal problems, impacting their ability to receive fair treatment in the courts.

Now Mr. Speaker, as a representative of the 37th Congressional District of California, I understand the importance of supporting emerging businesses and manufacturers. 30,000 of my constituents are employed in the manufacturing sector, and nearly 45 percent of all U.S. imports travel through the district's neighborhoods. The 37th district also includes three universities and five medical facilities, all of which benefit from funding directed at science and research.

The programs covered in this bill have a direct impact on lives across the country, and I am deeply committed to ensuring that commercial, legal and research facilities in my district are able to continue their important work. I would note briefly the provisions in the bill as amended that I do support:

1. U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA): The EDA is the only federal agency focused on private sector job creation. It provides infrastructure grants, strategic planning assistance, business development capital, and technical assistance in economically distressed areas. The Committee approved funding at \$219.5 million, or 92.2 percent of my funding request.

2. Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program: MEP is the only public-private program dedicated to providing technical support to small and medium sized manufacturers to improve efficiency, productivity and profitability. In FY2009 alone, MEP projects created or retained 52,948 jobs, generated more than \$9.1 billion in sales and provided cost savings of more than \$1.41 billion. The Committee met my request for funding at \$128 million.

3. Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA): MBDA works to foster the growth and competitiveness of minority-owned U.S. businesses. Minority firms currently provide nearly 5.8 million jobs but have the potential to create 17.5 million jobs, leading to stronger communities and a bolstered economy. The Committee designated \$28,689,000 for the agency, 94.2 percent of my request.

4. Department of Justice Youth Mentoring Grants: This account is the sole remaining source of federal funding to support mentoring for at-risk youth. The account provides grants to non-profit organizations that reduce youth interaction with the juvenile justice system, which proves to be a cost-effective method for reducing the likelihood of drug and alcohol use while improving academic performance and family relations. The Committee exceeded my request and FY2012 funding by allocating \$90 million.

5. National Science Foundation (NSF): This funding will allow NSF and universities to sustain and expand their vital research and education programs, which range from improving science education to developing multimedia technologies to improve telemedicine. This significant investment will support technological advancement here at home and properly train the country's next generation of scientists and engineers. Funding for FY2013 is \$7.3 billion, which is 97 percent of my request.

6. Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP) Formula Grant Program: As the cornerstone of VAWA, STOP awards funds to every state and territory to create and sustain

coordinated community responses and trainings for law enforcement, prosecutors, judicial personnel, and victim advocates. This coordinated response has been proven effective in helping hundreds of thousands of victims find safety and holds perpetrators accountable for their actions. The Committee recommends funding at \$189 million, 92.2 percent of my request.

7. VAWA Transitional Housing Assistance Grants Program: After fleeing dangerous and abusive situations, survivors must rebuild their shattered lives. The VAWA Transitional Housing Program provides an essential continuum between emergency shelter and independent living, helping victims move from crisis to stability. The Committee met my funding request of \$25 million.

8. Victims of Trafficking Grant Program: There are currently 40 task forces nationwide that integrate federal, state and local law enforcement with prosecutorial and victim service organizations to prevent and prosecute human trafficking and to protect the victims of trafficking and slavery. I supported the continuation of this task force program, and the Committee has set funding at \$13.5 million, 90 percent of my request.

9. Community Relations Services: CRS provides resources and tools to address community conflicts that arise from racial and ethnic tensions. The Committee recommended \$11,456,000 for these services, or 95.1 percent of my request.

10. Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms: The TAAF program is the only trade adjustment assistance program that works with economically distressed U.S. manufacturers impacted by international trade agreements, offering technical assistance to help them remain employers in their communities. Its continuation is critical to the sustainability and growth of domestic manufacturing, and the Committee met my request of \$15.8 million.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the decision of the Appropriations Committee to fund the programs I have described at a level consistent with my requests and want to express my thanks to Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH for their responsiveness. It is my hope that the more problematic provisions of the bill will be corrected as the process goes forward so that the final version of the bill can be signed by the president and worthy of my support.

6TH ANNUAL DC LATINO PRIDE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

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

The Washington, D.C. metropolitan area has had an identifiable Latino LGBT community since the early 1960s. However, the community remained largely invisible until the first LGBT March on Washington in 1987. DC 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 DC Latino Pride in 2007.

It has been both a pleasure and an inspiration to watch DC Latino Pride grow from a panel discussion held 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 DC Latino Pride's 2012 theme: "History, Celebration, Identity, and Diversity."

The volunteers who staff the Latino LGBT History Project and who are organizing DC Latino Pride also embody the 2012 theme. This year's organizers include: David M. Perez, the president of the Latino LGBT History Project and the Director of Development for the League of United Latin American Citizens; José Gutierrez, a member of Mayor Vincent Gray's LGBT Advisory Council and a member of La Clínica del Pueblo community health center; Manuel Cosme, treasurer of the Latino LGBT History Project and CFO of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Jorge Andres Sotos, secretary of the Latino LGBT History Project and a civil rights attorney in private practice; Esther Hidalgo, a manager at Leslie Cashen Photography and a Library and Archives Assistant at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land. The 2012 Latino Pride co-chairs are Sergio Lopez and Oskar Moran, who work for, respectively, the People for the American Way and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate-Aviation Safety Program Office. The 2012 Development Chair, Raul Olivo, is the immediate past co-chair and parade manager, and is a health educator and advocate for Transgender Health Empowerment.

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

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAKELAND HILLS FAMILY YMCA

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lakeland Hills Family YMCA, in the Borough of Mountain Lakes, Morris County, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2012.

The Lakeland Hills Family YMCA, originally called the Boonton Area YMCA, was first formed in the Boonton area in 1865 and occupied several sites throughout the area. However, it was not until 1912 that it filed its official YMCA charter. In 1960, it moved to Cherry Hill Road in Parsippany. Since it was then serving seven different communities, it decided to adopt the name Lakeland Hills YMCA. In 1968, the Lakeland Hills YMCA was able to move to its final location in Mountain Lakes on Fanny Road. To cover the costs of both the move and building of the facility, the Trustees added a Building Fund pledge to the membership, and with the support of its members, the new YMCA was able to open its doors in 1972.

The early years as the combined YMCA, saw the addition of a children's day care, aerobics program, and senior program. The aquatic and physical education programs were expanded and the YMCA sponsored an "Adult Club" which offered programs and trips.

Unfortunately, the early years for the Y brought financial difficulties, even as membership continued to grow. These financial difficulties were alleviated by a "miracle" donation from Ms. Esther Dutton who was so impressed by the staff and members that she remembered the Y in her will. In 1978, with this new funding, plans to double the size of the center were undertaken to include a gymnasium, racquetball courts, and a running track. The Y has since undergone numerous renovations, including those to add additional childcare classrooms.

Moreover, the Y announced a scholarship for less fortunate children to attend childcare and day camp in 2007. That same year the Lakeland Hills Family YMCA announced the creation of a Kid's Cardio Arcade and began a Kid's Wellness Month program. They also joined the YMCA's national programs of Healthy Kids Day and Activate America.

Today the Lakeland Hills Family YMCA boasts 11,000 members and serves ten different communities in Morris County. It seeks to build strong families, and in doing so, build strong communities. The YMCA currently offers a wide range of programs including a childhood daycare center, educational programs for children, a leadership training program for teens, a series of family programs, and a plethora of fitness options. It also runs an annual Give a Kid the Y campaign to allow underprivileged children to have the ability to participate in programs at the Y. The YMCA has also been proud to host a number of Special Olympics meets over its existence. Its presence in Morris County continues to enrich the lives of its members and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Lakeland Hills Family YMCA as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

A TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW T. GIBBONS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Matthew Gibbons of Johnston, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Matthew's project involved designing and completing a courtyard for St. Mary of Nazareth Catholic Church in Des Moines. The work ethic Matthew has shown in his Eagle Project, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks

volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance which are core Iowa values. It's truly an honor to represent Iowa in the United States Congress and I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating Matthew in obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking. I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM CZMYR

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary accomplishments of William Czmyr. A longtime resident of Jewett City and a Veteran who served in the United States Navy during the Korean War, Mr. Czmyr has recently been named Veteran of the Year of the Jewett City VFW Post 10004. Based on Bill's many years of tireless service to his community, for this award could not have gone to a more worthy recipient.

As President of the Veterans Housing Project in Jewett City, Bill Czmyr has worked tirelessly over the last decade to secure critical resources for his fellow veterans. Earlier this month, Mr. Czmyr was finally able to see the result of his hard work as he walked through the apartments that 18 veterans will soon call home. Not only will these formerly homeless vets have a place to live, but thanks to Bill, they will have also have access to counseling and mental health services.

Mr. Czmyr was also fundamental in securing the funds to make this dream a reality. By coordinating with my office, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, he won vital grants to bring hope and peace of mind for the men and women who are set to move into the apartments this June. I urge my colleagues to join with me in congratulating William Czmyr for being named Veteran of the Year. His patriotism and dedication to veterans inspire us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I was unfortunately unable to cast a vote on rollcall vote 291 on Friday, May 18, 2012 because I was tending to a family matter. H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2013 does not sufficiently address the strategic or fiscal realities we are facing and I would have voted "no" on its passage. I would not in good conscience have been able to vote for this authorization bill that forces the Pentagon to accept \$8 billion that it neither requested, needs, nor wants. Many weapons programs, like upgrades to the Army's ground vehicles, were funded not only above the

President's request but the Pentagon's. Some programs, like Block 30 of the Global Hawk, the Pentagon doesn't want at all. Funding for East Coast missile defense dumps money into systems that don't work against a remote, unlikely threat. Lastly, there are not sufficient safeguards in place to ensure that we are not only funding the right programs, but receiving a fair price for them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 18, 2012, during a rapid succession of two-minute votes, I was unable to cast my vote for rollcall Number 288.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the Rehberg Amendment No. 59 to H.R. 4310, which passed with a bipartisan vote of 238-162. Our nuclear deterrent is a vital part of our continued military strength and global presence.

Our nuclear deterrent through our nuclear triad continues to keep the peace, and we must ensure that any reductions that may occur to our nuclear triad are certified by the Secretary of Defense to be needed and in compliance. Congress must exercise its oversight to ensure that our national security is not placed at risk by political ideologies.

The Rehberg Amendment ensures that Congress does have that oversight while still complying with the international agreements we have made as a country. We also need to show Russia that we take their disingenuousness about the number of working missiles and platforms very seriously.

Again, had I not been delayed, I would have voted in support of Rehberg Amendment No. 59 to H.R. 4310.

STUDENT ESSAYS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight, into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Siri Soth is a junior at Austin High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

It is important for the government to play an active role in our lives but to a certain extent. I think it is an important duty of our government to provide us with a strong National Defense and protect our individual

rights and freedoms. Our government has an obligation to protect us from powers that we, as a nation, would not be able to adequately protect ourselves from. Our government's number one priority should be to protect its nation from any harm whatsoever. By providing this great nation with the strongest defense possible, our government is instilling faith and pride in the people of this country. It is also the government's duty to protect our rights. Our individual rights are very important to our freedom and if those rights are protected and respected, our nation will be happy. Our rights are given to us at birth, they are not granted by the state and they are not in anyone's control. Our government is there to ensure our rights and make sure that no one can take said rights away from an individual. Life and liberty are magnificent gifts that certainly cannot come from any government official, but can be protected by one. Protecting our rights is necessary for our government to do in order for our nation to feel safe and secure and to know that our rights cannot be taken away by anyone. In my opinion, the government is here to hold people accountable for their actions by making and administering laws for the good and safety of our nation. I also believe it is the role of the government to enforce the separation of church and state. In order to protect our rights, such as freedom of religion, I think it is a must to ensure that church is not associated with government. Because of the mass amount of diversity in our country and the numerous religion and religious values present, intertwining church and state is limiting people's first amendment. People of this nation should never feel uncomfortable about an action of the government because of a religious bias. So in short, our government definitely needs to play an active role in our lives, but under certain circumstances. The government needs to ensure safety in the people of this nation by protecting us from foreign powers and ensuring us with faith in them to respect our rights and keep us secure.

Stephanie Lin is a junior at Clements High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past 50 years and explain how that event has changed our country. Stephanie chose the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam War has constantly been referred to as "The War We Couldn't Win". From an objective perspective, gazing at the maps of offensives, counterstrikes, and captures, it may seem the case. However, we must also examine the effects within our own domestic issues. Of course, the economic perspective forces us to acknowledge the losses incurred from the soldiers sent . . . and the innocents killed.

More than forty years ago, on the fourth of May, the city of Kent dawned upon a massacre of horrors. The Ohio National Guard, people meant to protect, fired over sixty-seven rounds of bullets in thirteen seconds into a crowd of Kent State University students protesting against Nixon's invasion of Cambodia, killing four students and wounding nine others. Comparatively, the numbers seem small, insignificant even. However, what was killed was not only human lives, but an ideal. The public trusted the government to protect their freedom of expression, and their own people. The Kent State Massacre violated that trust for the public, desecrating and shattering the idealized vision of the youth of America.

Afterwards, the response from the public was astounding. Kent State photojournalism student John Filo captured a fourteen-year old runaway, Mary Ann Vecchio, screaming over the body of the dead student, Jeffrey

Miller, who had been brutally shot in the mouth. The photograph earned a Pulitzer.

The public seemed to interpret the photograph as a symbol of the broken faith, cupped in the hands of America's future generation, as they desperately scrambled for some humanity. The event may have seemed small in casualties, but it, in the end, was a ripple, causing a tremendous effect on the public's opinion over the role of government in the Vietnam War.

The shootings represented that America was not only fighting a war in Vietnam, but a war with itself. It caused people to question the roles and responsibilities of the government. The impact it has left on the people of America can be seen with the public's notions about the government now. The protests against big business seem to be lumped in with protests against how the government represses or does not pay attention to the people.

I may not fully understand the impact brought to the public from all these different events more than fifty years ago, but I do understand what it is like to be frustrated when your voice is not only unheard, but also gunned down. This is why I feel the Kent State Shootings are so significant to me. It showed how the people felt violated by the government, yet also taught us authority that abuses control, or senseless violence against protesters, will result in repercussions. We all have the power of voice. If our whispers are swiftly cut, we will swiftly scream for justice.

Today's government understands the role of expression and how wrong it is to rashly repress it. Perhaps Vietnam was The War We Couldn't Win, but we had victories in voice.

Stephanie Tsai is a senior at Foster High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past 50 years and explain how that event has changed our country. Stephanie chose *Apollo 11's* Moon landing.

Below his feet, he felt the fine-grained dust that coated the surface of the moon. Stepping forward, Neil Armstrong uttered some of the most famous words in human history: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." In 1969, the *Apollo 11* moon landing brought American exploration and technological capability to new heights, both figuratively and literally. This major achievement was a testimony to our nation's unwavering perseverance in the face of adversity.

For years, humans dreamt of walking on the moon, yet such a task seemed impossible. To many, a moon landing was little more than a dream. But America is and has always been a nation of dreamers. With President Kennedy's challenge to "[land] a man on the moon and [return] him back safely" before the end of the decade, a goal which he correctly described as "important for the long-range exploration of space," brought America closer to the realization of a centuries-long ambition. In all human history, there had never been an accomplishment quite like this. The moon landing was the first time human beings had set foot outside the planet earth, and it paved the way for future space exploration.

Americans who witnessed the moon landing undoubtedly rank it among their most unforgettable memories. One of the proudest moments in American history, the moon landing spoke to the tenacity of the American people. It reminded people around the world of America's immense capabilities and the power of American resolve. The moon landing was the product of the cooperation of determined Americans to accomplish the impossible. It was a triumph for technological innovation and the foundation for

countless scientific advancements. To millions, it brought hope for a future in space exploration, for landing a man on the moon proved that there are no limits on the reaches of human imagination. Indeed, Armstrong spoke prophetically about this "giant leap for mankind." The moon landing forever changed our outlook on the world and the possibilities it holds.

The members of the *Apollo 11* mission were pioneers, brave people who dared to push the frontiers of human knowledge and existence. The same adventurous spirit that resulted in the discovery of America, a new world, over five hundred years ago carried American explorers to the moon. In history, Americans have always taken the initiative to boldly navigate the unknown. Today, we look back at the moon landing and marvel at where our dreams were able to take us. In five hundred years, who knows what more we will have accomplished? The possibilities are endless.

So, what does the moon landing mean for America now? Recently, *Time* magazine reported that over six thousand applications for the next astronaut class were submitted, "the most since 1978." Clearly, American interest in space exploration is as enthusiastic as ever. In today's age of rapid technological improvements, America's continued leadership in space is certainly possible. Together, let's look forward to a future of turning dreams into realities.

Madison Weaver is a senior at Clements High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. His essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Government is defined as the political direction and control exercised over the actions of the members, citizens, or inhabitants of communities, societies, and states. In other words, the government is the ultimate source of authority in our country. However, I believe that this power should be used with restraint. I also believe that government should focus on protecting the people, instead of controlling the people.

Helping secure jobs and keeping companies in business is something the U.S. government has been promoting heavily in the past few years. With the passing of the 'bail-out' bill, numerous corporations, that would have otherwise failed, were saved by the government's decision to give them enough money in order to stay afloat. Consequently, millions of people were able to keep their jobs. But what does that say about our government? Is it humanitarian that our government reacts in order to save those companies and jobs? No, in fact this shows that our government is pushing forth its own agenda of what will be produced in America. The fine line between government protecting and controlling is the difference in outcome. Protecting, will ultimately promote a healthier economy; while controlling, will produce quicker results, yet negative, long-term effects. For instance, by giving money to banks that made numerous bad loans, was essentially saying that it was 'ok' to make bad business decisions. Also, by giving money to the auto industry, was essentially saying that it was 'ok' to make products that people didn't want. Yes, the government was able to save many businesses, and countless jobs; but do we want failed businesses to operate in America? The answer is, 'no'!

Instead of looking at every business failure as a sign of weakness of the government, we need to see to the failures and embrace them too. Without the fear of failure, there is no drive for success. Therefore, we need to have failures, recessions, and yes, even job losses in order to drive people to succeed and make our country better. I believe that the government has done us more harm than good in attempting to control the recession. By step-

ping back and letting the business cycle run its course, only then can government truly guide our country to a more productive America.

MOTORCYCLES AND SCOOTERS AS TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to motorcycles and scooters as transportation options for many Americans.

On May 13, President Obama proclaimed May 15th through May 21st as National Transportation Week. In the proclamation the President recognized that our Nation needs a safer transportation network that will provide more transportation choices. As a Member of the Congressional Motorcycle Safety Caucus I would like to highlight one such choice and point out that two-wheeled vehicles can be transportation options for many Americans.

The Motorcycle Industry Council's most recent information estimates that 27 million Americans operated a motorcycle in 2009. Much of this use was primarily recreational; however, more and more Americans are choosing to ride to work, school, or to run errands.

In his proclamation the President called for ". . . increased transportation options that cut commuting time, ease traffic congestion, reduce oil consumption and lower greenhouse gas emissions. . . ." Motorcycles and scooters are options that can help to meet all of these goals. Motorcycles and scooters also have the advantages of being much cheaper than cars or trucks as well as considerably easier to park—and a lot of fun to ride.

I own a scooter myself and enjoying riding when I have the opportunity to do so. I have also noticed that a majority of riders are in their 40s, 50s, 60s, and even older.

Of course as more Americans choose two wheels we must be ever vigilant in promoting safe and responsible riding. I will take this opportunity once again to encourage all riders to ride responsibly by getting trained and licensed and obeying traffic laws. I would also like to remind all road users to be aware of motorcyclists, particularly as we move into the prime riding season in Tennessee and across the country.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CHARLES LOUIS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the educational community are exceptional. The University of California at Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their university, and community, a better place to learn, live and work. Charles Louis, Vice Chancellor for Research at UCR,

is one of these individuals. After eight years of dedicated service, Charles will be retiring from UCR.

Dr. Louis' biomedical research on the role of calcium as an intracellular signaling molecule, which has been funded by the National Institutes of Health for over 25 years, uses a range of different approaches including cell physiology, molecular biology, biochemistry, cell biology, and biophysics. His current research program focuses on the role of gap junctions in the development of cataracts in the lens of the eye because an elevation in cytosolic calcium concentration which closes these cell-to-cell channels is one of the critical early steps in the development of lens cataract formation. Dr. Louis is Chair of the Executive Committee of the Council of Research Policy and Graduate Education (CRPGE) of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) serving on the Board of Directors of APLU, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Council on Government Relations (COGR); he has served on many peer-review grant committees as well as the boards of biotech industry associations in both Minnesota and Georgia.

Dr. Louis served as Vice President for Research at Georgia State University from 2000–2004, having previously served on the faculty at the University of Minnesota for over 20 years where he held a number of administrative positions that included Head of the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biophysics from 1998–2000 and Assistant Vice President for Research and Associate Dean of the Graduate School from 1994–1998. He previously held faculty appointments at the University of Connecticut Health Center, and Leeds University in England.

Dr. Louis received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry from Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, his Doctorate of Philosophy in Biochemistry from Oxford University, and post-doctoral training at Stanford University.

Dr. Louis' many accomplishments at UCR have included the growth of sponsored funding last year to \$115 million, the establishment of a very successful Office of Technology Commercialization, and the management of the ever-increasing compliance demands that have been placed on universities by the federal government. He led the successful accreditation of UCR's human research protection program, and has worked on higher education committees of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities and of the Council of Government Relations. We have benefited from his advocacy and strong voice for ensuring that UCR receive its fair share of research funding available from UCOP VP Research, and for his excellent working relationships with many UCR faculty that have included the establishment of a number of very successful collaborative research programs with Chinese research institutions.

In light of all Dr. Louis has done for the science community and education it is only fitting that we take a moment to thank him for his life's work. Dr. Louis' tireless passion for knowledge, science and education has contributed immensely to academia. Dr. Louis' contributions to his field will continue to resonate and I know that many individuals are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires and moves on toward the next phase in his life.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU AND THE TAIWANESE PEOPLE

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate President Ma Ying-jeou on his reelection to the presidency of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and to wish him well on the auspicious occasion of his second inauguration on May 20, 2012.

I also wish to congratulate the Taiwanese people for the peaceful presidential and parliamentary elections in which they participated on January 14, 2012. The openness, fairness, and transparency with which they conducted their elections are the traditional hallmarks of a mature and democratic country.

Taiwan stands as a beacon of freedom and liberty in East Asia. As one of our closest and most trusted friends in the world, it is my most sincere hope that we never lose sight of our responsibilities to Taiwan under the Taiwanese Relations Act and, additionally, that we always look to the Six Assurances as the proper set of guidelines by which we conduct ourselves in all diplomatic matters relating to the Republic of China.

Again, I wish to express my most heartfelt congratulations to both President Ma and to the Taiwanese people.

HONORING FIRE CHIEF KENNY FOX

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, a lasting democracy is built on an active citizenry; a citizenry that serves, leads, and protects for the greater good of their community. I rise today to honor one such citizen whose life was lived in service to his community and whose noble act of bravely is the model of all who seek to protect and defend.

Decaturville Fire Chief Kenny Fox will be remembered for his loving personality, great sense of humor, devotion to his family, and his heroic actions in the last things. The hour of the morning didn't alter Fox's response. Answering the call to duty, Fox rushed to the Oak Hill Café to protect the business from a raging fire. Pushing his brothers in service out of harm's way, Fox lived out the scriptures' definition of the greatest love as he laid down his life for his friends.

Kenny Fox was an outstanding fire chief, a valuable member of his community, and a loving part of his family. I join with his wife, children, family, community, and fellow firefighters in honoring Kenny's service, dedication, and valiant sacrifice. I ask my colleagues to join with me as we remember Chief Fox for his courage and seek to serve our communities with the same sense of allegiance and purpose.

RECOGNIZING THE 22ND ANNUAL D.C. BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to recognize the 22nd annual D.C. Black Pride celebration in Washington DC, which is taking place on Memorial Day weekend, May 24–28.

D.C. Black Pride 2012 is a multi-day festival featuring: an opening reception; community and town hall meetings; a reception at Madame Tussauds; educational workshops; a poetry slam; a film festival; a church service; performances by musicians, dancers, and other artists. D.C. Black Pride culminates with a Health and Wellness Expo at the Francis-Stevens Educational Campus.

D.C. Black Pride is widely considered to be one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations, drawing more than 30,000 people to the Nation's Capital from across the United States as well as from Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

As the very first-ever Black Pride festival, D.C. Black Pride fostered the beginning of the International Federation of Black Prides, Inc. and the "Black Pride Movement," which now consists of 35 Black Prides on three continents. Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc., the celebration's organizing body, chose "It's A Family Affair" as this year's theme. The theme reflects the connectedness of the Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community and its commitment to fulfilling the mission of D.C. Black Pride, which is to increase awareness of and pride in the diversity of African American LGBT communities. Moreover, the theme expresses the resolve of the African-American LGBT community and its allies to come together to: fight for LGBT equality; celebrate their heritage and culture as members of both the Black and LGBT communities; and promote health and wellness for the community.

D.C. Black Pride is led by a volunteer board of directors, which coordinates the annual event and smaller events throughout the year. The 2012 board consists of: George Birdsong; Max Cheatham, Derrick Dunning, Jimma Elliott-Stevens, Earl Fowlkes, Jr., Kenneth Hopson; Kenya Hutton, Danielle King, Marc Morgan, June Spence; and Andrea Woody-Macko.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in welcoming all attending the 22nd annual D.C. Black Pride celebration in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that the United States citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without voting representation in Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF SMALL BUSINESSES IN NEW YORK'S 25TH DISTRICT AND ACROSS OUR NATION

HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commend the work that job creators do

to provide services and American jobs in New York's 25th District and across our great Nation.

I want to take this opportunity to draw attention to the efforts of Dr. Rick Plympton, the CEO of Optimax, located in my district in Rochester, New York. Optimax provides innovative technology and manufacturing solutions for the production of precision optics. After over 16 years of work with Optimax, Dr. Plympton has been awarded the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) 2012 New York State Small Business Person of the Year award.

I want to congratulate Dr. Plympton on his innovation, hard work and leadership. Thank you for all you contribute to our community and Nation.

HONORING DR. CALVIN MCKINNEY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Calvin McKinney of the Calvary Baptist Church for his unwavering commitment to the development of community and faith in Garfield, New Jersey. I extend my sincerest congratulations to him on the occasion of his June 6, 2012, 40th anniversary of pastoral service to the congregation.

Under the visionary leadership of Pastor McKinney, Calvary has established a reputation for its extraordinary humanitarian efforts. In 1998, the Calvary Community Development Center was established to bridge the economic, social, and political gaps in the community by providing clothing, food, and emergency assistance to those in need. Dr. McKinney's faith further inspired him in 2003 to guide his congregation in the construction of a \$10 million, 1,500 seat sanctuary which includes educational, fellowship, and administrative complexes.

While administering an ever-expanding ministry, Rev. McKinney enjoys a full preaching ministry that has taken him throughout this country, as well as the continents of Africa, Europe, Asia, Central America, and the Caribbean Islands. One of the most memorable moments in his career came during the Centennial Session of his beloved National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. in Birmingham, Alabama where he was honored with the opportunity to preach in 1980.

He served as the youngest Moderator in the history of the North Jersey District Missionary Baptist Association from 1986 to 1990; and served from 1996 through 2000 in an unprecedented tenure as one of the youngest presidents in the history of the 300,000 member General Baptist Convention of New Jersey. Dr. McKinney's exemplary leadership later earned him the title of President Emeritus.

In addition to his role as pastor and a denominational leader in the Baptist Church, Pastor McKinney serves the community in a wide-range of capacities. He presently works on the Governor's staff as Chair of the Commission on Faith-Based Initiatives for the State of New Jersey. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the U.C.C. Day Care Center #100; a trustee of Passaic County

Community College; a board member of the Bergen County Urban League, NJ; an executive board member of the Garfield/Lodi Branch of the NAACP, NJ; and a member of Mt. Zion Lodge #50, F. & A.M. (PHA) of Hackensack, NJ.

He and his wife Brendalyn are the proud parents of three children: Terence Lamar, Gina Lynelle, and Calvin James; and the proud grandparents of Terence Laquan, Timothy Lamar and Mason James.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the remarkable work of Dr. Calvin McKinney, whose tireless efforts have touched the lives of the Calvary Baptist faith community and all who live in the Garfield area. I join with the grateful congregants of the Calvary Baptist Church, and all of my constituents in northern New Jersey, in thanking him for his innumerable contributions to the community.

RECOGNIZING GREEN LAKE
SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR 21ST CENTURY
READINESS

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, in order for our students to be competitive in the global economy, we must do our part to ensure that they are acquiring the knowledge and skills they need for success. The skills needed for success go beyond the basics of reading, writing, and math, however. When surveyed, employers continually emphasize that, in our 21st century economy, students need to be adept at critical thinking and problem solving; communication; collaboration; and creativity and innovation, in addition to being proficient in core subjects.

While it's important to talk about these skills, it's even more important to see and recognize where they are being successfully incorporated into educational curriculums at the local level. Green Lake School District, located in Green Lake, Wisconsin, in my congressional district, is doing a lot of innovative work to prepare its students for success in the 21st century economy. Along with officials from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, I recently visited the Green Lake School District to learn about their efforts firsthand.

The School District is home to the state's first 4K–12 International Baccalaureate World program. It stresses rigorous academic programs connected to relevant real-world project-based learning and skills acquisition. The district also recently opened a Global & Environment Academy Charter middle school focused on critical thinking and problem solving skills in a project-based learning environment. The school's focus on interdisciplinary cooperation, global literacy, and creativity will serve its student's well as they prepare to enter the workforce.

It's important that Congress recognize the work that is being done in communities like Green Lake and that we look for ways to support these efforts. For these reasons, Rep. Dave Loebsack and I recently formed the bipartisan Congressional 21st Century Skills Caucus to inform and discuss better ways to promote 21st century skills in our nation's edu-

cational system. I invite all of my colleagues to join our efforts.

CONGRATULATING THE DILLARD
CENTER FOR THE ARTS JAZZ
ENSEMBLE FOR WINNING THE
ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON JAZZ
BAND COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Dillard Center for the Arts Jazz Ensemble of Fort Lauderdale, Florida for their continued achievements and excellence, in winning of the Essentially Ellington Jazz Band Competition and Festival, for two consecutive years.

In addition to these back-to-back championships, the Jazz Ensemble in 2012 also took second place in the "Essentially Ellington" competition. Furthermore, they won first place at the "Swing Central" jazz competition in Savannah, Georgia in both 2011 and 2010.

Unlike many other programs which have ample resources and funding, private donations are scarce to Dillard's Jazz Ensemble. Therefore, these students' achievements go beyond their musical talent but also speak to their dedication to perform and compete through fundraising to support their own program.

This resolve proves there are no limits to the creative spirit of Dillard's Jazz Ensemble and there are no limits to the success that these students can achieve. I would like to take this opportunity to honor the 26 members of the band as well as Jazz Ensemble director Christopher Dorsey, all of which have contributed to this program's continued successes. Members of Dillard's Jazz Ensemble are: Liza Honorat, Shanice Richards, Ben Stocker, Christian Cummings, Markus Howell, Demonn Sands, Johnathan Hainsworth, Kirby Fellis, Cameron Fegers, Jordan Davis, Sam Gellerstein, Max Boiko, Christian Dorsey, Anthony Hervey, Bryan McCall, Armando Zamora, Zach Auslander, Anthony Morrison, Zach McKinney, Charlie Steiner, Sydney Henry, Russell Hall, Sean Blair, Jake Ricke, Akeem Green, and Eric German.

Dillard High School was founded in the early twentieth century with funds from noted philanthropist James Hardy Dillard. The music program at Dillard High School gained fame when the legendary Julian "Cannonball" Adderley served as an instructor of applied music in the 1940s. To this day, the school still focuses on the performing arts and music, serving as a Performing Arts and Technology magnet school in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Both Mr. Dillard and Mr. Adderley would be very proud to see the accomplishments of the program today.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of these young musicians. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors, and wish Dillard's jazz program continued success. It is an honor to give the Dillard Center for the Arts Jazz Ensemble the recognition it rightly deserves.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on May 8, 2012, I inadvertently voted "aye" on rollcall No. 215. I intended to vote "no," and I ask that the RECORD reflect that I oppose the Huizenga Amendment to H.R. 5326, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 5801, THE US
LEADS ACT

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, the higher education system in the United States is the envy of the world. The universities here are a part of America's backbone, providing young people with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in today's global economy.

However, Mr. Speaker, as the value of a college education has risen, so has the cost of tuition at universities across the country. Nowhere is this truer than in public universities in the state of California where budget cuts, furlough days, and tuition increases have become the new normal.

Average in-State tuition and fees at public 4-year institutions of higher education have risen 8.3 percent between the 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 academic years. The tuition hikes at public universities threaten access to higher education for millions of low and middle-income students who have worked hard in high school and deserve to go to college.

As a result of the increase in tuition at public and private universities, student loan debt now exceeds credit card debt (totaling \$870 billion) and is expected to reach one trillion dollars this year. Students graduating from college between 2006 and 2010 had a median student loan debt of \$20,000.

I am the proud sponsor of H.R. 5801, the Unshackling Students to Lead, Excel, Act, Develop and Succeed Act, or the "U.S. LEADS Act," which will provide student loan debt relief for recent college graduates searching for employment.

The U.S. LEADS Act, would assist recent college graduates who are entering a difficult job market by allowing them to defer payment on their federal student loans without accruing interest when the national unemployment rate exceeds seven percent, or when the unemployment rate for 21–25 year olds exceeds nine percent.

We know that a college education is one of defining markers in determining an individual's economic security. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for the civilian population 25 years and over with at least a bachelor's degree is 4.2% while the rate for individuals with only a high school degree is 10.7%.

Helping young Americans pursue higher education provides them with the most secure pathway to the middle class and is an investment in our country's future. Our economy depends on an educated citizenry to out-compete and out-innovate the rest of the world,

and maintaining access to a quality and affordable education is central to preserving America's status as the global center for academic research and technological innovation.

If my bill were to pass, it would provide relief to more than 25,000 recent college graduates in my congressional district alone.

Students who have worked hard and played by the rules deserve the peace of mind in knowing that they will not be crushed by the weight of their student loan debt if they are unable to retain gainful employment as soon as they graduate from college.

A TRIBUTE TO MARILYN ADAMS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of "Farm Safety 4 Just Kids" founder Marilyn Adams, and to express my appreciation for her dedication and commitment in her years of service to the young people of Iowa.

In 1986, Marilyn tragically lost her eleven-year-old son in a farm accident in rural Earlham, Iowa. In dealing with the tragedy, Marilyn saw an opportunity to spare other families from the pain her family had gone through and began Farm Safety 4 Just Kids one year later in 1987. Since founding FS4JK 25 years ago, Marilyn has seen her program educate over six million people across North America on farm safety. Over the course of 25 years,

more than 35,600 volunteers have donated over 280,000 hours of their time to protect the lives of children in the farming community.

Today, FS4JK has more than 120 local chapters across both America and Canada that offer farm safety presentations in their communities. Last year alone, Farm Safety 4 Just Kids held more than 1,100 local events for a staggering 170,000 children. What Farm Safety 4 Just Kids has accomplished in the last quarter-century is nothing short of amazing. But those who know Marilyn won't be surprised to hear that she credits the program's remarkable success to the efforts of her family and her support network that have stood behind her since 1987.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Ms. Adams for her sincere devotion to positively impact the lives of others in her community, state, and country. Marilyn's commitment to a cause greater than herself is a testament to the high-quality character and unwavering work ethic instilled in Iowans. While Marilyn's daily contribution to FS4JK will surely be missed, she leaves behind an organization stronger than ever with a dedicated staff that are committed to its mission. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in the United States House in congratulating Marilyn, thanking her for her noble efforts, and wishing her a long, happy and healthy retirement as she enters this new chapter of her life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 17, 2012, during a rapid succession of two-minute votes, I was unable to cast my vote for Roll Number 265.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the Connolly Amendment No. 6 to H.R. 4310, which passed, by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 412-1. I believe that our allies should keep their commitments, and Pakistan is no different.

Pakistan has been allowing terrorists to hide out within their borders and has not been meeting the certifications put in place by U.S. aid agreements to receive funds through the Department of Defense. In fact, Pakistan has not received Department of Defense funding since June 2010. This continued disregard for our mutual agreements is disconcerting and the U.S. needs to show Pakistan that we do not take our commitments lightly.

The Connolly Amendment ensures that Pakistan will follow through with its commitments and will force them to reconsider closing their borders. We must encourage them to maintain open Ground Lines of Communication and allow the transportation of NATO supplies.

Again, had I not been delayed, I would have voted in support of Connolly Amendment No. 6 to H.R. 4310.