

The bravery and sacrifice displayed by Donnie Chizek during his service to our nation goes above and beyond what we are asked of as citizens of this country. I know that members of the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Donnie on his well deserved award and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF U.S.
MARINE CPL. NICHOLAS G.
XIARHOS

HON. BILL DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in honoring the service of U.S. Marine Corporal Nicholas G. Xiarhos—a loving son and brother, exceptionally dedicated soldier, and a constituent of mine.

On July 23, Nick died after being injured by a roadside explosive while serving in the Garmsir District, an area in the volatile region of southern Afghanistan. If ever there was an individual who went above and beyond to answer the call of service to his country, Nick was that man. He returned from a tour of duty in Iraq this past October only to change battalions so that he could be redeployed to Afghanistan in May. At the time of his death, Nick was serving with the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, and was scheduled to return home around Christmas.

Beloved and admired by his family, peers, fellow men and women in uniform, and his hometown community of Yarmouth, Massachusetts, 21-year-old Nick was the epitome of a true American hero. He eschewed being singled out for his achievements and admirable sacrifices, telling others that he was no different from the thousands of other Marines who shared the same mission. As he told his parents only two weeks before his death, he was living his dream while serving in Afghanistan despite the physical and emotional toll that combat takes on even the most seasoned soldiers.

Six feet tall, athletic, and muscular, Nick had a heart of gold that instinctively drew others to him. During his years at Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, he was dubbed “the mayor of DY” for his outgoing, amiable, friendly nature and popularity. As a senior, he received the “Does Most For Others” title—a well-deserved moniker that embodied how Nick approached relationships, his military service, and life in general. Upon returning from Afghanistan, Nick’s goal was to attend college and—following in his father, Lieutenant Steven Xiarhos’, footsteps—to become a police officer.

Nick’s life was one of immense promise, tragically ended too soon. As he is laid to rest tomorrow, I want to extend my deepest condolences to the Xiarhos family—his parents, Steven and Lisa; his younger brother, Alexander; and his twin sisters, Ashlynn and Elizabeth. While he will be truly missed by all those whose lives he touched, Nick’s memory and the sacrifice he made for our country will forever live on.

Thank you, Nicholas Xiarhos, for your service. May you rest in peace.

IN RECOGNITION OF WATCHMAN
NEE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the immense spiritual achievement of Watchman Nee, a great pioneer of Christianity in China.

Christianity Today magazine recently honored Watchman Nee as one of the 100 most influential Christians of the twentieth century. Watchman Nee died over thirty years ago but his life and work continue to influence millions of Protestant Christians in China. Today more than three thousand churches outside of China, including several hundred in the United States, look to him as one of their religious and theological leaders.

Watchman Nee was an astonishingly devoted and energetic man, which I think can be seen from a capsule summary of his life. He became a Christian in 1922. In the 1930s, he traveled to Europe and North America, where he delivered sermons and speeches. Later his sermons were collected and published as books. By the late 1940s, Nee had become the most influential Chinese Christian writer, evangelist, and church builder. In 1952, the Chinese government imprisoned Nee and many other Christian leaders for their faith. Nee was never released, though during the 1960s and 1970s several of his books continued to grow in influence and popularity, particularly in the United States, and his best-known book, *The Normal Christian Life*, sold over one million copies world-wide and became a twentieth-century Christian classic. In 1972 he died at the age of 71 in a labor farm; his few surviving letters confirm that he remained faithful to God until the end.

Madam Speaker, it is estimated that China has more than one hundred million Christians, and millions of them consider themselves the spiritual heirs of Watchman Nee. Millions more are rightly proud of the contribution Watchman Nee made to global Christianity—he was the first Chinese Christian to exercise an influence on Western Christians—and indeed of his contribution to world spiritual culture. It is sad that the works of Watchman Nee are officially banned in China—even as they are being discovered afresh by a new generation of Western Christians. It is my hope that Watchman Nee’s collected works can be freely published and distributed within China.

After Watchman Nee’s death, when his niece came to collect his few possessions, she was given a scrap of paper that a guard had found by his bed. What was written on that scrap may serve as Watchman Nee’s testament: “Christ is the Son of God Who died for the redemption of sinners and was resurrected after three days. This is the greatest truth in the universe. I die because of my belief in Christ. Watchman Nee.”

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF
LEANDER, TX

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the City of Leander and its staff for their great work within the community for the Adopt-a-Unit Program. The City of Leander adopted troops from the 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Hood, Texas through the Adopt-a-Unit program. The city offered support to the troops and their families with supplies, care packages and moral support during their deployment to Iraq over the last year.

I appreciate the work and dedication of the City of Leander staff and commend them for their commitment to the soldiers of the United States Army.

It is an honor to recognize the City of Leander for their great work.

PROTECTING THE SURVIVORS OF
OUR JUDICIAL OFFICIALS

HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am honored to bring to the floor the Judicial Survivors Protection Act of 2009. The bill would provide a limited six month period for incumbent Federal judges to opt into the Judicial Survivors’ Annuities System (JSAS) and begin contributing toward a survivors’ annuity for their spouses and dependent children.

The JSAS is a critical optional benefit for Federal judges. Currently, unlike the survivors of other Federal employees, judges’ spouses and dependent children receive no survivor income benefits unless the judge elects to participate. In addition, the judge must have specifically elected JSAS for a spouse to continue health insurance coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits program after the judge’s death.

The judges of our Federal judiciary frequently give up lucrative jobs with many benefits for the honor and privilege of serving on our judiciary. Allowing a JSAS open season is a small way to allow judges to provide for their families despite the financial sacrifice of accepting a Federal judgeship.

Judges are bound by their initial decision regarding contributing to JSAS for the remainder of their career. However, circumstances change, and while initially judges may have chosen not to opt into the program due to financial pressure at the time, conflicting priorities such as the need to pay the expense of a dependant education, or simply the failure to plan ahead, this leaves the survivors of forty percent of Article III and non-Article III judges at risk.

Currently only sixty percent of Article III and non-Article III judges participate in JSAS. This bill would provide those forty percent of active or senior Federal judges, who did not initially enroll in JSAS, a limited open season to enroll in the program.

To compensate for the Judge’s delay in opting into the program, new enrollees who previously declined to participate in JSAS would

pay an enhanced contribution rate of 2.75 percent of their salaries to preserve the financial integrity of the JSAS Fund. Should these new enrollees later retire from the bench, they, like all other retired judges participating in JSAS, will pay the contribution rate of 3.5 percent of their retirement salary.

Additionally, the bill would authorize Federal judges to voluntarily increase their contributions to JSAS in order to enhance the value of their survivors' annuities.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, this bill would carry a negligible cost as any impact on the JSAS system by the new enrollees would be entirely borne by the new enrollees.

Congress has previously authorized such a JSAS open season three times: in 1976, 1985 and 1992. It has been seventeen years since the last open season, and this bill is but a small step towards lightening what is often the financial burden of judicial public service.

The Senate unanimously passed this important legislation. I am proud to join the Senate and send this important measure to President Obama.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE
PASSING OF MR. YOSEMITE, NIC
FIORE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay honor and respect to one of my friends and heroes, Mr. Nic Fiore, who lived a full 88 years of life, and passed away on June 16, 2009 from pneumonia.

Nic was a legendary ski instructor and community leader who taught nearly 140,000 people to ski at Yosemite's Badger Pass Ski Area. Nic served in several different capacities in Yosemite for 57 years after first coming to Yosemite in 1947 from his hometown in Montreal, Canada. Nic originally came to Yosemite for one season but fell in love with the crowned jewel of America's national parks and stayed for the rest of his life, building community, friendship, and family in the area. He is survived by his daughters, Cindy and Nicole, and eight grandchildren.

In describing his experience moving to Yosemite from Canada in 1947, Nic said, "I had never been in love, but the feeling hit me like a ton of bricks. Like a bolt of lightning. Right then and there, down deep, in the corner of my heart, I said to myself, 'I doubt you'll ever leave this place.' And I never have."

In 1956, Nic was named director of the Yosemite Ski School, and in 1963 he was appointed director of the Yosemite High Sierra Camps. During this time, Nic also managed the Wawona and Glacier Point hotels among other concession facilities.

Many of the aspects of Yosemite and Badger Pass Ski Area that are most beloved by myself and families everywhere who have the privilege to visit and enjoy Yosemite National Park can be attributed to Nic's legacy. Nic was a visionary in making the Badger Pass Ski Area the family-oriented teaching ski facility that it is today by preserving old skiing tradition.

I can attest to what Nic's Yosemite colleagues have said about Nic's generosity of

heart, his ability to make everyone who met him feel as though they were his best friend, and his mastery of Yosemite. Nic had a special ability to share his passion and enthusiasm for skiing, and recreation with generations of visitors to Yosemite as well as the permanent Yosemite community.

The list of Nic's accomplishments is long. In 2006, Nic was chosen by the Yosemite Fund as their person of the year, and was designated as "Yosemite's Ambassador-at-Large." In January 2009, Nic was inducted into the California Outdoors Hall of Fame, an enshrinement award presented by the Sportsmen's Exposition. To be considered for this considerable award, nominees must have inspired thousands of Californians to take part in the great outdoors and must have taken part in an overriding range of adventures. I personally cannot think of a more qualified individual to fit that description than Nic.

Nic held the position of executive director of the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) Western Division. He was recognized as the "Most Valuable Ski Instructor" of PSIA in 1971. Nic also received the "Charlie Proctor Award" in 1986, which honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the sport of skiing in Northern California and Nevada. It is the highest award given by the Sierra Chapter of the North American Ski Journalists Association. Additionally, in 1987, Fiore was nominated for the U.S. Ski Hall of Fame, as well as received the "Outstanding Contributions to the Sport of Skiing" award.

In addition to all of these accomplishments, Nic was also an author, writing a best selling book, "So You Want to Ski" along with a newspaper column titled "Ski Tips by Nic Fiore."

Again, Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of my friend and Yosemite community builder Mr. Yosemite, Mr. Nic Fiore. Nic will be missed by many. His legacy in the Yosemite community will live on, as will his passion and enthusiasm for the sport of skiing.

CELEBRATING THE 120TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF BISHOP MUSEUM

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, August, 2009 marks the 120th anniversary of Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, the State of Hawai'i's Natural and Cultural History Museum. Founded more than a century ago, in the memory Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop by her husband, Charles Reed Bishop, Bishop Museum has contributed to the world's understanding of the natural and cultural history of the Pacific and Hawai'i. It has collected and preserved nearly 25 million scientific animal and plant specimens and 2.4 million cultural objects that together help tell the full story of Hawai'i and the Pacific.

Bishop Museum recently completed a major restoration of one of its original buildings, Hawaiian Hall. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Bishop Museum's Hawaiian Hall has traditionally housed Hawai'i's most sacred and beloved artifacts. With its volcanic stone exterior and extensive use of native koa wood, Hawaiian Hall is considered a masterwork of late Victorian museum design.

With this important renovation, hundreds of thousand visitors and local residents will enter the world of Hawai'i. They will hear the oral tradition of oli and mo'olelo. They will experience Hawai'i's deep connection between its natural and cultural worlds. Bishop Museum has served as an essential repository and education institution for over a century.

In honor of this important anniversary and the major restoration of Hawaiian Hall, Congressman ABERCROMBIE and I introduced H. Res. 541, which we are hoping will pass the House in the near future. I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the important efforts of the Museum and in celebrating the 120th anniversary of its founding with the restoration and reopening of its Hawaiian Hall. Mahalo!

BILL TO CLOSE OFFSHORE
REINSURANCE TAX LOOPHOLE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to come before the House to introduce legislation ending the use of excessive affiliate reinsurance by foreign insurance groups to strip their U.S. income into tax havens, avoid tax, and gain a competitive advantage over American companies. In the past, I have offered a number of bills to limit offshore tax avoidance. Today's bill follows on that trend but focuses specifically on one area of the financial services sector.

The financial services industry has, like all us, experienced a tough year with the economic upheaval. As businesses realign, merge, and in some cases, cease operations, the advantages of a no- or low-tax jurisdiction from which to operate is tempting. The benefits of being headquartered in a tax haven can be quite significant for a company with investment income over long periods of time. Use of affiliate reinsurance allows foreign-based companies to shift their U.S. reserves and their investment income overseas into tax havens, thereby avoiding U.S. tax.

The President has recently suggested a number of proposals tightening tax rules for U.S.-based companies operating overseas. Those proposals deserve a thorough review to assess their merits. But before we consider cracking down on the foreign earnings of U.S. companies, we should make sure we are taxing the earnings of foreign groups that do business in the United States the same way we do for those based here. Ending the tax advantage for foreign-based insurance groups from use of affiliate reinsurance was even a platform issue for candidate Obama last year.

There is no doubt that there is a legitimate role for reinsurance. It is a fundamental business technique for risk management and is to be fostered. However, reinsurance among affiliates can serve other purposes as well, including tax avoidance. Just as Congress and Treasury have attempted to measure what is legitimate in debt transactions between affiliates, there have been previous attempts to address the problem of excessive reinsurance between related entities. Unfortunately, as recent data shows, those attempts have been unsuccessful.

Since 1996, the amount of reinsurance sent to offshore affiliates has grown dramatically,