

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to state that my vote against the Tipton amendment to the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013 was made in error. I support this amendment, which prohibits agencies funded under the bill from conducting surveys in which money is included or provided for the benefit of the survey responder. The amendment does not prohibit federal agencies from gathering public input or sending out surveys, which is a necessary process, but I agree with the author of the amendment that we must put an end to the unethical practice of giving away taxpayer dollars to solicit a desired response.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JAMES D. LINDSEY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend, Mr. James D. Lindsey, who is retiring as President and Chief Executive Officer of First State Bank.

Mr. Lindsey attended North Texas University and the Stonier Graduate School of Banking. He began his career with First State Bank—Mesquite in 1971, starting in the bookkeeping department. His successful career is the result of his hard work and dedication; he served in various areas of the bank and literally worked his way to the top. He is a well-known and highly respected leader in the banking profession and the broader Mesquite community. In 2002, he received the prestigious Chairman's Award from the Independent Bankers Association of Texas and in 2008, was elected to the Board of Directors of The Independent Bankers Bank. Mr. Lindsey also served as Director for the Mesquite Economic Development Foundation and was appointed to the Texas Banking Commissioner's Council. First State Bank and the banking profession have greatly benefitted from his work ethic, vision, and leadership. He is a man of great character who firmly abides by his principles. I am honored to call him my friend and know that Mr. Lindsey will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Lindsey on his retirement. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. May God continue to bless him and his family.

BROADCAST EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, June 1st marked the official start to this year's hurricane season. As the hurricane season begins and tornado season continues, we are in an even greater need for life saving communications and technology. I want to take this time to thank our local TV and radio stations for the invaluable lifesaving work they do during times of emergencies.

Radio and television stations are our nation's most reliable network for distributing critical emergency information. Even when the electricity goes out and internet networks and cell phone towers go down, over-the-air broadcasting continues to air. This was never more evident than in the wake of the April 27, 2011 tornadoes and storms that ravaged the great state of Alabama.

Last year, four months into my first term in office, the State of Alabama experienced unimaginable tragedy as we were ravaged by the force of tornadoes and storms. Nine of the 12 counties in my district experienced tremendous damage and loss. These devastating storms destroyed many of our homes, churches, schools and businesses. 253 lives were lost including 76 from the 7th Congressional District.

There is no doubt that broadcasters act as first responders in times of crisis. Before and after these devastating tornadoes, broadcasters remained on the air uninterrupted, providing local communities with vital, lifesaving information. Had it not been for our local broadcasters providing critical information around the clock, many more lives could have been lost. Americans depend on their local TV and radio stations when unforeseen emergencies arise.

If we are to improve disaster preparedness in our nation, we must ensure that local stations have effective tools to communicate with the public during these times of crisis. This can be done by readily equipping mobile devices with broadcast radio for emergency preparedness. Cell phones are ubiquitous and broadcast radio would provide instant emergency information on the go to the widest possible audience during times of emergencies.

The ability to have access to lifesaving information is critical and has very serious homeland security implications. For example, during last year's 5.8 Virginia earthquake, cell phone networks in the Washington, D.C. area became overloaded and inoperable.

This should never be the case. Congress, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Communications Commission and the mobile phone industry should consider ways to expand the availability of broadcast radio service in mobile phones to keep Americans safe.

I look forward to working with these various agencies to ensure that all Americans have the next generation of emergency warnings and information.

Again, thank you to local broadcasters for providing lifesaving coverage during times of emergencies and crisis situations around the clock.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL CARROLL,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF
THE AMERICAN RED CROSS OF
GREATER COLUMBUS

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Michael Carroll, Chief Executive Officer of the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus for 34 years of outstanding service.

For the past three and a half decades, the citizens of the Greater Columbus area have received assistance and comfort from their friends and neighbors through the work of this fine leader. Since 1995, Mr. Carroll has served as CEO of the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus covering Fayette, Franklin, Madison and Pickaway counties. In 2007, he was appointed Regional CEO for the Central-Southeast Ohio Region comprised of 16 Red Cross chapters covering 26 Ohio counties.

His talents are so well respected that he has often been called upon to aid other areas of the country as well. Since 1979, Mr. Carroll has served in field leadership roles on more than 20 major disaster operations in 12 states including Hurricane Hugo in 1989. In September 2004, he served as Deputy Director of the Hurricane Frances relief operation in Florida and, in September 2005, was Director of Hurricane Katrina relief for Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma.

The Red Cross is an internationally recognized symbol of humanitarianism and hope, and Michael Carroll has done much to burnish that reputation by easing the pain and sorrow of disaster victims across our community and around the nation. In short, Michael Carroll has made our community a safer and better place to live.

I offer my best wishes to him and his family for a wonderful retirement. His legacy will stand as an example for all, and he will be dearly missed.

VICTORIA STAVE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Victoria Stave for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service

• 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.

Ambassadors for Youth award. Victoria Stave is an 11th grader at Arvada West High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Victoria Stave 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 Victoria Stave 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.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5855) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer an amendment, designated as Flake #1.

This amendment is straight forward; it would reduce funding for the Office of the Secretary by \$50,000 and transfer a revenue neutral amount to U.S. Customs and Border Protection salaries and expenses.

This is a nominal cut from the Secretary's nearly \$122 million in funding, again only slightly more than the Committee provided for the Secretary to spend on receptions next year.

I offer this amendment as a means of bringing an important issue to both Congress' and more importantly the Secretary's attention.

Let me start by thanking the Chairman and Ranking Member for their attention to border issues in this bill as well as the staff's assistance in bringing this amendment to the floor.

In the report accompanying last year's Homeland Security appropriations bill, the Committee directed the Department to provide a "resource allocation and staffing model for the ports of entry."

As would appear to be the trend with Congressional requests for information, answers to questions, or budget documentation, the Department either failed to prioritize or simply ignored this request and it is reiterated in this year's report.

The committee report notes: "As the Committee has not yet received the CBP workload staffing allocation model, the Committee cannot assess CBP's identified needs."

As we are all no doubt aware, funding for border security efforts between the ports of entry has increased exponentially over recent years, while the budget for Customs and Border Patrol officers at the ports has not kept pace.

As I travel the border region, in addition to concerns regarding border security and the

changing nature of threats between the ports, I hear persistent concerns that our ports of entry are understaffed.

Those serving at the ports of entry have at least a dual role, facilitating legitimate trade and travel safely while also preventing unauthorized people and goods to cross the border.

I could talk at length about the benefits of cross-border trade for communities along our borders and beyond, but let me cite just a couple of examples.

Focusing on the southern border, Mexico is the third largest U.S. trading partner and the second largest U.S. export market, with a reported six million U.S. jobs depending on trade with Mexico.

The executive director of the Arizona-Mexico Commission was recently quoted as saying "Arizona's border is the gateway for some \$26 billion worth of imports and exports and some 44 million people each year."

A recent Maricopa Association of Governments release cited that legal Mexican visitors spend roughly \$7.3 million a day in Arizona and Arizona business exported nearly \$6 billion in goods in 2011.

Benefits of trade along the southern border are certainly not limited to border communities.

For example, the Mariposa Port of Entry in Nogales is one of the largest ports of entry for fruit and vegetables in the U.S. In 2011, the U.S. imported 13.4 billion pounds of fresh produce grown in Mexico and more than a third of that entered through Nogales.

Clearly, a secure border and economic stability in the border region are not mutually exclusive and main component of success toward that goal is the right staffing levels.

I can assure you that I am the last member that would support writing any agency a blank check. The process of the Appropriations Committee performing the necessary oversight and accurately reviewing port of entry staffing needs begins with the Department delivering the staffing model and information that was requested a year ago.

I thank the chairman and urge adoption of the amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed four votes today, which included rollcall votes 315, 316, 317 and 318.

If I had been present, I would have cast the following votes on amendments to H.R. 5325, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013: rollcall vote 315 (McClintock Amendment #3): "yea," rollcall vote 316 (Hirono Amendment): "yea," rollcall vote 317 (McClintock Amendment #5): "no," rollcall vote 318 (Matheson Amendment): "yea."

INTRODUCING THE STOP NON-NATIVE ANIMALS FROM KILLING ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Stopping Non-Native Animals from Killing Endangered Species, or SNAKES, Act. This bill implements a successful pilot program in which specially trained dogs help to detect the Burmese python and other constrictor reptiles ravaging the Everglades ecosystem. The bill will fund a program to prevent the snakes from establishing sustainable populations in new areas as well as to control the snakes that are already out there.

I am a Florida native and travel across the Everglades frequently. Until recently, there was rarely a time that I would drive through the Everglades and not see animals like wading birds and rabbits along the roadside. Since these snakes have spread over the last few years, however, I rarely see any animals at all anymore. In fact, recent studies have shown the mammal population in the Everglades has declined over 90 percent in some cases.

This drastic reduction in numbers is the result of the Burmese python and other constrictor reptiles wreaking havoc throughout the Everglades, obliterating endangered and local wildlife, and upsetting the delicate balance of the ecosystem. The snakes in Florida are contained to a relatively limited area right now, but they will not remain that way. Experts anticipate that the snakes may expand beyond the Everglades, or escape from pet-owners and breeders in other parts of the country to then possibly establish new breeding populations there.

I am sad to say that while there is no proverbial silver bullet to completely eradicate the snakes already in the Everglades, we do have some tools at our disposal that can stop them from spreading. This bill today implements one such technique that has already recently proved its success in the field.

Auburn University EcoDogs, working along with Federal, State, county, tribal government entities, universities, and non-profit stakeholders, recently trained dogs for a study to assess whether detection dogs were an effective tool for python management efforts. As it turned out, dog search teams can cover more distance and have a higher accuracy rate in particular scenarios than human searchers.

The team consisted of two dogs, named Jake and Ivy, a dog handler and a snake handler. It performed free-ranging python searches on a variety of State, Federal and tribal lands. In controlled searches, dogs performed approximately 2.5 times faster than human searchers, in addition to having a significantly higher success rate of 92 percent during controlled canal searches, when compared to the human search team of 62 percent. The SNAKES Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to work with the stakeholders to establish this detection program.

These specially trained dogs can also respond to specific python sightings throughout the year. A rapid response team will take a dog directly to the site where a python was recently spotted in order to track the snake from

there. In addition to organized searches, this will help manage and control the spread of pythons and other large constrictor snakes.

I would not be introducing this bill if the dogs were ever in any danger, Mr. Speaker. At no point do the dogs approach the snakes. Instead, once a dog indicates that a snake is in the area, it is taken to a safe distance while a human handler captures the snake.

Unfortunately, these snakes have already destroyed much the wildlife of the Everglades. This program alone will not bring them back. Nor will it completely eradicate the snakes that are already breeding, as there are simply too many snakes that are too widespread.

However, these dogs are useful for keeping the snakes where they are and stopping them from spreading to other areas. We should, therefore, quickly establish a full-time dog detection team so that we have the ability to respond with the best tools available in order to prevent what happened in the Everglades from happening anywhere else in the United States.

TEA ANDERSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Tea Anderson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Tea Anderson 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 Tea Anderson 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 Tea Anderson 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to being unavoidably detained, I missed the following rollcall vote: No. 357 on June 6, 2012. If present, I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 357—Bishop (NY) Amendment, “nay.”

TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF OAKHAM ON THE OCCASION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 250th anniversary of the town of Oakham, Massachusetts. Beginning in 1742, Scotch-Irish Presbyterians began to buy land in what was then called “Rutland West Wing” in the hopes of incorporating their own town under a Presbyterian form of government. After two failed attempts, Oakham was finally incorporated on June 7, 1762.

In early colonial times, the present town of Oakham was a virgin forest occupied by bands of Nipmuk Indians who made seasonal camps in the area for hunting, fishing, and agricultural purposes. During King Philip’s War (1675–1676) a 150 square mile area known as Naquag, which includes the land presently known as Oakham, became a stronghold for Native Americans. The Native Americans were on the losing end of the conflict and many of them then left central Massachusetts looking for new homes. Those who remained were forced to live in four “Indian Towns” under close supervision by the colonists. This left the entire area of Naquag open for colonial expansion.

In 1686, five Nashaway Indians, who claimed ownership of Naquag, sold the territory to a group of land speculators from Lancaster, Massachusetts for “25 pounds hard cash.” By 1722, Scotch-Irish immigrants began to buy lots in the area and the town of Rutland was soon incorporated with a Congregational minister. Oakham’s founding would be another 40 years in coming.

By the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Oakham’s population had grown to nearly 600 people. The town was strongly pro-revolution so loyalists in town were forced to leave their property behind and flee to British strongholds in Boston and Canada. The town raised a company of Grenadier to prevent a British attack on Boston during the War of 1812 and also sent nearly 100 volunteers to serve during the Civil War. Nearly one fifth of these soldiers would not live to see Oakham again.

The sixth Massachusetts Turnpike was built between Pelham and Shrewsbury in 1799. This 43 miles toll road followed Old Turnpike Road in Oakham and remained in service until 1828, making travel to and from Oakham much easier and faster. In 1877, The Central Massachusetts Railroad opened providing quick transportation for both people and goods throughout the northeast. A depot in town helped Oakham grow and prosper, but by the early 20th century population began to decline as people began to leave farms and move to industrial centers.

Today, Oakham has settled into a quiet bedroom community. Recreation has become Oakham’s economic focal point with two campgrounds and an 18-hole golf course. An abundance of state land in town provides open space that can be enjoyed by residents and visitors all year long.

From ice fishing, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling in the winters to hiking, biking, horseback riding, and hunting in the warmer

months, Oakham is a relaxing retreat for many.

On the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the town of Oakham, Massachusetts, I congratulate its citizens and praise their dedication and perseverance throughout the town’s history. It has been an honor to represent this great community and I wish the people of Oakham a healthy and prosperous future.

SVETLANA MIKHAYLOVA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Svetlana Mikhaylova for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Svetlana Mikhaylova is an 8th 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 Svetlana 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 Svetlana 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.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE’S MEN’S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the University of California, Irvine’s (UCI’s) men’s volleyball team for winning the 2012 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Men’s Volleyball National Championship. This is UC Irvine’s third national championship in six years, which makes them one of only five programs to have won more than two men’s volleyball titles.

UC Irvine won the 2012 championship with a 3–0 (25–22, 34–32, 26–24) victory over USC. Senior Carson Clark was named the Most Outstanding Player (MOP) after recording a match-high 22 kills, hitting .465, and added eight digs and three service aces. Clark joined Ryan Ammerman (2009) and Matt Webber (2007) as the only Anteater players to have earned MOP distinction. Kevin Tillie, Chris Austin, and Connor Hughes were named to the All-Tournament team along with Clark.

The Anteaters concluded the year ranked No. 1 in the country in the final AVCA Coaches Poll. The Anteaters were ranked No. 1 or No. 2 all but two weeks this season. UCI was ranked No. 1 for five weeks this season which was the most weeks at the top of the poll by any school in the country this year. The Anteaters have been ranked No. 1 in five different

years (2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012) under head coach John Speraw. Additionally, the Anteaters have been ranked in the nation's top 10 for 118 consecutive weeks, including No. 1 for 26 of those weeks.

UCI ended the year 26–5 overall, which ties Lewis (26–11) for the most wins in the country this season. The Anteaters finished in a tie for second in the MPSF with a 17–5 record. The 26 wins is the fourth most in school history, while the 17 MPSF wins were tied for third most in school history. UCI was 9–4 at home, 12–1 on the road and 5–0 on neutral courts. They also ranked fourth in the country in attendance with 1,224 fans per match.

Furthermore, UCI captured the 2012 MPSF title with back-to-back 3–2 victories over No. 1 USC and second-seed Stanford. UCI topped fifth-seed UCLA, 3–1 in the quarterfinals. Senior Carson Clark was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player, while Kevin Tillie and Dan McDonnell were selected to the all-tournament team. It was the second time in program history (2007) that UCI won the MPSF Championship title.

Carson Clark and Kevin Tillie were named first team American Volleyball Coaches Association All-America. It is only the second time in program history that UCI has had two players on the first team in the same season. UCI ranked first in the country in hitting percentage (.354), assists (13.32) and win/loss percentage (.839). The Anteaters ranked second in kills (14.0) and aces (1.67). Carson Clark was third in the nation with a 0.55 ace average. Jeremy Dejno was ranked 11th nationally with a 0.38 mark. Kevin Tillie ranked third in the country in hitting percentage (.387), while Dejno is sixth (.347) and Clark was 13th (.324). Tillie was also 11th in kills per set (3.80) and Clark is 12th (3.73).

Additionally, Carson Clark became the first player in MPSF history to be named to the league's first-team all four years. He also made UCI history becoming the first Anteater to earn AVCA All-American all four years. Clark was named first team All-American as a senior and sophomore, while garnering second team as a freshman and junior. Kevin Tillie and Jeremy Dejno joined Clark on the All-Mountain Pacific Sports Federation first-team, while Dan McDonnell was a second team All-MPSF honoree. It is the first time in the program's history that three Anteaters have been selected to the MPSF first team in the same year. UC Irvine joins UCLA as the only two teams to have three first-team MPSF honorees. This is the first MPSF honor for Tillie, Dejno and McDonnell.

Senior Carson Clark left his mark in the UCI record books. This season he became UCI career leader in kills (1,861), attack attempts (4,042) and aces (183). He recorded 61 service aces this season, bettering his previous school mark of 50 set in 2010.

Kevin Tillie was the last Sports Imports/AVCA National Player of the Week (Apr. 24) honoree after his 20-kill performance against UCLA in the MPSF quarterfinals. It is Tillie's second national award this year, taking the honor on Jan. 31 as well. Carson Clark was named Sports Imports/AVCA Men's Division I–II National Player of the Week on Mar. 19. UCI players have been named a Sports Imports/AVCA Player of the Week 20 times overall with Clark also garnering the award on Apr. 4, 2011 and Apr. 12, 2010. This year, Clark was named MPSF Molten Player of the Week

on Mar. 12, while Tillie earned it on Mar. 5 and Jeremy Dejno was recognized on Jan. 9.

Congratulations to head coach, John Speraw, and the men's volleyball team of the University of California, Irvine, for winning the 2012 NCAA Division I Men's Volleyball National Championship. I am proud to recognize the achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and staff who were instrumental in helping the University of California, Irvine win the national title.

It is an honor to represent UC Irvine, under the leadership of Chancellor Michael V. Drake, M.D., as it continues to establish itself as a world-class research university, and as one of the top universities in the Nation.

CONGRESSWOMAN HONORS THE
CAREER OF CHIEF MASTER SER-
GEANT JOHN A. ELDER, RETIR-
ING FROM THE UNITED STATES
AIR FORCE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary career of Chief Master Sergeant John A. Elder, a great military leader in the United States Air Force. After thirty years of exceptional service to the Air Force, we celebrate Chief Elder's retirement and reflect back on a career of distinguished accomplishments.

Originally from South Boston, Virginia, in July 1982, Chief Elder enlisted in the Air Force and reported for Basic Military Training to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. After graduating from the Biomedical Equipment Maintenance Technician (BMET) course and completing his first operational assignment at Blytheville Air Force Base, Arkansas, he relocated to the Department of Defense's largest contingency hospital located at Royal Air Force Little Rissington in England. There, he played an integral role in establishing the first Contingency Medical Equipment Repair Center which serviced all contingency hospitals in Europe.

In 1990, Chief Elder was selected as an Air Training Command technical training instructor at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. There, he taught basic and advanced BMET courses before being selected as a curriculum developer. Chief Elder was then selected as the Air Force representative for tri-service consolidation of BMET training. He was instrumental in the successful consolidation of Army, Navy and Air Force BMET training and the design and construction of a new, first of its kind, \$16 million Department of Defense BMET training facility.

During his assignment at Sheppard Air Force Base, Chief Elder received several honors including Air Education and Training Command READY Augmenter of the Year, 882d Training Group NCO of the Year, 384th Training Squadron NCO of the Year, and DoD Biomedical Equipment Technician of the Year. Additionally, Chief Elder earned his international certification as a Biomedical Equipment Technician and was awarded the Airman's Medal for heroism for his lifesaving actions during an off-base house fire.

After serving in Alabama and Virginia, in 2007, Chief Elder arrived at Fairchild Air Force

Base in Spokane, Washington to serve as the 92d Medical Group superintendent. One of Chief Elder's most notable achievements was during his time as superintendent of the 332d Expeditionary Medical Group, Joint Base Balad, Iraq, where he led 357 members at the Air Force Theater Hospital to a 98% survival rate during combat operations. His leadership and dedication was instrumental to unit moral and the medical care rendered to our wounded warriors.

Additionally, since his arrival at Fairchild Air Force Base, the 92d Medical Group has been recognized with numerous Air Force, Command and individual awards. Chief Elder also provides strategic guidance, direction and leadership on all issues affecting the professional development, mentorship, and proper utilization of assigned enlisted personnel in support of 30,000 beneficiaries in the greater Spokane area.

So, today I urge all of my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Master Sergeant John A. Elder for his service and celebrating his lifelong commitment to the United States Air Force and the 92d Medical Group at Fairchild Air Force Base. We are all grateful for John's unwavering dedication to our country and for all of his accomplishments—he is a true American patriot.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
SUFFIELD HALL OF HONOR IN-
DUCTEES

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations to the six distinguished graduates of Suffield High School who were inducted into the Suffield Foundation for Excellent Schools' 2012 Hall of Honor on May 18, 2012. The Hall of Honor is a highly competitive program established to put the spotlight on graduates of Suffield High School who have achieved noteworthy success in their careers in very diverse endeavors. It is no coincidence that such an impressive group came from Suffield High School, a school that actively recruits high quality teachers and staff members. The town of Suffield itself has a proud tradition of supporting the high quality learning environment at Suffield High School, which has been essential to its success. The Hall of Fame is a part of that effort. It seeks not only to celebrate past graduates but also seeks to give students who are presently enrolled or who will be enrolled, inspiration and role models for their own studies and future careers.

Mr. Charles R. Waterman is a nuclear power and turnaround expert, who served as President of Electro Mechanics, Sensor Engineering, and Delas-Weir. Ms. Robbi Gorman D'Allessandro is a writer of stage and screen plays, and founded the Artist's Donor Initiative to encourage artists to donate blood and bone marrow. Mr. James Remington currently serves as the Lieutenant Commander of the U.S. Navy and has supported U.S. missions in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Mr. Toby J. Moffett, Jr., served four terms as Congressman for Connecticut's Sixth District and now serves as chairman of

the Moffett Group, a government relations and consulting firm. Mr. James Chapdelaine is a famed musician as well as a film and television composer, and he has received 12 Emmy Awards and numerous Addy Awards. Mr. Ted W. Beneski is a renowned financier and was a founding principal of Carlyle Management Group and chair of his own foundation, the Ted and Laurie Beneski Foundation. Additionally, the Hall of Honors recognized Ms. Mary Anne Kelly Zak for "Excellence in Education." Ms. Zak taught in the Suffield Public School system for over 20 years and served as an adjunct English professor at the University of Connecticut.

These inductees have earned a place in the Hall of Honors through exemplary contributions to their respective fields. Again, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding their accomplishments.

IN MEMORY OF INVESTIGATOR
WARREN LEWIS

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to a hero from Eastern North Carolina who was killed in the line of duty last June 9.

Nash County (NC) Sheriff's Office Investigator Warren B. Lewis III was assigned to the United States Marshals Service's Eastern District of North Carolina Violent Fugitive Task Force, where he was killed in the line of duty in Kinston, NC, on June 9, 2011, while attempting to apprehend a violent fugitive wanted for murder.

Investigator Lewis has a stellar record of service in the Nash County Sheriff's Office. In 2002 he began his service to the people of Nash County as a Deputy and was eventually promoted to Investigator and assigned to the Narcotics Division.

Later assigned to the Eastern North Carolina Violent Fugitive Task Force, Investigator Lewis served for over 3 years coordinating, locating, and arresting fugitives throughout the region.

In addition to serving the people of Nash County, Investigator Lewis was a family man, a great friend, and a talented water skier. He leaves behind a wife, Shannon, two daughters, Lauren and Ashley, and his parents, Warren, Jr., and Ann. This is a tragedy, as it is when any law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty. But adding even more to the tragedy is when a family is left behind.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives I express my deepest sympathy to the family of Investigator Lewis, and thank you for his life of service to the people of Eastern North Carolina.

May God continue to bless the family of Investigator Lewis, the Nash County Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Marshals Service, and our country.

SARAI VALDEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

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

The dedication demonstrated by Sarai Valdez 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 Sarai Valdez 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.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FLORIDA GLASS GROUP

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

HOUSE RESOLUTION

Whereas, 2012 marks the 50th Anniversary of the development of Contemporary Art Glass in the United States, and to celebrate the milestone and recognize the many talented artists, including many in Florida, more than 500 glass demonstrations, lectures and exhibitions will take place in museums, galleries, art centers, universities, art organizations, festivals and other venues across the United States, and

Whereas, the Florida Glass Group is an Florida non-profit organization with over 75 members primarily in Florida whose mission is to educate the public concerning the development and appreciation of Contemporary Glass Art in Florida, and

Whereas, the Art Alliance of Contemporary Glass (AACG) is a national non-profit organization with members primarily from the United States, whose mission is to educate the public and to provide grants to further the development and appreciation of art made from glass (Contemporary Glass Art), and

Whereas, AACG and the Florida Glass Group inform and educate the public, including collectors, critics and art curators and provide financial support with grants to University Glass Programs, Museums, Art Center Glass Exhibitions and other public glass programs for Contemporary Glass Art, and

Whereas, the Boca Raton Museum of Art, the Norton Museum in West Palm Beach and the Naples Museum of Art and other art venues in Florida are having exhibitions in 2012 in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the development of Contemporary Glass Art in the United States; and

Whereas, the 50th Anniversary of the development of Contemporary Glass Art in the United States is also being specifically celebrated and recognized on November 3rd, 2012 by over 300 glass collectors, glass artists, curators, and art gallery owners at an event sponsored by AACG on the Spirit of Chicago in connection with the Sculpture Objects & Functional Art International Art Show (SOFA) one of the World's Foremost Fairs of Art and Design Events at the Navy Pier in Chicago from November 1st through the 4th 2012, therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the United States that we recognize the 50th Anniversary of the development of Contemporary Glass Art in the United States; and be it further

Resolved, that we applaud and honor the accomplishments of the Florida Glass Group and AACG as they celebrate the 50th Anniversary in the United States and proclaim the year of 2012 as Contemporary Glass Art Awareness Year in the United States; and be it further

Resolved, that we encourage educators throughout the United States to provide educational programs for their students about Contemporary Glass Art and to arrange for students to attend exhibitions and otherwise participate in the various events and exhibitions recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Contemporary Glass Art. We also encourage all citizens to attend events and exhibitions recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Contemporary Glass Art; and be it further

Resolved, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the members of the Art Alliance of Contemporary Glass and Florida Glass Group at the special celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Contemporary Glass Art in the United States on the Spirit of Chicago on November 3, 2012 during the SOFA Event at Navy Pier in Chicago as a symbol of our respect and esteem for those organizations and their memberships.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HUDSON-
MOHAWK RIVER BASIN ACT OF
2012

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Hudson-Mohawk River Basin Act of 2012, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out projects and conduct research on water resources in the Hudson-Mohawk River Basin. The bill also establishes a river basin commission to unify the five States and five sub-basins that comprise the Hudson-Mohawk River Basin—the Nation's most densely populated river basin—to manage the vital water resources that bind together the communities, economies, and heritage of the northeast region in an integrated, holistic manner.

For too long, the five sub-basins of this basin have been addressed as independent entities. There is no overarching organization to facilitate coordination and collaboration of the many efforts underway within each of these areas. The landscape, however, operates differently. It functions as a whole. These

sub-basins are intimately connected to each other by the waters that course through their streams and tributaries to eventually reach the New York-New Jersey Harbor. Actions taken by individual entities within each sub-basin have impacts that extend beyond local borders. Years of progress in environmental sciences inform us that ecosystem-based management and watershed-level planning will result in the most sustainable outcomes. A river basin commission would provide the forum to facilitate a whole-basin view.

Our country has a long experience of using commissions to bring different jurisdictions together to promote sound management of common resources. In the West, there was early recognition that the seven basin States of the Colorado River needed to work together to ensure equitable access and proper management of the Colorado River. In the East, the Delaware, Susquehanna, and Potomac River Basin Commissions and the Appalachian Regional Commission have guided cooperative efforts of neighboring States to develop and manage important common resources for the benefit of the region. The Hudson-Mohawk River Basin deserves similar attention.

A 2007 study by Canadian authors Dalton, Dalton, and McLean documented the current management regime in the Hudson-Mohawk River Basin. The findings are staggering, including over 2,000 distinct governmental organizations: 12 federal agencies, 67 State agencies, 66 county agencies, and over 1,700 municipal agencies with some jurisdiction over land and water use. There are also over 200 non-profit organizations that focus on issues related to land and water management throughout the Basin. These statistics are indicative of the intense interest that residents and communities in the Basin have in its resources and their management.

The New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council created in 2006 was an important step forward recognizing the need to manage New York State's coastal areas through ecosystem-based management. The Council plays a vital coordinating role for State agencies and for the many local governments, non-profit groups, businesses, and citizens who depend upon our coastal ecosystems. These systems are influenced by the waters that flow into them and connect them through the Hudson, Mohawk, Passaic, and Raritan Rivers.

The sheer number and diversity of organizations operating within these five basin States present a significant challenge to considering projects and policies that impact the basin in a holistic manner. Despite these hurdles, these many entities have provided tremendous vision, stewardship and creativity for many years. A commission would be in a position to build upon their work and provide the five States of the basin a single forum for working together with the Federal Government to coordinate and encourage cooperation among the many interested parties who have a stake in the basin. Development of a basin-wide plan that places the individual on-going efforts into a whole-basin context would facilitate our ability to apply ecosystem-based management principles in a consistent and efficient manner.

The Mohawk and Upper Hudson sub-basins contribute over half of the flow of water to the lower Hudson River. Water quality in these ba-

sins directly impacts quality in the Lower Hudson. Yet, in comparison to the Lower Hudson, these two areas have far less institutional infrastructure and have received far less attention in the ongoing effort to restore the health of the Hudson River and its estuary. The Lower Hudson is a great success story—one that I would like to see repeated for the Mohawk and Upper Hudson. The locally-spawned efforts of dedicated citizens to embrace the Lower Hudson, advocate for its stewardship, and work to improve its floodplain served as the impetus for State government to become more involved. The goal of this legislation is to create a basin commission in order to assist these communities further and to engage the other sub-basins to accelerate development of their water resource programs by imitating successful programs of the Lower Hudson. The organizational infrastructure of the Lower Hudson Sub-basin provides an excellent foundation for building similar organizational strength in the Mohawk and Upper Hudson Sub-basins. Stronger partnerships among communities in the Upper Hudson and Mohawk Sub-basins will enable these regions to redesign and rebuild infrastructure to promote economic development, provide better flood protection, and improve water quality that will complement the efforts of downstream communities and improve conditions not only in the immediate area but also in the Lower Hudson and the Harbor.

The Raritan and Passaic River Sub-basins have, for too long, been viewed as mature industrial corridors rather than as sources of community revitalization and economic opportunity. Through the efforts of the State of New Jersey in partnership with the Federal Government and many dedicated non-profit organizations like the Raritan Headwaters Association and the Passaic River Coalition, water quality of these mighty rivers has improved in recent decades. However, more effort is needed if these watersheds and the marshes and bays of the New York-New Jersey Harbor are to be restored to ecological health and the New York Bight is to reach its full environmental and economic potential. The excellent work being done by the Environmental Protection Agency's, EPA, New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program and Hudson River Estuary Program—the latter of which was recently expanded to Troy, NY—would be aided greatly by improvements in the water quality of the rivers that eventually flow into the Harbor. EPA and other agencies acknowledge the importance of a holistic approach, and I believe that formation of a whole basin plan will afford us the opportunity to build upon the successes achieved in each of the Sub-basins and to magnify their impacts throughout the Basin. In addition, the comprehensive plan developed by the commission through an inspired, collaborative process with the public would provide the framework for additional Federal resources for the region.

My legislation is modeled on other successful regional programs and river basin commissions. The Governors of each of the five basin States would serve on the commission along with the Secretary of the Interior as a representative of the Federal Government. The Commission is charged with planning and implementing projects and policies that govern the use of water resources in the basin. The

Commission would adopt an annual budget including information about individual projects and their costs, along with identifying the appropriate financing. The bill provides the Secretary of the Interior with \$25 million per year to fund projects that are consistent with the comprehensive plan and spelled out in more detail in the water resources program.

The Commission's plan, developed in consultation with the member States, Federal agencies, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and all other water users, will tie together the many organizations and interests throughout the basin to tackle large-scale projects. The plan must be developed in collaboration with citizens and local communities. It would provide a unifying vision for the basin and its water resources. And, as I have indicated above, the plan developed through a collaborative process will build a basin-wide organizational structure that will give basin states and communities the framework to compete for additional resources for the region.

The natural and historic resources of the Hudson-Mohawk River Basin are fundamental building blocks that we can use to re-invigorate local communities throughout the Basin. The devastating flood events that occurred in many communities in the Basin last year compel us to re-think our connection to the rivers and tributaries throughout the Basin. Our interconnectedness was visible to the naked eye. We need to better adapt our infrastructure to be more resilient to floods. But more than that, if we integrate improvements in water quality and wildlife habitats into plans for the redevelopment of waterfronts, we will reconnect citizens and communities to the river to yield recreational, community, and economic benefits. As communities are drawn together through the public planning process authorized in the bill, they will be able to work on common priorities and launch a new chapter of prosperity in the history of the Basin.

The Hudson-Mohawk River Basin, together with the Erie Canal, connects the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. The Hudson-Mohawk River Basin is the cradle of our American democracy. The footprints of the earliest North American civilization and the early development of our modern Nation are replete and scattered throughout this entire region. The waters of the Hudson, Mohawk, Raritan, and Passaic Rivers formed our early transportation networks and provided the food and power that enabled us to forge the Nation and initiate the early westward expansion of the country we know today. Essentially, the water of the Hudson-Mohawk Basin is the ink that wrote our early history. This important common heritage should be revered and celebrated. It has been more than 400 years since the first European settlements were established in the watersheds of the Hudson, Mohawk, Raritan and Passaic Rivers. We should keep faith with those early pioneers and ensure a bright future for our children and generations to follow by working together to maintain the health and beauty of these mighty waterways and promoting economic development compatible with these great environmental assets. I believe the establishment of a Hudson-Mohawk River Basin program with a river basin commission to guide this effort will help us to accomplish these worthy goals.

HONORING PEACE ACTIVIST DICK
HEIDKAMP

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dick Heidkamp, a former Catholic priest and member of the Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America, an organization that seeks to promote peace and improve the lives of people living in Latin American countries. Throughout his career, Dick has passionately advocated for human rights, peace, and justice for all, with a special focus on Central and South America.

Dick has been a member of the Peace and Justice Committee at the Mary Seat of Wisdom Church in Park Ridge, Illinois, for 38 years. He has also advocated for justice at organizations throughout Chicagoland, including Illinois SOA Watch, Eighth Day Center for Justice, Su Casa Catholic Worker, and Cristo Ray High School.

Dick first brought his high energy commitment to Chicago Religious Leadership Network in 1998. He has been a dedicated participant in CRLN, serving on its Board of Directors since 1999. In his time at CRLN, Dick has traveled throughout Latin America promoting justice and peace in underdeveloped countries, seeking to improve the lives of people living in nations such as Cuba, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Colombia.

Dick has consistently advocated for policies that would increase standard of living for all people, recognizing that poverty is not just a tragedy for individuals and families but a key cause of global instability. Dick has fought for a U.S. foreign aid system that considers human rights above militarization. He has also lobbied Congress to end military aid to Colombia and to eliminate the trade embargo of Cuba, arguing that it keeps essential goods away from the Cuban people.

Understanding the plight of impoverished economies, Dick led the CRLN public policy delegation to Washington D.C. for the Jubilee 2000 campaign. That successful campaign pushed to cancel third world debt owed to the wealthiest nations of the world. Looking out for the average citizen, Dick and CRLN believed that this debt cripples already-struggling nations, preventing their governments from supplying services for their people.

Dick has always sought to give a voice to the voiceless. He has been a cheerful and committed public witness for nonviolent action in response to injustice worldwide, bringing attention to some of the Western Hemisphere's most overlooked problems. I congratulate him on his decades of service and his vocal support of justice, peace, and human rights in Latin America.

SAVANNAH PRIDE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Savannah Pride for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge

Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Savannah Pride is a 7th grader at Everitt Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Savannah Pride 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 Savannah Pride 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 MAJOR GENERAL
TIMOTHY J. LOWENBERG**

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Major General Timothy J. Lowenberg for his years of service to Washington State and our country. He has served our state for decades, most recently as The Adjutant General for the State of Washington. In this role, he served as commander of all Washington Army and Air National Guard forces and Director of the State's Emergency Management and Enhanced 911 programs.

Major General Lowenberg was commissioned as an officer in the Air Force concurrent with his graduation from the University of Iowa in 1968. In 1971, he earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Iowa, College of Law. Prior to becoming The Adjutant General, Major General Lowenberg served as the Air National Guard Assistant to The Judge Advocate General of the Air Force. In this role, he oversaw programs affecting more than 114,000 Air Guard members, trained all Air Guard judge advocates and paralegals, and developed the civil affairs mission of the United States Air Force.

In 1999, Governor Gary Locke appointed Major General Lowenberg Adjutant General. He led the Washington State National Guard's transition from a strategic reserve to an operational reserve, making the Washington State National Guard a vital component of the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. He also led emergency responses to a variety of events, including the 1999 WTO Riot in Seattle, wildfires in 2000, flooding across western Washington in 2007 and 2009, and state preparedness for the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Major General Lowenberg is the second longest-serving Adjutant General since the creation of the Washington Territorial Militia in 1855. His leadership and hard work will be remembered for the advances he implemented in the National Guard during a crucial time in the history of our Nation and the National Guard.

Mister Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor Major General Lowenberg on his retirement. His leadership on military issues, homeland security and domestic preparedness, at the state and federal level, are sec-

ond to none and will truly be missed. I wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

June 5 2012:
Rollcall vote 315, On agreeing to the McClintock Amendment—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 316, On agreeing to the Hirono Amendment—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 317, On agreeing to the McClintock Amendment—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 318, On agreeing to the Matheson Amendment—I would have voted "nay."

June 6 2012:
Rollcall vote 345, On agreeing to the Moore amendment—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 346, On agreeing to the Broun (GA) amendment—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 347, On agreeing to the Holt Amendment—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 348, On agreeing to the Clarke Amendment—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 349, On agreeing to the Clarke Amendment—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 350, On agreeing to the Hahn Amendment—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 351, On agreeing to the Hahn Amendment—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 352, On agreeing to the Poe Amendment—I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 353, On agreeing to the Bishop Amendment—I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 354, On agreeing to the L. Sanchez Amendment—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 355, On agreeing to the Jackson-Lee Amendment—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 356, On agreeing to the Higgins Amendment—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 357, On agreeing to the Bishop Amendment—I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed nine votes today, which including rollcall votes 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313 and 314.

If I had been present, I would have cast the following votes on amendments to H.R. 5325, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013:

Rollcall vote 306 (Scalise Amendment): "yea."

Rollcall vote 307 (King Amendment): "no."

Rollcall vote 308 (Moran Amendment): "yea."

Rollcall vote 309 (Hultgren Amendment): "no."

Rollcall vote 310 (Chaffetz Amendment): "no."
 Rollcall vote 311 (McClintock Amendment No. 6): "no."
 Rollcall vote 312 (Kaptur Amendment): "yea."
 Rollcall vote 313 (Tonko Amendment): "no."
 Rollcall vote 314 (Hahn Amendment): "yea."

TANYA ESTRADA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

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

The dedication demonstrated by Tanya Estrada 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 Tanya Estrada 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.

A VETERAN'S MESSAGE TO HIS COUNTRY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the members of my family who have served this country in wartime. My cousin Arthur Cozewith, has remained a vigorous advocate for fair treatment for all of our veterans.

On Memorial Day this year, he was the guest speaker after the parade in his hometown of Pearl River, New York, and he shared with me the remarks he made on that occasion.

I grew up listening to Arthur's stories of what he and the others went through during World War II, including the experience of prisoners of war, and I continue to be inspired by his determination to see that others who serve are treated the way they should be treated by a nation that should be grateful, and through its gratitude helps define our greatness.

Mr. Speaker, as an expression of family pride and in agreement with his message, I ask that the eloquent remarks of my cousin Arthur Cozewith be printed here as a reminder to us as we legislate this year on matters affecting veterans of how important our duty is.

I would like to thank Honorable Judge and Vietnam War flyer extraordinaire Paul Phinney III for the Honor on this Memorial Day of presenting some of my memories, thoughts and thanks related to the sacrifices

made by our veterans. At the age of 18, in November 1942, I enlisted in the U.S. Army and served during WWII as a rifleman in Co. F, 333rd Infantry Regiment of the 84th Division, participating in the battle for Europe. Now, 67 years after the end of WWII, I still remember the days of blood, mud and hot steel and the impact of such days on my buddies, my friends and my relatives serving in the armed forces. I still remember my Army buddy, 19-year-old Bob Koebler, killed in action on Dec. 2, 1944, my Uncle David Golush who died of wounds received during the battle for Sicily and my high school friend, Bill Miller, who died when his bomber crashed. I remember that there were exactly 34 bunks in a German reinforced concrete fortification because a wounded American soldier occupied each one. I remember the mistreatment and slow starvation of Americans who were POW's. I remember all the things I don't want to remember.

As I remember, I readily relate to those veterans who sacrificed body and mind during WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, Gulf Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan and the wars before and in-between to preserve this great country we live in—the United States of America. I am forever grateful for those sacrifices, which now enable my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to live with equality and freedom.

I also remember that during WWII, our country acted like a sleeping giant who had been rudely awakened. Americans were united as one, as close together as the fingers in a closed fist. Our decisions were based on one consideration—what was best for America. "What is in it for me" was not a permissible thought. We accepted rationing, censorship and lack of goods in the stores. We grew our own vegetables in victory gardens, we conserved everything, we had air raid drills and bought E bonds to save our economy and onward the list goes—winning was not only our sole objective, but also our only option in order to preserve our freedom.

As we face the challenges of today and the new challenges to come, I wonder if we can again work in unity for the best interests of the country. Will we be able to pass along to future generations the same opportunities we were provided by those who sacrificed their lives for all that is great about America?

To ensure a bright future for our country, I ask all of you not to forget that these sacrifices led to our resulting good fortune. Adopt a creed that fits within President John Kennedy's words, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." Insist that those in power, both elected and non elected, act in a manner that puts country first. Keep in mind the truth in the adage "United we stand . . . divided we fall." Become and remain proactive in promoting and implementing these ideals after today's remembrances have gone by.

And finally, show your appreciation to the Veteran Community. If you are an uncommitted eligible Veteran, Pearl River American Legion Post 329 and VFW post 7370 welcomes you to join us as we reach out to Veterans and the community at large.

Remember our war disabled veterans and work to alleviate their on going pain and suffering by insisting that our Congress and Veterans Administration eliminate an antiquated processing system which results in delaying claims in some cases for more than a year.

Thank you for listening. G-d Bless us all and G-d Bless America.

—Arthur Cozewith

A TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COMMANDER EDWARD LEE SR.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Commander Edward Lee Sr. For 34 years, Lieutenant Commander Lee has served in the United States Navy and in the fall will celebrate his retirement after decades of service to his community.

Lieutenant Commander Lee has deployed ten times to the Indiana Ocean, Gulf of Oman, Sea of Japan, and Mediterranean during his career. Promoted to his current rank of Lieutenant Commander in June of 2008, it is evident that Lieutenant Commander Lee has truly committed himself to the United States Navy. Subsequent to his time in the service, Lieutenant Commander Lee has taken great pride in furthering his education. In 2004, LCDR graduated Cum Lade with a Bachelor of Science degree from Saint Leo University. In addition Lieutenant Commander Lee received his Master's of Science in Information Assurance from University of Maryland.

Lieutenant Commander Lee's personal decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (five awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (four awards), and several other Service and Campaign ribbons and medals. He was promoted to the rank of E-8 (SCPO) in February of 1998, as a result of his selecting for the Limited Duty Officer Commissioning Program. After that, he worked his way up to the rank of Lieutenant Commander

Lieutenant Commander Lee's long and impressive career showcases his commitment and service to not only his local community but also to the Nation. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking LCDR Edward Lee Sr. for his work and congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement.

CELEBRATING CHUCK ROGERS' 25 YEARS AT SPRINGFIELD LITTLE THEATRE

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, for 25 years John R. "Chuck" Rogers has tapped into his artistic talents to entertain audiences at the Springfield Little Theatre.

As the Springfield Little Theatre's technical director, Chuck has played an instrumental role in more than 175 productions.

I had the honor of working with him and seeing up close his talents and passion for the theatre when he directed me in a production of *Cheaper by the Dozen* in 1994. Having no prior acting experience, I can attest to the tremendous job and care he puts into the entire production.

In addition to the Springfield Little Theatre, Chuck shares his artistic talents with the Springfield Ballet, Springfield Regional Opera, Ozarks Technical Community College, The

Creamery Arts Center, and Drury University. He has also helped with public television shows in Branson, Missouri.

The Springfield community and surrounding area is lucky to have a neighbor like Chuck. He continues to provide us with great entertainment after more than 25 years of involvement in the arts.

I want to congratulate Chuck Rogers' 25 years at the Springfield Little Theatre and wish him continued success. Break a leg Chuck!

TYIA JOHNSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

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

The dedication demonstrated by Tyia 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 Tyia 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 MR. FRANK EDWARD
RAY

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor the life and legacy of San Joaquin Valley resident Mr. Frank Edward Ray. Mr. Ray will be remembered as a hero for the brave actions he took to rescue twenty-six young school children who fell victim to a school bus kidnapping plot while in his care.

Frank Edward Ray, or Ed as he was known, was born in Le Grand, California on February 26, 1921. As a boy, his family relocated to Chowchilla, California. After graduating from Chowchilla Union High School in 1940, Mr. Ray married his wife, Odessa, in 1942. The couple purchased a ranch in Dairyland, California on which they farmed alfalfa, corn, and raised dairy cows. In the early 1950's, Mr. Ray went to work for Dairyland Union School District as a bus driver.

While driving a busload of summer school students home in the summer of 1976, Mr. Ray's daily route quickly became anything but normal. As he drove the bus along a tree-lined avenue, he encountered a white van blocking the road. After Mr. Ray brought the bus to a stop to avoid a collision with the van, three armed men hijacked the school bus. The assailants forced Mr. Ray and the 26 school chil-

dren off the bus into cramped vans and drove 100 miles to a rock quarry in Livermore, California.

As part of an elaborate plot to obtain \$5 million dollars in ransom, the kidnappers forced Mr. Ray and the children into a makeshift bunker made from a moving van buried in the ground. Before leaving the scene, the kidnappers covered the roof of the van with steel plates, 100 pound vehicle batteries, and dirt. Despite risk of further danger, Mr. Ray and several of the older children in the group used materials found in the van to dig their way out. After 16 hours of clearing debris, Mr. Ray was able to help all of the children escape from the underground van.

Because of Mr. Ray's bravery, selflessness, and loving sense of responsibility for the children in his care, all 26 students escaped the kidnapping ordeal safely. He assisted in the apprehension of the kidnappers—all three of which are serving life sentences. His heroic actions and leadership in the face of uncertain danger established him as a hero in the Chowchilla community. In addition to local appreciation, his heroic efforts in the nationally renowned kidnapping became an example of excellence across America. Just two months after the crime, Mr. Ray resumed his route on the same bus. He retired from Alview-Dairyland Union School District in 1988, after 40 years of service.

Mr. Ray passed away in May 2012 at the age of 91. In the days preceding his death, he was visited by many of the students he saved 35 years ago. Mr. Ray is survived by his wife, Odessa, with whom he would have celebrated 70 years of marriage in June 2012. He is also survived by his two sons, Glen and Danny; his sister, Esther Danelli; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He will be missed by the close-knit community of Chowchilla.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in posthumously honoring Mr. Frank Edward Ray for his invaluable service to his community. His legacy will not soon be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THE ROEBUCK
FAMILY'S MILITARY SERVICE

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a proud American family with over one hundred total years of military service to this Nation.

In 1980, Violet I. Roebuck, originally from St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, moved with her family, to Lake Placid, Florida.

Harold Roebuck Jr., father to Carlos, Harold III, Venecia and Gisette tragically died shortly after the family's move to Florida during a return trip to St. Croix. their mother, Violet I. Roebuck had the difficult task of raising her five children, including her eldest son Wayne Moorehead, as a working single mother.

Of her five children, four served in the military, each for more than 20 years for a total of over 80 years of service. In addition, Violet's son-in-law Ira Wenzel II served an additional 22 years.

With such a strong commitment to this Nation, it's really no surprise that the patriotism Violet had instilled in her children was passed

on to a second generation of her family who have now begun their proud and faithful service to this Nation.

Today, Harold Roebuck IV and Eddie Moorehead are following in the footsteps of their parents in proud service to this Nation.

It is important to always remember that families like Violet Roebuck's are clear examples of what makes this Nation so great.

Today, I am humbled to have the opportunity to bring the attention of this house to a family of true American heroes.

To the Roebuck family, God bless you and your family's brave service to this Nation.

With that, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring the achievements of this patriotic American family.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, which is celebrating 100 years since its establishment on the island of Puerto Rico.

The Inter American University of Puerto Rico was founded in 1912 as the Polytechnic Institute of Puerto Rico, by Reverend John Will Harris. At the time they offered elementary and secondary education in the town of San German. In 1944, the university was accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, making it the first liberal arts college to be so accredited in Puerto Rico.

Over the last century, the Inter American University of Puerto Rico has greatly expanded, educating thousands of students pursuing their studies in the humanities, social sciences, and hard sciences. Under the leadership of University President Dr. Manuel J. Fernos, today the Inter American University of Puerto Rico has more than 50,000 registered students at eleven sites, including schools specializing in optometry and law. As the only optometry school in Latin America, it is the main provider of bilingual optometrists in the world.

The university also stands out for its extensive offering of online courses, making it a leader in distance learning. The Inter American University of Puerto Rico prides itself on their international partnerships with other prestigious universities located in Spain, England, Italy, Mexico, China, and the Dominican Republic. The university also maintains a large number of partnership programs with schools located in the 50 States. These partnerships and programs expand the knowledge and experiences of the university's students, and have made the Inter American University of Puerto Rico a recognized cultural bridge between North America and Latin America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of this historic institution of higher education, which has made a lasting impact on students in Puerto Rico and throughout the rest of both the United States and Latin America.

TESLA MILLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

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

The dedication demonstrated by Tesla Miller 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 Tesla Miller 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 ARLENE LOWENSTEIN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Arlene Lowenstein began volunteering for Jewish causes as a pre-teen by standing outside of E.J. Korvettes on Central Avenue in Scarsdale, collecting funds for Israel during the Six-Day War. She has not ceased her support of Israel.

Arlene is now Fleetwood Synagogue's Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair. Fleetwood Synagogue is an organization that relies almost entirely on volunteers and Arlene's duties include many that are normally done by an organization's staff, including billing members, paying bills, banking, reporting tax and donation information, and maintaining the synagogue's contact lists.

She treats her volunteering activities with absolute seriousness, and ensures that whatever tasks she undertakes are done accurately and in a timely manner. She does not limit herself to just the financial aspects of the synagogue. She has worked on the dinner committee for years, and is particularly adept at editing written material sent out by the synagogue.

During the ten years her daughter Tovah attended Stein Yeshiva, Arlene served as the PTA President. In 1993, Arlene and her husband, Jack, were the first parents ever honored at the school's testimonial dinner.

Arlene was also active in Rena Hadassah in Mount Vernon, where she chaired the annual Camp Fair which was the organization's most successful fundraiser. She received the "Hands of Healing" award from the Westchester Hadassah Region in 1993.

Arlene grew up in Yonkers, and is a product of Lincoln Park Jewish Center. She spent a year studying at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and is a graduate of Barnard College. After graduate school at CUNY, she worked

as a computer programmer and a proof reader, before her current profession—Travel Agent. She is the manager of Transland Travel Bureau, a family-owned business. Arlene's husband is Co-President of Fleetwood Synagogue. Her daughter is an English teacher at the Moriah School in Englewood, New Jersey. Arlene's dedication to Fleetwood Synagogue is apparent to all who know her.

I join with Fleetwood Synagogue in honoring Arlene Lowenstein for the good work she has done in the community for so many years. She is a living mitzvah.

IN HONOR OF MASTER SERGEANT
CHILDS**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. ROSS of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true patriot who died in service to this great country. On May 4, 2012, Master Sergeant Gregory L. Childs died of a non-combat related illness at the age of 38 in Kabul Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Master Sergeant Childs was raised in Warren, Arkansas, where he graduated from Warren High School in 1992. After graduation, he joined the United States Army where he served his country with honor for 20 years, traveling to Bosnia, Germany, Columbia, and two tours to Afghanistan. He excelled through the ranks of the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Corps and earned the rank of Master Sergeant (MSG), one of the highest ranks you can receive in the U.S. Army NCO Corps. At the time of his death, Master Sergeant Childs was assigned to the Defense Logistics Agency, Administrative Support Center, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Although I never had the honor to meet Master Sergeant Childs, on behalf of the State of Arkansas, I extend my sincere condolences to his family, friends and all who knew him for this devastating loss.

Master Sergeant Childs is survived by his daughter, Kourtlan Iman Childs of Arlington, Texas; his mother, Eula Childs of Warren, Ark.; his brother, Shawn Childs of Little Rock, Ark.; a grandmother, Maola Jones of Hermitage, Ark.; a fiancée, Jewele Johnson of Columbia, SC; best friends Chad Mingo of Shreveport, LA, and Alonzo Hampton of Bowling Green, KY, as well as a host of other relatives, friends, and soldiers.

When we think of true heroes, we think of brave Americans like Master Sergeant Childs who risk everything to defend freedom and serve this great country. We will always be grateful for his selfless sacrifice and he will be deeply missed by all who knew him. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends during this very difficult time. We are who we are as a nation because of patriots like Master Sergeant Childs.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Master Sergeant Gregory L. Childs and his legacy, as well as each man and woman in our Armed Forces, and all of those in harm's way, who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to this great country. We owe them our eternal gratitude.

HONORING WILLIAM EDWARD
SAXTON**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of William Edward Saxton and to mourn him upon his passing at the age of 86.

Born in Hazel Park, Michigan on March 14, 1926 to Dean and Margaret Saxton, Bill graduated from Plymouth High School, where he met his future wife Valerie, in 1944. He served honorably in the U.S. Navy during World War II and went on to study business management and engineering at the University of Michigan, graduating in the late 1940's. Bill and Valerie married in the summer of 1947. Taking the reins from his father, Bill became the owner and operator of Saxton's Garden Center, an 83-year-old family business in Plymouth, Michigan. A historical cornerstone of Plymouth's pedestrian friendly downtown located at Ann Arbor Trail and Penniman, the former Saxton's Feed Company once served as a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Under Bill's knowledgeable and forthright leadership, Saxton's Feed Company transitioned from farm-supply and livestock feed to Saxton's Garden Center as farms gave way to subdivisions. Bill became active in the Plymouth Community and the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce. Saxton's is a perennial sponsor of the Plymouth Ice Festival, Art in the Park and many other downtown events. Kellogg Park borders Saxton's just to the west and has become a focal point of the community thanks to the generosity of patrons like Bill Saxton.

Sadly, on June 4, 2012, Bill succumbed to his second battle with cancer and passed from this earthly world to his eternal reward. He is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 65 years, Valerie and his precious children Alan, Craig and Christopher. Reuniting in eternity with his adored daughter Karin, Bill will long be remembered by grandchildren Nichelle, Lauren, Christopher and Sarah. He leaves a legacy in his cherished great grandchild Connor and will be sorely missed by his treasured siblings Dean and Margaret.

Mr. Speaker, William Saxton will be long remembered as a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, veteran, legendary businessman, philanthropist, community leader and above all as a friend. Bill was a man who deeply treasured his family, friends, community and his country. Today, as we bid Bill Saxton farewell, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and honoring his unwavering patriotism and legendary service to our community and our country.

SHYANNE SWARTWOOD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Shyanne Swartwood for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Shyanne Swartwood is a 10th grader at Jefferson County Open School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Shyanne Swartwood 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 Shyanne Swartwood 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.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,734,596,578,458.59. We've added \$5,107,719,529,545.51 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

On this day in 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia proposed to the Continental Congress a resolution calling for a Declaration of Independence. We have squandered our independence by shackling ourselves with this national debt.

TRIBUTE TO NASHVILLE
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to salute the Nashville International Airport, an ambassador for Music City.

On June 12, 1937, Nashville's airport officially opened as Berry Field in honor of Colonel Harry S. Berry, state administrator for the Works Progress Administration. It became a military base during World War II for the 4th Ferrying Command, and later returned to passenger service with rapid growth and high demand. In 1988, it was renamed the Nashville International Airport to reflect its new status as a hub for Tennessee air transportation.

Over the years, BNA has evolved into a state-of-the-art facility connecting the Nashville area with the rest of the world serving nearly 10 million passengers a year. As a leader in airport innovation, BNA was one of the first commercial airports to have a master plan and is now one of twelve airports in the FAA's Sustainable Master Plan Pilot Program.

BNA is not just an airport, it's an experience. It welcomes visitors with gracious south-

ern hospitality and country twang. Its unique design offers a taste of Music City with live music, shops and restaurants showcasing our Tennessee flavor. It not only provides excellent service to its customers and employees, it is an important partner in our community.

And so, Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to salute the Nashville International Airport for its 75 years of dedicated service to our citizens and our community, and for promoting higher standards in airport service. I am grateful for the contributions BNA provides not only to Nashville, but to travelers around the world.

SHANNIA TILLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

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

The dedication demonstrated by Shannia Tiller 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 Shannia Tiller 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 THE PEOPLE OF
AMERICA'S LOG CABIN INDUSTRY

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize America's log cabin industry as a quintessential symbol of the American pioneering spirit, embodying America's strength and ingenuity.

Log cabins, whether used for recreation or as primary residences, are economically sustainable, reducing waste and employing materials that put Mother Nature's beauty at center stage. The industry is experiencing renewed growth, exporting this American icon to nations from Germany to China.

Log cabin production directly supports thousands of jobs from builders to sales professionals, as well as the housing market, lending institutions, and many others. The people of this industry are hard-working, charitable, and deserving of recognition for their centuries of accomplishment.

IN HONOR OF U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST VILMAR GALARZA HERNANDEZ

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Specialist Vilmar Galarza Hernandez, U.S. Army. On May 26, 2012, this native of Salinas, California was killed in his second combat tour in Afghanistan. It is with great sadness to note that Specialist Galarza was only twenty-one years old and married just two months ago. In his all too short life, he made a lasting impact on his family, friends, comrades, and community. Specialist Galarza exemplified valor and duty, and will be remembered as an American hero.

On October 7, 1990, Vilmar Galarza Hernandez was born to Pedro and Gregoria Galarza, Mexican immigrant farmworkers. Vilmar grew up in Salinas, California, a thriving agricultural community. The famed author John Steinbeck called this community "the valley of the world," a reference to the workers who came to scratch out a living from the earth. Vilmar's parents instilled in him and his two siblings, Rubi and Marvin, the principles of the American dream: that with hard work and determination any opportunity was for their taking.

After graduating from Everett Alvarez High School, Vilmar choose the noble path of enlisting in the United States Army. In the Army, he was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. Vilmar was known by his command "as a rock that you could lean on." His company commander, Captain Brandon Wohlschlegel, said that Vilmar was "the model soldier." The Army awarded Specialist Galarza the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Army Good Conduct medals as well as campaign ribbons for service in Afghanistan.

Vilmar was destined to achieve great success for himself as he sought to make a better life for his family. He grew up in a neighborhood with few advantages, but succeeded in spite of the challenges. Vilmar was a fighter and a visionary who struggled against the odds and persevered to follow his dreams. On March 28, 2012, just two weeks before his second deployment, he realized a dream when he married his sweetheart Margarita Contreras. It is heartbreaking to know that Vilmar's dreams were not all fulfilled, but his spirit will live on in the hearts of all those who loved him.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak on behalf of the entire House in extending the Nation's deepest sympathies to Specialist Vilmar Galarza Hernandez's parents Pedro and Gregoria Galarza, his siblings Rubi and Marvin Galarza, his wife Margarita Contreras-Galarza, and his extending family, friends, and comrades. He will be missed, but we will never forget him.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise today in reluctant opposition to H.R. 5325, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. This bill provides \$32.1 billion, an \$88 million increase from Fiscal Year 2012 levels but \$965 million below the President's Fiscal Year 2013 request.

The purpose of the annual energy and water spending bill is to provide the funding necessary to ensure that the nation's energy and water resources are sufficient to address the nation's needs. This year's spending bill, H.R. 5325, provides funding for critical national priorities such as Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Energy, Department of the Interior, and independent agencies that provide research and development of future energy industries, job training, and health care.

Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member PETER J. VISCOSKY for shepherding this bill to the floor. I appreciate the way they worked together and with my office to accommodate several of my legislative priorities regarding energy and water development programs.

Although this bill provides adequate funding for some programs that I support, it also includes numerous other provisions that are unacceptable. On balance, these unpalatable provisions outweigh the positive aspects of the bill.

This bill substantially underfunds key priorities like science and innovation which are critical to the recovery of our economy and rebuilding our waterways and ports. The bill only provides \$1.45 billion for energy efficiency and renewable energy research programs, which is \$374 million below Fiscal Year 2012 and \$886 million below the President's request.

The bill only provides \$200 million for the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy (ARPA-E), which is \$75 million below Fiscal Year 2012 levels and \$150 million below the President's request. ARPA-E supports breakthrough of domestic clean energy innovations.

Mr. Chair, the bill before us dramatically cuts funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy research programs by 39 percent and reduces funding for several other energy innovation programs:

Solar energy research funding is cut by nearly 50 percent from Fiscal Year 2012;

Wind energy development research is underfunded at only \$70 million, \$24 million below the Fiscal Year 2012 and \$25 million below the President's request;

Building technologies research funding is cut by more than 50 percent from fiscal year 2012 and \$185 million below the President's request. These funds are used to research en-

ergy-efficient technologies in buildings, which account for roughly 40 percent of all U.S. energy use.

This bill does not stop there. It also contains provisions that weaken energy reduction targets in new and renovated federal buildings. Buildings account for almost 40 percent of U.S. energy consumption, and as the largest consumer of energy in the U.S., the federal government should lead the way in designing and building facilities that use less energy to spur the development of new materials and technologies and to show that these reductions are practical, achievable, and cost-effective.

Section 110 of the bill would stop an Administration effort to provide clarity on which water bodies are covered by Clean Water Act (CWA). The existing regulations were the subject of two Supreme Court cases in 2001 and 2006, in which the Court indicated the need for greater regulatory clarity on the scope of CA jurisdiction.

Mr. Chair, for many of these same reasons the President has put the Congress on notice that he will "veto" H.R. 5325 if it is presented to him for signature in its present form. It make no sense to pass a bad bill that has no chance of becoming law. We should instead be working together across the aisle to craft a bill that can win and be worthy of bipartisan and bicameral support. The bill before us does not meet this standard.

For these reasons, I will vote no on H.R. 5325 on final passage. I urge my colleagues to join me.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HARVEY HOUSE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Santa Lucia Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the historic Harvey House in Salinas, California. The Harvey House was built in 1868 by the first Mayor of Salinas, Isaac Julian Harvey. It has served, among other functions, as the principal Salinas Valley meeting location for the Santa Lucia Chapter for the last seventy five years. Mayor Harvey's daughter, Mabel Harvey, helped to found the Santa Lucia chapter and opened the Harvey House for the chapter's first meeting on October 31, 1938. Mabel's daughter Helen Currie, in turn served as the Santa Lucia Chapter's organizing Regent. On June 9, 2012, the Santa Lucia Chapter will place a plaque commemorating its longstanding relationship with this historic property, and in so doing commemorate the important place that the Salinas Valley holds in the history of California, and indeed, the nation.

The Daughters of the American Revolution, founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. DAR members volunteer more than 250,000 hours annually to veteran patients, award thousands of dollars in scholarships and finan-

cial aid each year to students, and support schools for underserved children with annual donations exceeding one million dollars. As one of the most inclusive genealogical societies in the country, DAR boasts 170,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the United States and internationally.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for its work and for honoring this important landmark of Salinas history.

H.R. 5651, THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION REFORM ACT OF 2012

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the very mechanism dictated by the Prescription Drug User Fee Act and the Medical Device User Fee Act is flawed. It is an inherent conflict of interest for drug and medical device manufacturers to pay millions of dollars in fees to the FDA that are designed to speed up regulatory approval, when the FDA is charged with making sure those drugs are safe and effective. H.R. 5651, the Food and Drug Administration Reform Act, perpetuates that flawed model.

At the same time, we have a shortage of affordable, and in some cases life saving drugs that must be addressed immediately. Currently, while the pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers are allowed to pay to expedite approval, no such privilege exists for generic drugs. Such a competitive disadvantage has the result of keeping much less expensive and equally effective drugs off the market while boosting profits for pharmaceutical manufacturers. Our seniors deserve better than to have to split pills because pharmaceutical companies have an exclusive right to manipulate the market to pad their already massive profit margins at the expense of those in need to pharmaceuticals. This bill corrects that imbalance. This bill also begins to address the increasingly prevalent sudden episodes of shortages of drugs that are life-supporting or life-sustaining. Such episodes are immediately life-threatening if caregivers are not given sufficient notice to identify alternative supplies or treatments.

I support the Food and Drug Administration Reform Act of 2012 and will continue to work for FDA reform.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed three votes today, which included rollcall votes 297, 298 and 299.

If I had been present, I would have voted against rollcall vote 297, the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5743, H.R. 5854, H.R. 5325, and H.R. 5855.

If I had been present, I would have voted against rollcall vote 298, H. Res. 667—Rule

providing for consideration of four bills—H.R. 5743—Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, H.R. 5854—Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013, H.R. 5325—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013, and H.R. 5855—Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2013.

Lastly, I would have voted against rollcall vote 299, Representative FRANKS' (AZ-2) bill, H.R. 3541.

CONGRATULATING JEFF RICE ON
OVER THIRTY-ONE YEARS OF
SERVICE AT DOLLAR GENERAL

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, in today's America, it can be difficult to find employees who truly exemplify service, loyalty, integrity and commitment. Today, it is my honor to recognize Jeff Rice for his thirty-one years of service at Dollar General. Jeff first joined Dollar General as a part time employee in 1981 and began working full time on May 7, 1984.

Beginning as an order puller at the Scottsville Distribution Center in Kentucky, Jeff grew his career and his influence through his hard work and dedication to excellence to eventually become the Vice President of Human Resources for the company. The length of Jeff's tenure has only been matched by the depth of his commitment to the Dollar General family and its success.

What is truly inspirational about Jeff is the positive impact he has had on the employees at Dollar General and his community. When he retires in July, his easy smile, passion for doing the right thing, and deeply rooted values will be hard for Dollar General to replace. I congratulate Jeff on an exceptional career and wish him well in what surely will be an exceptional retirement that will undoubtedly be filled with continued service to others.

IN HONOR OF THE FRIENDSHIP
CIRCLE OF CLEVELAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Friendship Circle of Cleveland, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing Jewish children who have special needs with a full range of social recreational and Judaic experiences; providing their parents with respite and support; and enriching, inspiring and motivating Jewish teens through sharing of themselves with others.

Led by co-executive directors, Rabbi Yossi Marozov and Mrs. Estie Marozov, the Friendship Circle offers a wide-array of programs for the children they serve. The services provided include after-school programs, volunteer opportunities, at-home assistance, and cooking classes. The Friendship Circle provides almost all of its services to special needs children by pairing them with teen volunteers.

Last fall, the Friendship Circle moved to a new 12,000 square-foot space in Pepper Pike. The new building is twice the size of their former facility in South Euclid and was retrofitted especially to accommodate the needs of special needs children.

On Thursday, June 7, 2012, the Friendship Circle will be hosting "The Art of Friendship" event. The celebration will recognize the 2011-2012 teen volunteers. It will feature a tribute to leading autism awareness advocates Shari and Michael Goldberg and a presentation by chalk artist and speaker Richard Hight.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Friendship Circle of Cleveland, a life-changing organization for thousands of area Jewish children with special needs.

HONORING UNIFIED GROCERS ON
THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Unified Grocers, headquartered in my congressional district, on their 90th year of successful serving independent grocery retailers in the state of California.

Unified Grocers was formed in 1922 by a group of 15 grocers who came together to pool their resources in order to effectively compete in the marketplace. With headquarters in the city of Commerce, California, Unified Grocers operates a milk processing plant, bakery and six major distribution centers across the country. Unified Grocers is committed to helping its members build successful long-term businesses as well as remain competitive and grow in today's economy.

Unified Grocers runs an innovative, efficient, and sophisticated distribution chain that allows its members to stock their stores with items that are needed in their individual communities. They are responsive to a changing market and dedicated to the effective operation of facilities that are right-sized, well maintained and optimally located.

I once again congratulate Unified Grocers on the celebration of their 90th anniversary. I thank them for continuing to provide quality jobs in the 34th congressional district and throughout California and for giving back to our community to make it stronger.

IN HONOR OF MS. BETH MOONEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Beth Mooney, who is being honored as the fifth recipient of the Notre Dame College Medal.

Born and raised in Midland, Michigan, Ms. Mooney's family relocated to Texas prior to her senior year of high school. She studied history at the University of Texas where she graduated summa cum laude in 1977. Following graduation, Ms. Mooney took on jobs at

First City National Bank of Houston and Republic Bank in Dallas. While working with Republic Bank, she earned an MBA from Southern Methodist University in 1983.

After more than 30 years of experience in banking, which includes serving as Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for AmSouth Bancorporation, Ms. Mooney joined KeyCorp in 2006 as Vice Chair of Key Community Banking. Just a few years later, Ms. Mooney was made the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of KeyCorp, becoming the first woman to head one of the 20 largest independent banks in the United States.

In addition to serving as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of KeyCorp, Ms. Mooney is a dedicated member of the Greater Cleveland community. She is a trustee and treasurer of the board of the Musical Arts Association/The Cleveland Orchestra, a trustee of The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, a trustee of United Way of Greater Cleveland, a member of The Financial Services Roundtable and board chair of Neighborhood Progress, Inc.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Ms. Beth Mooney, the recipient of the 2012 Notre Dame College Medal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on the day of June 1, 2012, because I was unavoidably detained at a family funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted against amendments to the FY 2013 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act that sought to reduce funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency programs. I would have instead supported amendments that support and expand renewable energy and energy efficiency programs, and also increase funding for weatherization assistance and state energy programs.

Finally, I would have voted for an amendment to strike language undermining Clean Water Act protections for streams, wetlands, and other waterways. The underlying bill strikes protections that help safeguard drinking water sources from pollution, protect lives and property from flooding, and ensures the viability of economically beneficial fish and wildlife habitat.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT
OF BOOKER THOMAS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Booker Thomas, who has capably served as President and CEO of HealthNet, Inc. for well over a decade, on his well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Thomas has devoted his entire distinguished career to public health and public safety in predominantly poor and urban neighborhoods in cities across the Midwest. As

President and CEO of HealthNet, Inc., Mr. Thomas oversaw a dramatic expansion resulting in the establishment of seven primary care centers, two specialty care centers, and eight school-based clinics in order to better serve low-income Hoosiers throughout Indianapolis.

Today, HealthNet provides medical care to 50,000 Hoosiers and is the state's largest Federally Qualified Health Center. Under his leadership, HealthNet has garnered numerous accolades including the Joint Commission's prestigious Gold Seal of Approval. His exceptional leadership has positioned HealthNet as a community staple, ensuring that those most at risk in the 7th District will continue to have access to high-quality medical care.

Since his arrival to the 7th Congressional District of Indiana, Mr. Thomas has been actively engaged in efforts to improve scholastic performance. As a board member of Indianapolis-based non-profit Learning Well, thousands of students have benefited from improvements in their health, well-being and academic performance. I applaud him for his devotion to our community.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Booker Thomas for being an outstanding community partner, and for the exemplary effort and passion he has brought to improving access to health care in the 7th District of Indiana. I wish him the very best in his retirement.

IN HONOR OF FATHER JOHN
CARLIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Father John Carlin, who is celebrating his 25th Anniversary as Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish.

Father Carlin graduated from Borromeo College Seminary in 1972 and later from St. Mary Seminary in 1976. Later that year he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Cleveland. In 1987, Father Carlin was appointed Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish at the young age of 38.

As Pastor, Father Carlin has been a loving and compassionate leader of his church. He provides guidance and hospitality for his parishioners and serves as a mentor to seminarians. He is dedicated to the spiritual and educational development of each parishioner and has helped maintain St. Charles Borromeo School during his time as Pastor. Every building of the nearly 90-year-old parish has been updated and renovated under Father Carlin's pastorate. This year marks Father Carlin's 25th anniversary as Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Father John Carlin, the Pastor who has shown tremendous leadership and guidance to his parish for the past quarter century.

HONORING THE CAREER OF COSMO
PANETTA

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my friends and colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career of Cosmo Panetta and his 38 years as a small business owner in Pleasanton, California.

Cosmo embodies the American Dream, emigrating from Calabria, Italy in 1957. After graduating from Pacific High in San Leandro, he attended Moliere's Barber College. Cosmo obtained his state barber's license and soon bought his own business to serve the residents of the Tri-Valley. Cosmo has been a fixture in the community ever since. He's touched the lives of all those he's come across, including my own. His work ethic is exemplified by his shop's 12-hour workdays and seven-day workweeks. There is even a sign that hangs outside Cosmo's barbershop reading "1 billion haircuts."

With exemplary dedication to his adopted country and outstanding service for 38 years, Pleasanton will always be thankful to Cosmo. Grace, diligence and kindness are only a few of the many words that can be used to describe a gentleman of his exceptional character. He is a true example of the American Dream and of what a person can accomplish in our great country. I ask you to join me in honoring Cosmo Panetta for his remarkable service to the City of Pleasanton.

RECOGNIZING THE DARTMOUTH
COLLEGE 7S RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Dartmouth College Men's 7s Rugby team upon winning their second consecutive USA 7s Collegiate Rugby National Championship on Sunday, June 3rd Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Led by their coach, Alex Magleby, a powerful and experienced Dartmouth squad defeated the talented team from the University of Arizona 24–5 in the final match. The Big Green was dominant throughout the 16-team, two-day round-robin tournament winning a total of six games. During this time they outscored their opponents by a combined score of 170–41. It was only during their semifinal match against the University of California that Dartmouth ever found their selves behind, but the squad from Hanover battled back from a 12 point deficit to a 21–19 victory.

The 2012 7s Collegiate Rugby National Championship adds to the distinguished record and history of Dartmouth Rugby. In addition to the 2011 7s National Championship, Dartmouth has the most rugby wins and championships among the members of the Ivy League, including winning 12 of the last 15 Ivy League Championships (15s), as well as the 2012 Ivy League 7s Championship.

Mr. Speaker it is with great pleasure to recognize the success of my alma mater and the

members of the 2012 Dartmouth College 7s Rugby team.

Bill Lehmann '12
Nate Brakeley '12
Derek Fish '12
Will Mueller '12
Paul Jarvis '12
Clark Judge '12
Dave Turnbull '12
Justin Ciambella '13
Pat Flynn '13
Kevin Clark '14
James Sharpe '14
Madison Hughes '15
Coach Alex Magleby '00.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. MAZEN
NAOUS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Mazen Naous, an internationally recognized professor, poet and author.

A native of Beirut, Lebanon, Dr. Naous immigrated to the United States at the age of eighteen to pursue his collegiate career. He attended The Boston Conservatory and graduated in 1996 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music Composition and Classic Guitar. He continued his education at the University of Massachusetts Boston where he earned a Master of Arts in 2001 and his Ph.D. in English Literature from University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2007. During his post-graduate studies, Dr. Naous was the recipient of the Kennedy Award for Outstanding Work in the Field of Poetry and a national Consortium for Faculty Diversity Fellowship.

Dr. Naous has dedicated his career to higher education and improving intercultural understanding between the United States and Arab world. Currently, Dr. Naous is an assistant professor of English and comparative literature at the College of Wooster. Previously, he taught at the Lebanese American University, City University of New York and College of Staten Island. Dr. Naous will be returning to Lebanon in the next academic year where he will be teaching at the University of Balamand.

Currently, Dr. Naous is working on his first book, *The Arab American Novel and Alternative Poetics*. According to Dr. Naous, the book aims to secure a space for Arab American literature in the fields of American studies and postcolonial diasporas, and assert its importance to aesthetics and artistic innovation.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the renowned career of Dr. Mazen Naous.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal family matter I was not present for rollcall votes 294–314. Had I been present, this is how I would have voted:

On rollcall Vote 294: H.R. 5651, Food and Drug Administration Reform Act of 2012 I would have voted yes.

On rollcall Vote 295: H.R. 4201, The Service member Family Protection Act I would have voted yes.

On rollcall Vote 296: H.R. 915, The Jaime Zapata Border Security Task Force Act I would have voted yes.

On rollcall Vote 297: Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5743, H.R. 5854, H.R. 5325, and H.R. 5855 I would have voted yes.

On rollcall Vote 298: H. Res. 667, Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5743, H.R. 5854, H.R. 5325, and H.R. 5855 I would have voted no.

On rollcall Vote 299: H.R. 3541, Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act I would have voted no.

On rollcall Vote 300: Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 5743 I would have voted I would have voted yes.

On rollcall Vote 301: Final Passage of H.R. 5743, Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 I would have voted yes.

On rollcall Vote 302: Grimm Amendment which strikes Section 517, which prohibits the use of funds for construction bid solicitations that require or prohibit project labor agreements I would have voted yes.

On rollcall Vote 303: Franks Amendment to prohibit the use of funds from being used to enforce the prevailing wage requirements of the Davis-Bacon Act I would have voted no.

On rollcall Vote 304: Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 5854 I would have voted yes.

On rollcall Vote 305: Final Passage of H.R. 5854, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Act, 2013 I would have voted yes.

On rollcall Vote 306: Scalise Amendment to increase the Army Corps of Engineers Construction Account by \$10 million for Louisiana Coastal Restoration and reduces the Department of Energy Administration Account by the same amount I would have voted yes.

On rollcall Vote 307: King Amendment to reduce the Army Corps of Engineers Construction Account by \$1,000,000 and increases the Operation and Maintenance Account by \$571,429 I would have voted no.

On rollcall Vote 308: Moran Amendment which strikes Section 110 of the bill. The section prohibits the Corps of Engineers from using funds to issue guidance, enforce or supplement rules regarding definition of waters under the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act I would have voted yes.

On rollcall Vote 309: Hultgren Amendment to reduce the Department of Energy, Energy Programs, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Account by \$30 million and increases the Science Administrative and Facility Account for National Laboratories by \$15 million I would have voted no.

On rollcall Vote 310: Chaffetz Amendment to reduce funds for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by \$74,000,000 and applies the savings to the spending reduction account I would have voted no.

On rollcall Vote 311: McClintock Amendment to zero out the Department of Energy, Energy Programs, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Account (a cut of \$1.45 billion) and applies the savings to the spending reduction account I would have voted no.

On rollcall Vote 312: Kaptur Amendment to increase the Department of Energy, Energy Programs, Energy Efficiency and Renewable

Energy Account by \$10 million and reduces the Department of Energy Administrative Account by the same amount I would have voted yes.

On rollcall Vote 313: Tonko Amendment to increase the Department of Energy, Energy Programs, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Account by \$180,440,000 for the Weatherization Assistance Program and the State Energy Program and reduces the Atomic Energy Defense Activities, National Nuclear Security Administration, Weapons Activities Account by the same amount I would have voted yes.

On rollcall Vote 314: Hahn Amendment to increase funds for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by \$50 million and reduces funds for Fossil Energy Research and Development by \$100 million I would have voted yes.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEST SIDE MARKET

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Cleveland's West Side Market, a publicly-owned market that has been a city landmark for the past 100 years.

The Market was originally an open-air farmer's market that was established in 1840. It eventually became known as the Pearl Street Market when an enclosed building was built to house the many vendors. Today, the West Side Market is located across the street from the old Pearl Street Market. It was built in 1912, making this year its 100th anniversary.

The West Side Market features over 100 vendors who sell a variety of fresh food items, including meat, seafood, dairy products, fruits, vegetables, and pastries. Some of the vendors are third, fourth, and even fifth generation vendors whose ancestors were original occupants at the opening of the Market. The Market has retained the same selection of culturally and ethnically diverse foods that could be found in 1912 when many of the vendors were immigrants to Cleveland. For many Clevelanders, the West Side Market is a place full of memories and traditions, and is a symbol of their Cleveland heritage.

The celebration of 100th anniversary of the West Side Market will begin on June 2, 2012 with a Kick-Off event that will feature the opening of the newly renovated Market Square Park. The Kick-Off will also include performances by Happy Timers Polka, Belly Dancers, Duo Anime, Rey Cintron Latin Jazz, Csardas Dance Company and The Academy.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring The West Side Market, a historical landmark that has remained a beloved cornerstone of the Cleveland community for the past 100 years.

HONORING THE 55TH NATIONAL
PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the fifty-fifth National Puerto Rican Day Parade, which will be held on June 10, 2012, in New York City. As one of our nation's largest parades, this event recognizes the proud and rich heritage of the Puerto Rican community here in the United States.

The first Puerto Rican Day Parade was held on Sunday, April 13th, 1958, in "El Barrio" in Manhattan. It struck an unprecedented chord in the community, galvanizing thousands of Puerto Ricans in a powerful demonstration of their rise as an important ethnic group. Over the next four decades, the New York Puerto Rican Day Parade became an essential and fundamental cultural event in New York City. The parade began as a show of strength for the Puerto Rican community in New York, but eventually grew into a broader celebration of Puerto Rican achievements in New York City and elsewhere. The parade has been so successful that in 1995, its organizers increased its size and transformed it into the national and international cultural affair that it is today.

This Sunday, June 10th, delegates representing more than half of the states in the United States will join the approximately 3 million parade goers who transform New York's Fifth Avenue into a sea of Puerto Rican and United States flags. It's a unique event which celebrates the rich cultural and political relationship that exists between the City of New York and Puerto Rico. Puerto Ricans positioned New York as a vital and dynamic international, multilingual city that continues to welcome individuals from all over the world.

Mr. Speaker, the National Puerto Rican Day Parade is a unique event which represents the richness and diversity that exists in the Puerto Rican community, both in New York, nationally, and internationally. As a Puerto Rican and a New Yorker, I am proud to participate in this year's parade, as I have for many years.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to marching in the fifty-fifth annual National Puerto Rican Day Parade, and I am confident that the parade will continue to be an important cultural celebration in New York for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESS OF
THE ROMAN MEAL COMPANY ON
THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker I rise to honor the Roman Meal Company and the Matthaiei family on the company's 100th anniversary. This impressive milestone places Roman Meal among fewer than 25 private companies in the United States who have been in business for one century.

The company was founded in 1912 by Robert Jackson, a Canadian physician and historian, who came to Tacoma, WA for medical

treatment. Mr. Jackson studied how Roman legionnaires fought, and discovered they ate a diet that included wheat and rye for strength and stamina. He then developed a hot cereal meal based on that diet.

In 1927, William Matthaei purchased the Roman Meal Health Company. The Matthaei family used centuries of baking knowledge and Mr. Jackson's formula to develop Roman Meal Bread. William Matthaei's son, Charles, still comes to work every day at the age of 92 and his grandson, William, serves as CEO.

Running a company continuously for 100 years requires more than outstanding products. Roman Meal's ability to survive through the Great Depression, multiple recessions, and evolving consumer preferences required that the company adapt quickly to changes in the marketplace. Pressures from competition and trade demanded that they constantly innovate to stay ahead.

Mr. Speaker it is with great pleasure that I recognize the success of the Roman Meal Company and the Matthaei family in creating an excellent product and a dynamic company that has thrived for 100 years. I wish them continued success.

IN HONOR OF MS. SHIRLEY
MACLAINE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Shirley MacLaine who is being honored with the 40th American Film Institute (AFI) Life Achievement Award on June 7, 2012.

Born on April 24, 1934 in Richmond, Virginia, MacLaine grew up the daughter of Ira Owens and Kathlyn Corinne Beaty. She attended Washington-Lee High School and during the summer prior to her senior year had her first role on Broadway as a member of the chorus in a revival of Oklahoma. MacLaine had been trained in ballet before turning to acting. She returned to the stage and New York City following her high school graduation and became an understudy to Carol Haney in The Pajama Game, a role which she eventually took over. It was this role that launched MacLaine's career onto the Silver Screen.

MacLaine made her film debut in 1955's "The Trouble with Harry," for which she won the Golden Globe Award for New Star of the Year—Actress. Throughout her almost 60 year career, MacLaine has appeared in more than 60 films, made numerous television and Broadway appearances, produced, directed, and has authored several books. A five-time Oscar nominee, MacLaine won the Academy Award for Best Actress in 1983 for her role in Terms of Endearment.

AFI's Life Achievement Award is America's highest honor for a career in film. However, in addition to honoring MacLaine's illustrious film career, the American Film Institute is also celebrating her work in television, on Broadway, as an author and as a philanthropist. Meryl Streep, who was the recipient of the AFI Life Achievement Award in 2004, will be presenting MacLaine her award.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring one of the most accomplished and

moving actresses of a generation and a close personal friend, Ms. Shirley MacLaine on the occasion of receiving AFI's 40th Life Achievement Award.

IN HONOR OF JOE JASKIEWICZ

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Joe Jaskiewicz who has stepped down after many distinguished years of public service. Joe was born in Brooklyn, New York and moved to Norwich, Connecticut as a young boy. In 1964, he married his high school sweetheart, Beverly. Shortly after graduation, Joe began work as a pipefitter at Electric Boat where he worked for 37 years, eventually becoming a supervisor.

Mr. Jaskiewicz went on to serve the Town of Montville in many capacities. He began his career in the Parks & Recreation Department and spent four years as Chairman of the Board of Finance before being elected to the Town Council. After chairing the body for four years, Joe became Mayor in 2003. During his eight years in office, Joe Jaskiewicz championed economic development in Montville, bringing new businesses and jobs to the area. In his first term, Joe nearly doubled the size of the police force and supervised the renovation of all Montville schools. Although Joe's career was marked by numerous achievements, one of his proudest accomplishments was the transformation of the old Fair Oaks School into the Fair Oaks Community Center. He also served as the Chair of the Southeast Connecticut Council of Governments for one year during his second term as mayor. His decision to step down is a loss for the town he loves, but I believe after recharging his batteries, Joe will be back in the public arena in some new and exciting form to continue his service.

In addition to his work in the local government, Joe has been active in youth sports, coaching Pee Wee football and Little League. I urge my colleagues to join with me in honoring Joe Jaskiewicz and all the wonderful work he has completed for the Town of Montville, Connecticut.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5855) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, last year I introduced H.R. 2972, the Creating American Jobs Through Foreign Capital Act. This legislation seeks to permanently reauthorize the EB-5 program. The EB-5 program al-

lows qualified foreign investors who create or save at least 10 full-time American jobs by making major investments in U.S. businesses to seek U.S. visas. The program, first established in 1990, has been continued as a short-term pilot program.

Last year the program created or saved more than 25,000 American jobs and generated \$1.25 billion in investment, according to the Association to Invest In the USA. For example, in the Second Congressional District in Washington state, this program has created least 800 jobs in Whatcom County alone. The EB-5 program is one of more than 20 immigrant investor programs around the world that are competing for capital investment. In the Asia-Pacific region, programs like EB-5 exist in Hong Kong, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore and Canada. As the United States more strongly embraces our role as an Asia-Pacific nation and looks to create jobs through exports to the region, we are competing with these countries, and many more around the world, for these investment dollars.

I am pleased that the Senate has included a two-year reauthorization of this program in Section 554 of its Homeland Security Appropriations bill. The Senate report highlighted that since its inception of this program in 1990 through 2011, USCIS estimates that a minimum of 43,280 jobs have been created and more than \$2,200,000,000 has been invested through the EB-5 program. Our economy cannot afford to do without these investments or these jobs.

I want to thank Chairman ADERHOLT and Ranking Member PRICE for working with me on this issue. And, even though this reauthorization is not included in the House bill, I would like to thank the Subcommittee as a whole for understanding the importance of this language and this reauthorization and I urge you to preserve the Senate reauthorization during conference committee.

TRIBUTE TO THE RETIREMENT OF
MR. JOHN FENTON, CEO,
METROLINK

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, rise to pay tribute to Southern California Regional Rail Authority Chief Executive Officer John Fenton, who is retiring this year.

John Fenton led efforts to enhance safety and instilled safety culture at Southern California Regional Rail Authority, commonly referred to as Metrolink. He hosted a summit on safety to facilitate the implementation of safety culture nationwide, was joined by over 60 members of the California Legislature to bring awareness to safety culture statewide, pioneered a curriculum for railroad safety with the University of Southern California's Viterbi School of Engineering and deployed the safest passenger rail cars available known as the Guardian Fleet across the Metrolink System.

John Fenton's leadership and commitment to Positive Train Control implementation in advance of the federal mandate were unwavering and he became a nationwide spokesperson on its significance to rail safety in the country for passenger and freight rail providers.

John Fenton brought a level of integrity, passion and tremendous enthusiasm to the position and was respected by railroad stakeholders such as the NTSB, rail unions and federal and state regulatory agencies.

John Fenton's dedication and perseverance led Metrolink to increase its ridership, thereby reducing traffic congestion and air emissions and providing Southern California commuters with a safe, reliable, efficient and cost-effective means to travel.

In the two years that John Fenton has led Metrolink, he has ushered in a new era of service that has included a 14 percent service expansion, the introduction of express trains, bike cars, quiet cars, service to sporting events throughout the region, and increased coordination with other regional transit providers including airports.

John Fenton's private sector railroad experience helped him introduce business oriented best practices that led to efficiencies in the agency that elevated Metrolink's performance and resulted in improved Metrolink reputation in the region to passengers, employees, stakeholders, rail industry partners and the news media.

John Fenton expanded a fuel conservation policy to save over 860,000 gallons of fuel annually, reducing costs to the agency and reducing idling, noise and air emissions from Metrolink facilities and was unwavering in his vigilant pursuit of additional operational efficiencies.

Under John Fenton's administration the agency pursued major capital projects including the Metrolink Service Expansion Program, Orange County Grade Crossing Safety Improvements, Glendale Corridor Grade Crossing Safety Improvements, Los Angeles Union Station Platform Improvements, and Perris Valley Line Expansion.

John Fenton brought his strong mid-west values from Indiana to all of his endeavors while embracing his role of "Johnnywood" with rock-star flair, as required by the unique Los Angeles culture.

John Fenton's departure to Florida is a loss to the Southern California region's railroading industry. He is leaving an admirable legacy as well as many friends and colleagues that will miss him.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Chair, I rise to oppose attempts to weaken energy efficiency standards for lighting that were included in the bipartisan Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. Plain and simple—these attempts to do away with energy efficiency standards will hurt our competitive advantage against China.

America's lighting industry has invested millions of dollars to manufacture new energy efficient incandescent light bulbs here in the United States. These bulbs produce the same type of light as the former bulbs but use 28 percent to 33 percent less energy. An amendment to prohibit enforcement of the energy efficiency standards is an attack on our domestic lighting industry. Denying the Department of Energy the power to enforce an existing law opens the door to the importation of non-compliant products from foreign manufacturers that will not only harm the investments made by American manufacturers but put American jobs at risk.

The current lighting efficiency standards are creating American jobs because the manufacturing of these light bulbs is done in the United States. Most of the operations producing less efficient lighting were moved offshore years ago. We are creating American jobs making better light bulbs that meet the new standards. The energy-efficient lighting industry currently employs more than 14,000 American workers. I do not want to send those jobs to China!

The light bulb has been a symbol of American ingenuity since the late 1800s. When Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, it revolutionized our economy and electricity around the world. If America wants to lead, we need to become more efficient. That is the way of the future.

Supporting America's energy-efficient lighting industry is about more than jobs. It's about saving money, saving each American household \$100 per year in the form of lower electric bills. I know my constituents want that \$100 in their pockets.

That is why I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing any amendment that would prohibit the Department of Energy from utilizing energy efficiency standards for lighting to help save money and energy while supporting U.S. manufacturing.

HONORING SCORE AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO SMALL BUSINESSES

HON. ALLEN B. WEST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, I realize that small business is essential for creating jobs in our nation. Small businesses are the engine of America's economy, and there is an organization that exists to help strengthen small businesses and assist them in achieving their dreams. That organization is SCORE. SCORE is a nonprofit that provides free business advice to anyone looking to start or grow a small business. With over 350 chapters across our nation, SCORE volunteers stand ready and willing to help all of those who want it.

As a strong supporter of all small businesses in our nation, I am proud to congratulate the South Palm Beach SCORE chapter in Florida for winning the United States Small Business Administration's National SCORE Chapter of the Year Award. South Palm Beach SCORE was chosen to receive this award thanks to the strong relationships they've built in their local small business community, the programs they have developed assisting veterans and young entrepreneurs, and

their efforts to expand the reach of their chapter to new entrepreneurs and small business owners.

South Palm Beach SCORE helped over 5000 small businesses in Fiscal Year 2011. South Palm Beach SCORE has also started a number of programs that have helped their community grow, including joining with Lynn University, Palm Beach State College, and Florida Atlantic University to assist with Veteran Affairs, Government Trade Shows, and Mentoring Business School students and alumni; forming a program with the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce to provide a 33-week course working with area students, ages 11–18, focused on successfully starting and operating a small business; and creating the Veterans Grant Program to help returning Iraq and Afghanistan vets start or grow their own business.

South Palm Beach SCORE members funded the program by donating over a quarter of a million dollars of their own money to get the program off the ground. The criteria for National SCORE Chapter of the Year award is based on demonstration of the chapter delivering quality, contributions to the community, client focus, and merit achievement.

To ensure small businesses' continued success, I will work to focus in the United States Congress on what is best for entrepreneurs, small business owners and their communities. This means providing SCORE with the funding they need to adequately assist those people who need it.

SCORE is an effective and efficient catalyst for job creation. Studies show for every \$1 appropriated to SCORE, \$57 flows into the federal treasury from SCORE clients. SCORE is a unique national organization serving the two great American ideals: entrepreneurial spirit and volunteerism. It is my hope the Federal Government tries to maintain SCORE's budget at \$7 million to let volunteer experts continue to help small business owners at no cost to them.

SCORE exists to help entrepreneurs achieve their dream of success and strengthen the economy of this great nation, and we need to support them in their efforts.

South Palm Beach SCORE chapter winning the Small Business Administration's National SCORE Chapter of the Year Award exemplifies the goal in meeting entrepreneurs' dreams and growing of economy.

MARKING THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL BERNIE FOWLER PATUXENT WADE-IN

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark the twenty-fifth Patuxent River Wade-In, begun by former Maryland State Senator Bernie Fowler in 1988. This year's wade-in will take place on June 10 at Jefferson Patterson Park in St. Leonard.

We rely on a multitude of measurements to take stock of our economic health, such as the Industrial Production Index, the Consumer Price Index, and the S&P 500 index. However, to take stock of the health of the Patuxent River—and, indeed, of our stewardship of the

Chesapeake Bay—there is no index more important than Bernie's annual "Sneaker Index." Bernie's sneakers have now been the leading non-scientific measure of the river's health for a quarter century.

Each year, in order to gauge the health and water quality of the Patuxent River, Bernie has waded into its water to measure its clarity, stopping at the point at which he can no longer see his sneakers. As a young man, he recalled being able to see them clearly when the water was already up to his chest—through as much as sixty inches of river water. When Bernie first waded in the river to measure in 1988, he could only get as far as his shins, recording only eight inches of water before his sneakers disappeared beneath the polluted waters. In 2011, Bernie measured this level at 31.25 inches—slightly lower than the previous year and much lower than the over-42 inch record in 2004. This is a sign that we still have much work to do.

I have had the honor of joining him, along with other Maryland elected officials, at the banks of the Patuxent for many years at this annual event. Throughout his career, Bernie has done much to draw attention to the health of the river and the Chesapeake Bay into which it flows. The Patuxent is the Chesapeake's only tributary to flow entirely through our State, and Marylanders feel a special responsibility to protect it for future generations.

Let us continue to follow in Bernie Fowler's footsteps and heed his call to conserve and

protect the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay, and let us leave our children and grandchildren a cleaner and clearer Patuxent and Chesapeake to enjoy and treasure.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5854) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to section 517 of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. That is because it would prevent the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related construction agencies from using project labor agreements (PLA) when they determine that they would benefit from doing so. If an agency decides that it is in their best interest to enter into a PLA, they should be given the ability to make that call.

Project labor agreements increase efficiency and quality of construction projects and are an effective tool for ensuring that large and complex projects are completed on time. They provide construction contractors with access to a highly skilled and well trained workforce and ensure that contractors comply with equal employment rules and environmental standards. And, workers have found that it protects their safety and wages. For these reasons, PLAs have been used in all 50 states and the District of Columbia; on the local, state, and federal level; and in the public and private sector.

You might have even heard of the Tappan Zee Bridge, Fort Drum, Walt Disney World and the Kennedy Space Center—all were built with project labor agreements. And any attempt to restrict even the consideration of project labor agreements where they would promote economic efficiency is simply the height of anti-union tactics getting in the way of good government.

There is an Executive Order that encourages agencies to use project labor agreements if it finds that an agreement would promote economic efficiency. During this time of fiscal restraint when the government must tighten its belt, it does not make sense to prohibit use of a proven business model that increases efficiency and keeps costs down. That is why I support the use of project labor agreements and am opposed to this anti-labor provision.