EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE CAREER OF MICHAEL J. CARROLL FROM CHESTER COUNTY, PA

HON. JIM GERLACH
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael J. Carroll, Chester County, Pennsylvania, on his retirement after his outstanding service and career in law enforcement, most recently as Chief of Police of West Goshen Township.

Chief Carroll served in the United States Air Force from 1961 to 1965, participating in the USAF Honor Guard in the funeral of President John F. Kennedy. After leaving the military, he served in the Tredyffrin Police Department, the Chester County Detective Bureau, and the West Whiteland Police Department before becoming Chief of the West Whiteland Police Department in October 1988.

Chief Carroll has served as staff instructor with the Delaware County Police Academy, has been a guest lecturer at institutions such as West Chester University and the United States Naval Academy, and is a graduate of the FBI Academy. In addition to serving on the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee of Wilmingon University and Alvernia University, Chief Carroll is Past President of the Chester County Police Chiefs Association, Past President of the Police Chiefs Association of South-eastern Pennsylvania, Past President of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, and Past President of the International Chiefs of Police Association, and he has benefittingly been inducted into the International Police Association Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, in light of his years of exemplary service to his community and litany of sterling accomplishments too long to record, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Chief Michael J. Carroll for his invaluable contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of West Whiteland Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania and our entire nation.

HONORING MS. SHIRLEY THOMAS
UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. DAVID SCOTT
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize a hardworking, dedicated member of my staff, Ms. Shirley Thomas as she prepares to retire from a long and distinguished career of public service. Shirley has committed herself to this great institution for over 20 years, serving the U.S. Senate for 13 years and the U.S. House of Representatives for 9 years. She has been an essential part of my own staff since almost my first day in the 13th District of Georgia.

Shirley was born on February 27, 1953 in Western Kentucky as the eldest of four children. She remains, to this day, a deeply religious woman, devoted to her family and friends. After attaining her certificate in Business Administration from the University of Illinois Business and Clerical Training School, Shirley stayed on to work for the University for almost 8 years. She then relocated to Houston, Texas to work for Dresser Industries, where she primarily worked in the accounting department.

Unfortunately, in 1988, Shirley suffered tremendous injuries after being hit by a car. To recover from her injuries, Shirley came to live in Atlanta, Georgia, where she began her career in public service. Shirley first worked for former Senator Sam Nunn for 8 years until his retirement, and for his successor, Senator Max Cleland for 5 years.

I will remain forever grateful that Shirley chose to help me serve my own constituents. As a Constituent Services Representative and my Senior Social Security and Medicare Advisor, she worked tirelessly with those citizens most in need of my support. As my district expanded, she began serving as my Office Manager as well as providing administrative support. I am especially thankful for her work in organizing several of my annual district events, including our annual Health Fair and Jobs Fair. Her experience in working with state, federal, and private officials has had an incredible impact on the success of these events. This same experience was crucial when my district was redistricted in 2005. She has been with me for the past nine years, through the historic changes in Medicare and our healthcare delivery system, and in that time has helped countless residents access benefits that are so vital to their well being.

I am extremely proud and thankful for all her hard work. It is with great sadness that I, along with the rest of my staff, wish her a fond farewell as she retires from my office. Shirley, please accept my prayers and best wishes for your future. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support and dedication through our many years together.

May God bless you.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID LERTZMAN’S TEACHING CAREER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the career accomplishments of my cousin, David Lertzman, who retired this year after 41 years as a teacher and coach in the Los Angeles Unified School District. A native of California, David began his career in 1970 and would go on to teach and coach at numerous high schools in Los Angeles.

David's academic career revolved around teaching World History, U.S. History, and Physical Education. His passion for education and history led him to participate in a local State University Education Department program that prepared students for a career teaching U.S. History. This program was highly successful, and David would watch many of his former students go on to have distinguished careers in teaching and coaching.

In addition to his teaching accomplishments, David had a very successful coaching career. He coached football, boys gymnastics and girls volleyball. In doing so, he reached many significant milestones. At Hamilton High School in Los Angeles, he holds the record for most wins in school history for the football team and the boys gymnastics team, while at Birmingham High School he holds the record for most wins in school history for girls volleyball. He also served as a founding member of the Los Angeles Volleyball Coaches Association and the Los Angeles Football Coaches Association, and the President of the Los Angeles Coaches Association.

As a former teacher myself, I want to join my cousin Lynne, who has been David's wife for 36 years, their two daughters Stephanie and Carolyn, and their son-in-law, Scott in congratulating him on such a successful career. Teachers hold a special place in our society, and David Lertzman has proven to be at the top of his profession. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF CW3 GEORGE ANDREWS (“ANDY”) HOWES

HON. JOE DONNELLY
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to solemnly honor Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CWO) George Andrews (“Andy”) Howes for his dedication and service to the United States of America. CW3 Howes was listed as missing in action on January 10, 1970 when the helicopter he was co-piloting disappeared in Vietnam. He was just 19 years old.

The remains of CW3 Howes were returned in 1988; however, they were not identified until 2010 through an advance in DNA technology. Nearly 41 years after his disappearance, CW3 Howes’ surviving family was notified that Andy was found at last. He could finally receive the honor and recognition he earned for his service and for his ultimate sacrifice.

Andy Howes was born in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1950 and his family moved to Knox, Indiana in 1956. He graduated from Knox High School in 1968 and enlisted in the U.S. Army that September. He received his wings in August 1969 and was then deployed to Vietnam.

CW3 Howes flew helicopter gunships while assigned to the 71st Aviation Company, 16th Aviation Group and America Division. He flew with the Firebirds, a distinguished and decorated gunship unit based in Chu Lai, South
HONORING MR. BARRY CICERO
FOR HIS INSTALLATION AS JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION FIRST DIVISION OF ILLINOIS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has given so much to his country and his community, Mr. Barry Cicero. This Sunday, July 31, Mr. Cicero will be installed as Junior Vice Commander of the American Legion First Division of Illinois, while Derrick David Stinson will be installed as Commander and Lawrence Nohr as Senior Vice Commander. The First Division is one of three divisions of the American Legion in Illinois and includes all of Cook County with a population of more than 5 million people. Mr. Cicero, and the other officers being installed, have demonstrated impressive dedication to their country and the American Legion, and are certainly deserving of this honor.

Barry Cicero served in the United States Army and has been an active member of the American Legion for 19 years. His home post is the Robert E. Couless, Jr. Post 1941 in La Grange where he has been active on many projects including chairing Fall Fest, the Legion's popular fundraiser for local veterans. He has held many leadership positions during his time as a member of the American Legion, including Commander of Post 1941 and Commander of the 5th District. He held that position for two terms, a rarity in the American Legion. In addition, Mr. Cicero has been very active in giving to his church and community. Being installed as Commander of a Division within the American Legion is such a special occasion because it means he will be installed as the Commander of that Division within two years. Mr. Cicero's installation is also special because he will be the first Legionpost commander from Illinois to become a Division Commander. I am happy to see all of his hard work and dedication bear fruit as he was chosen by his colleagues to be Junior Vice Commander.

I am certain Barry Cicero will provide exemplary service as Junior Vice Commander, and his leadership will bring a prosperous year for the American Legion's First Division and all of the posts within it. Please join me in honoring Mr. Barry Cicero and may he continue to be an asset to Illinois veterans and his community.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOE MORTON
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the work of Alabama State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Joe Morton, who has been a leader in education for 42 years and will officially retire on August 31, 2011. Dr. Morton grew up in Pleasant Grove and graduated from Hueytown High School. He then received his B.S. degree from Auburn University in 1969 and later his M.A. in 1973 and Ph.D. in 1974 from The University of Alabama.

Upon graduation from Auburn, he began a life of dedicated service to the field of education. He worked his way up from a school teacher to the superintendent of the Sumter County Board of Education. He is presumed to be the youngest person in the history of the state to be a local superintendent of education at the age of 27.

On July 13, 2004, he was selected by Governor Bob Riley to be the State Superintendent of Education. Along with a long-standing love of education, he has always held to the belief that Alabama students have the capability to compete with top students from around the world.

In order to engage students' interest in reading, he created and co-founded the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI). The ARI has since become a national model and has helped the National Assessment of Educational Process in 2007 achieve the largest gains recorded in the nation. In 2010, AMSTI was recognized by the Center for Excellence in Education as the model of laboratory education in the United States.

Other educational programs he helped create and co-founded were the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) and the Alabama Statewide Summer School for Classrooms, Educators and Students Statewide (ACCESS). At the request of Governor Riley, Dr. Morton also chaired the State Belt Study Commission after a tragic 2006 school bus accident in Huntsville. The Commission's research into school bus safety and seatbelts is considered to be the most extensive in the country.

In 2009, he also launched First Choice, a plan to combat high school dropout rates by the number of students. First Choice has already helped deliver a greater number of well prepared high school graduates.

As a result of Dr. Joe Morton's achievement in education, Alabama had the fourth largest increase in the number of students who graduated from high school in the nation. His achievements also paved the way for Alabama to lead the nation in student enrollment gains and Advanced Placement exam scores. Above all, under Dr. Morton's leadership as Alabama's Superintendent of Education, the state has achieved its greatest overall educational rating in its history.

On behalf of the people of Alabama—especially the thousands of school children who will reap a lifetime of rewards because of his leadership—I wish to extend congratulations to Dr. Joe Morton for a job well done and for his contributions to better the education and the futures of many Alabamians. My colleagues in the Alabama delegation join me in wishing him and his family the very best as they start a new chapter in their lives.
Kay: “come now, let us reason together”
Praying for reasoning and that people will realize what they are doing. We must live in the solution—we know what the problem is. I’m glad you’re there, GEORGE MILLER!

Brian: I think you know what needs to be done.
I hope my colleagues do too.

Sue: The right won’t compromise and the President has already given away far too much. He needs to take a stand for the American people and sign an executive order invoking the 14th Amendment.

Felix: Well, what do we hold that they want? Settle on the debt in exchange for, say, national CCW reciprocity?

KeKe: I’m concerned with the health bill as well as curving the expenses for colleges and bringing jobs into our states!

Gayle: Bipartisan compromise would look like the Congress has finally restored some semblance of sanity to the process of government. It would include finally taxing corporations and cutting subsidies to those who have less. This would, and it would NOT include cutting Social Security programs and other services to the elderly and most at-risk populations. Is that too much to ask? I think not.

Gail: Very willingly I opt for a ‘compromise’ ceiling NOT touching either social security or Medicare.. and, in addition, pushing for closing those tax loop holes for the rich. It amazes me how little conscience the Republicans (both moderate and Tperers) have with regard to a patriotic generosity towards those who have less.

Pamela: First of all, social security, etc., are NOT entitlements. We’ve paid in to them. We’re not asking for a hand out, we want the money we put into the system. Stop them treating us like children looking for a handout. And I don’t see why the President has to be so PC about how we got into this! Lay it right at Bush’s doorstep.

Nick: It would close the tax loopholes for corporations and the wealthy, it would reform the tax code to a graduated flat tax, it would end the income caps on SSI, and would modify Medicare by extending the age of eligibility to 67, adding small ($20) co-pays for medical services, and would extend the debt limit until 2014.

Nick: It would also close any and all tax benefits that U.S. Corporations receive by using overseas labor.

Anne: Quite honestly I think we need to reverse Bush’s tax cuts and get out of three wars as quickly as possible.

Daniel: The President should use the 14th Amendment option and stop trying to exploit this “debate” for an opening to cut the social safety net. Anyone who votes for a bill—and both the Reid and Boehner plans have these things—deserves huge spending cuts in place during the longest unemployment crisis since the Great Depression is not getting my money, time, or vote in 2012. Anyone who votes for a bill that contains provisions for a “super congress” panel that could, say, force through massive spending cuts to SS, Medicare, or Medicaid too quickly for the public to notice is not getting my money, time, or vote in 2012. Any Democrat who attacks the New Deal or Great Society policy template in any way is not getting my money, time, or vote in 2012. Ideas and principles matter. People who call us “sancionmious,” they think what we say and do matters.

Karen: Tax the rich. Close the loopholes. Mega-corps & financiers need to pay their fair share. Reinvest in the United Stated and their people. Or they will not reinvest their trust in a Congress that has forgotten ‘by the People, for the People. Tell them they are close to committing treason, against the true government of these United States: We the People. We will not be distracted or forget this time! We expect Action!!

Pamela: There is no compromise at this time. Nor should there be. The full faith and credit of the US should not be held hostage to the budget. Simply raise the debt ceiling and then consider the budget as a separate issue . . . which it is. And THEN eliminate the Bush tax cuts.

Clark: As in the past, a REAL compromise would be a clean debt limit bill, and then the parties can slog it out over the deficit reduction later. The biggest help would be putting most of the unemployed and underemployed back to work, that will whittle down the problem nicely!

Robert: Cut enough to get the deal done . . . there is plenty that could be reduced in our bloated budget. Deal with tax overhauls separately, you don’t have enough time to broadly revamp that end of the business in a few days. The Pres needs to drop his politically motivated insistence that the ceiling is raised high enough to avoid dealing with this again until after the election. And would some- one please read the 14th amendment and set clear there is nothing to invoke? It is said to hear “CNN sound bite” educated numskulls calling for something they have never read and have no context about how it originally came to be, or what it was trying to address (Civil War era apparently not a context taught subject in this country . . . ). GET ‘ER DONE GEORGE!!

Ulrich: Stop the WARS!!

Nic: Social Security should be self-sustaining and not redistribute wealth. The average American should receive benefits equal to their inflation adjusted contributions, regardless of income. Same with Medicare. The tax code should be simplified. Annual budgets should not run deficits. And don’t raise taxes—cut non-essential services. That’s it.

Ted: Saving money and lives get us out of the wars now! I don’t understand the Republicans, they won a huge victory in this debate, no new taxes, no shared responsibility. The Tea party Republicans, are making a mess of this. The President has been very reasonable and willing to compromise. I hope he will use the 14th amendment, section 4 to save our economy and raise the debt c. That’s my opinion!!

Maureen: The President is trying to deal with people who do not know or respect the meaning of the word “compromise.” For the moment, use the 14th Amendment option. For the long term, raise upper income tax rates, close corporate tax loopholes, decrease defense budget (reduce our overseas presence and military ops). Social Security (insurance, not entitlement!) is not a part of this equation, but what is the big deal about simply raising the ceiling on the FICA-taxable compensation?

Tysen: It’s obvious we have a revenue problem as well as a spending problem. Put out a message and scrimp it louder than the GOP.

You have the facts to back it up.

Tony: A bipartisan compromise. Raise taxes on the wealthiest. Cut what we have to, a bit from everywhere, raise the debt ceiling as there is no alternative apparently. How about for a year rather than six months or two in 2012. In other words, give for the greater good.

Rick: It’s time for the Democrats to show some courage in this . . . time for a compromise and to ignore the fundamental puri- nity of the freshman Republicans.

The solution is: A one page bill that will increase the debt limit.

Then . . . a bi-partisan committee to review where Government waste is. I’m sick of the lobbying of the special interests that pay into the superpac for their agendas. The people understand this and are tired of being convinced to. No elected representative . . . should be enticed with money and perks for their own purposes. GEORGE . . . I have LOTS of ideas . . . and you have probably received them all. Sorry you’re not my Congress- man anymore.

Dave: The President has already given away TOO MUCH, in the name of bi-partisan- ship! Any and all giveaways end up as bigger tax breaks for Republicans’ Corporate friends anyway. Enough with “compromising!” Invoke the 14th and be done with it!

James: A bipartisan compromise on the debt ceiling would ensure long-term sustainability in it WITHOUT ANY STRINGS ATTACHED, just like the nearly trillion dollar bailout of the financial system in October of 2008!

Tom: Simplifying the tax code by eliminating some tax breaks might be good for the country. That might be part of a bill that both par- ties could accept. You’re not really raising taxes in the way, in some sense. Another problem is that large corporations that own a lot of land that they can sit on for a century are getting a free ride on some property taxes, due to assessed values lagging behind inflation, which is unsustainable in the long run. Cutting foreign aid when it isn’t really in American in- terests might help reduce spending a little. We really don’t get much appreciation from for- eigners for all the help we give them, instead they seem to resent us. Probably we should disengage ourselves from involvement in for- eign affairs to some extent.

Keynes should be read in the original, it’s perfectly clear from his books that government needs to be lender of last resort in an eco- nomic crisis, which he proved in the 1930s. There is some value in the Austrian school of economics, but their doctrines can lead to dis- aster, as proved by the Hoover policies that led to the Great Depression in the 1930s. Keynes showed the way out of that mess. Government spending on American infras- tructure is absolutely necessary to get us out of the current crisis, even if we have to borrow money to do it.

Carol: A clean Debt Ceiling increase. A one pager.

Cathy: Compromise is what statesmen and stateswomen do! We must move forward with balanced cuts and revenue building that does not stop job growth or hurt the poor, elderly, our youth or our vets . . . it must be modest over decades—this is what makes sense. Close the IRS loopholes, cut waste, reform entitlements so they are healthy—these things can not be done overnight—there is no silver bullet—we must be able to rebuild our economy intelligently and calmly.

Bonnie: I trust that you will represent us well on this issue! I’m so worried for those in our country who have the weakest voice.
Mike: Clean debt ceiling bill. Negotiate the rest in appropriations with an eye toward balancing cuts and revenue increases. No raising eligibility requirements. No benefit reductions. Means testing, possibly. Perhaps raise SS cap beyond $106,000.

Jean: Perhaps it would simply raise the debt ceiling, and has been done so many times in the past, without including the other crap that the Tea Party idiots are so against. Then work on THAT compromise, which will cut spending AND raise taxes . . . especially on the rich to add to their fair share. Or is that too easy?

Deborah: After the reports of multi billion dollar profits from big oil this week it is time to share with the government across the board . . . The timing of these earnings is not exactly ideal for the Republicans in Congress.

Debbie: What is the big deal on the debt ceiling, really? Why can’t it be taken care of as it has been in the past? Yes, I know we are swimming in debt and yes, I know it has to be reined in, but please, please, please not on the backs of our elderly citizens. Does no one in the Tea Party have a mother or father who have social security and medicare as their only source of income and healthcare? I find the Tea Party’s newly elected House members to be arrogant, self-serving and short-sighted.

Also, is every wealthy American a job producer? The Republican party seems to think so, because tell it, raising taxes on the wealthy will limit job growth; there are so many loopholes for the wealthy, that they pay only a fraction of their assessed taxes as it is. Washington is broken and seems beyond fixing, short of ditching everybody up there and starting over again, and I know that’s not a fix either.

Jane: There are not enough taxes that could possibly be collected to pay off our debt! Just stop the spending! Obama is running this country into the ground! Wake up people unless you like the idea of losing everything. Not hard to figure out.

Stacey: A bipartisan balanced budget would: (1) pass a clean increase to the debt ceiling (NO riders or deals attached). (2) Increase in revenues by increasing the tax brackets to pre-Reagan levels. OR by making a 9% flat tax for NO deductions. (3) Reduce spending by scaling back on foreign wars. (4) Reducing Washington waste, Senators and Representatives pay own way after leaving office like ordinary citizens (they’ll collect SS and Medicare too). (5) Keep Social Security and Medicare intact, stop Gov’t from borrowing from these programs. The Gov’t MUST REPAY, all monies borrowed from SS since Reagan’s tenure. (6) Stop subsidizing Big Oil or other conglomerates. (7) Follow California’s lead and Congress and Senate does not get paid unless a balanced budget is passed into law by June 30th. Otherwise they work for free until the job is done. No back pay if budget passed after June 30th.

Mike: You may ask, “How has the country fared during the recent crises in the region?” Morocco has largely avoided the tensions, confrontations, and violence common to other countries. There have been few disturbances in the country; and demonstrations for better governance, more transparency, and jobs have been largely peaceful and constructive.

Ties between the Moroccan people and the King are quite strong and it is this bond that supports the partnership that the King has called for in the process to reform the constitution through a consultative process and national referendum—steps unheard of in other parts of the Arab Middle East and North Africa.

Recently, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Taieb Fassi Fihri, visited the United States to talk about the reform process in Morocco, and to consult with United States government officials about how to bring greater stability, security, development, and democracy to the region. He met with senior officials in the White House and State Department. On March 23, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met with the Foreign Minister to discuss continuing actions to promote reform and enhance economic, political, and social development in Morocco and the broader region.

As Secretary Clinton remarked, “We also look forward with great optimism to further deepening our strong and strategic partnership in working with Morocco on so many issues.”

Among the areas discussed with the Foreign Minister were cooperation on resolving the Western Sahara conflict and promoting Human Rights.

With regard to the Western Sahara, the Secretary reiterated that the Obama Administration policy is consistent with that of the two previous administrations; and that the Moroccan autonomy proposal for resolving the conflict is “serious, real, and credible.” The Foreign Minister provided the U.S. government with an update on recent progress in promoting Human Rights and was advised by the State Department that the new reforms were largely satisfactory and met U.S. government conditions.

Among the key changes already launched by Morocco in December 2010 are new and independent institutions and collateral mechanisms to promote human rights in all areas of Morocco, including the Sahara, protecting whistle blowers, providing authority to bring charges against human rights violators, and setting up new channels for reporting human rights abuses. Additionally, a stronger level of human rights protections are included in the constitutional reforms proposed by the King in his speech of March 9, 2011.

From an international reporting perspective, the new process adopted by Morocco will link the new Moroccan Human Rights institutions with the various Special Rapporteurs of the UN Human Rights Commission.

Unfortunately, others who either lack this information or chose to ignore it are supporting a monitoring proposal that ignores the core issues of the Western Sahara conflict and promoting and respecting the rights of the refugees held in the camps in Tindouf, Algeria. The proposal does nothing to address much
more serious issues at stake in Western Sahara concerning terrorism, and trafficking in persons, guns, drugs and other contraband. Morocco has met the State Department’s criteria for enhanced human rights protection and reporting, and should be applauded for taking this initiative as part of its continuing reform process and desire to improve the lives of all Moroccans, including the Western Sahara. Morocco is working hard to become the standard bearer for progress, reform, and development in the region. We should do all we can to support these vital efforts.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COAST GUARD TRAINING CENTER PETALUMA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride today to honor Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

Originally known as Two Rock Ranch Station, the 876-acre site was purchased by the U.S. Army for $97,377 in 1942 and used as an electronic intercept station in World War II. There were two officers and 45 enlisted men assigned to it. Two Rock’s use was expanded during the Vietnam War to include training, with a re-created Vietnamese village.

The Coast Guard took ownership of the facility in 1971, renaming it “Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma” and transferring the Submarine Schools, Storekeeper School, and Radioman School from New York. Since that time, two barracks have been built (Steadman Hall and Horsley Hall) as well as 15 duplex housing units to provide affordable housing to the workforce. Several other buildings for use in training were also constructed (Bauer Building, Juliet-Nichols Building, and Haley Hall). The current replacement value of the facility is close to $245 million.

During the 1990s, Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma was threatened with closure twice, but each time it was saved. The local community rallied in support, and I was able to work with them and with Coast Guard officials to keep this important facility open.

Today, the Center is home to seven “A” schools for electronics, technician, food service specialist, health service technician, information system technician, operation specialist, storekeeper and Yeoman. There are also 40 “C” schools and a Chief Petty Officer Academy. With a permanently assigned cadre of 500 active duty, civilian, and contractor staff, the facility supports more than 15,000 students per year.

Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma truly embodies its vision: To be a world leader in valid and reliable performance-based training; to be the best place to live and work in the Coast Guard; to be the best and most efficient steward of resources (money and property) in the Coast Guard training system; and to be the most environmentally-friendly Coast Guard base in the world. Having recently attended an event to throw the switch on solar panels that now provide the Center’s electric power, I have seen first-hand how serious this vision is.

Mr. Speaker, Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma is important to the local community and important to our country. Please join me in congratulating the Coast Guard on the facility’s 40th anniversary and wishing it many more years of service.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 2587, PROTECTING JOBS FROM THE GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE ACT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, despite the bill’s colorful title, the Protecting Jobs from Government Interference Act (H.R. 2587) is a blatant attempt to declaw the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and weaken the rights of American workers. Created in 1935 by the enactment of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), the NLRB oversees the process by which employees form unions and enforces fair labor practices by prohibiting labor practices committed by private sector employers and unions. H.R. 2587 would strip the NLRB’s ability to punish businesses for unlawfully relocating or dissolving jobs in retaliation for union organization, and thus eliminate the NLRB’s only meaningful enforcement tool to protect working Americans under the National Labor Relations Act.

H.R. 2587 was authored by Representative Tim Scott of South Carolina to prevent the NLRB’s ongoing case against the Boeing Company for allegedly violating federal labor laws by opening a non-union passenger plane production facility in South Carolina, rather than in the state of Washington, from moving forward. According to the NLRB, it has evidence that Boeing intentionally moved its facilities to a non-union state in retaliation against unionized workers in Washington. By law, employers may move their facilities to non-union states, but it is illegal for employers to retaliate against employees for exercising their federally-protected right to strike. Whether or not Boeing’s actions were illegal is a matter to be decided, but not by politicians.

While millions of Americans are struggling to find employment, the Protecting Jobs from Government Interference Act would neither create nor protect jobs as the title claims. On the contrary, H.R. 2587 would weaken American workers’ rights and reduce the number of U.S. jobs by legalizing company reprisals against unions through the dissolution or transfer of jobs to non-union sites elsewhere in the United States and, even more worrisome, somewhere overseas.

As a stalwart advocate for American workers, I cannot support efforts that would take away an important tool in helping to ensure that employers do not violate the law by retaliating against unionized workers. Our nation is stronger when workers join together and bargain for a better life, and when employers respect those rights. To that end, I have long supported efforts in Congress to protect and strengthen the right of American workers in every industry to collective bargaining. While I imagine the dispute between the NLRB and the Boeing Company will be worked out, in the meantime, the bill would interfere with important legal protections for union workers that are already in place. For these reasons, I am strongly opposed to H.R. 2587.

THE HONOR FLAG—10TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 ATTACKS

HON. TED POE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in less than one month, Americans will observe the 10th anniversary of the September 11th terror attacks. Those who witnessed the events of September 11th will always remember that day and what they were doing. It’s like those of us that were alive when President Kennedy was assassinated. We remember that day; we remember what we were doing. And the old timers, they remember Pearl Harbor and what they were doing on December 7, 1941. September 11th is a day that we as a Nation should always remember because it reminds us of the preciousness of this Nation and her belief in freedom and liberty. It is something that is without a doubt worth preserving. As Americans, we honor those who were with us on that fateful day, it is even more important that we remember the 3,000 individuals that lost their lives that day. Many who lost their lives were heroes trying to rescue those trapped by the attacks. When those Twin Towers were set aflame, those volunteers, those firefighters, those emergency medical technicians, those police officers, they rushed as hard as they could to get to that terror from the sky. As a result of their heroism, many got to live another day.

There are countless stories of the selfless bravery which occurred on 9/11, how Americans reacted extraordinarily in order to rescue one and other. In the face of attack, we pulled through with a remarkable spirit of unity and compassion that swept through our country.

Shortly after the tragic September 11, 2001 attacks on our great Country, Americans all over the world raised up “old glory” in patriotic understanding of the events which had just befallen our country. The American Flag has always been a symbol of bringing our Nation together in good times or bad. One of these many flags was the symbol of our Nation’s perseverance, was the Flag which was flown over Ground Zero. Still today this flag continues to fly, all around this great Nation in support of our heroes, because of Texas Patriot, Chris Heisler.

In the aftermath of September 11th, Chris Heisler, like many other Americans felt compelled to take action after witnessing his country come under attack. When Chris was gifted this patriotic flag by Texas House of Representatives, he helped organize one of the longest police motorcades in the history of the United States to honor this. The American flag is a symbol to revere, respect, and honor and Chris’ profound respect for America’s symbol should be commended.

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, patriotism surged in the United States. Many young men and women enlisted in order to help fight the war on terrorism. Chris Heisler was part of this movement, and at the age of 34 he put his business career on hold to enlist in the U.S. Army. While serving his country, Chris carried his revered flag with him to Kuwait, Qatar, and Iraq so it could fly with soldiers in combat zones.

Soon soldiers began to refer to this flag as one of honor, as a result the flag is now named the United States Honor Flag. Ten
years later, The United States Honor Flag continues to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in the line of duty protecting the freedoms we all hold dear. The United States Honor Flag has been to many places including Ground Zero in New York, the Pentagon, National Fallen Firefighter Foundation Memorial, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, Presidential Libraries, VA Hospitals, and to countless sporting events. The flag has flown for more than 1,000 fallen soldiers and at funerals for police officers and firefighters. Recently it went to Space! It traveled on board the shuttle Atlantis' final mission. It is one single flag. There's a lot of security details involved in transporting the U.S. Honor Flag. It is kept in a secure case. The Department of Homeland Security has sewn microchips into the seam of the flag to verify its authenticity. The flag is constantly traveling. It is a national treasure that is respected and guarded.

The betterment in our country often originates from the efforts of just one person. The establishment of the Honor Flag serves as an important reminder of the daily sacrifices our Nation’s heroes make, and recognizes the freedoms of Old Glory. In recognition of Chris Heisler’s patriotism, in remembrance of the tragic events on September 11, 2001 and for those who continue to fight to preserve our liberty, I am proud to salute Chris Heisler for his loyalty to America, and to the United States Flag.

We should remember those that died, those that got to live, and those that continue to fight to preserve our liberties. The flag is constantly traveling. It is a national treasure that is respected and guarded.

Pittsburgh-native Dr. Pearle graduated from the University of Miami in 1952 with a Bachelor’s degree in biology. He then attended the Illinois Optometric College where he received his doctorate in optometry in 1955. He then continued his education at the Illinois College of Optometry, earning his Doctor of Optometry degree in 1961. He served in the U.S. Navy for a few years and after World War II he worked for several eye care companies, rising to a management position with Lee Optical in Dallas. Eager to start his own business he left the company in 1961 to open his first store. More than 40 years and 675 company and franchise stores later, Pearle Vision remains a trusted household name with locations across the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico. His contributions to the world of optometry are world renowned. Dr. Pearle’s vision was to change how people were fitted for their eyewear. Initially, eye patients would visit an optometrist for a medical procedure but Dr. Pearle made it a more fashionable purchase and experience. Customers were able to choose from a vast array of frames to choose from. Pearle Vision has boasted that it is the first nationwide optical retailer and it is all thanks to the vision of Dr. Pearle himself. I knew his wife, Elsie Cohen who was a dear friend of mine. Dr. Pearle is survived by three of his four children, 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Stanley Pearle. I appreciate the dedication and innovative changes he made to optometry. He will truly be missed.

ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NASA Langley Aerospace Research Summer Scholars (LARSS) PROGRAM

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the NASA Langley Aerospace Research Summer Scholars program. In 1986, under the leadership of Dr. Sam Massenbarg along with the support of senior leadership from NASA Langley Headquarters, the Langley Aerospace Research Summer Scholars (LARSS) program was established. This program was designed to create internship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students and ultimately provide a pipeline of experienced graduates into NASA’s workforce. Today, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and commemorate the program’s 25th anniversary.

The LARSS program, NASA’s oldest year round internship program providing high school, undergraduate, and graduate students hands on research experience working side-by-side with NASA engineers and scientists. This program was “the first of its kind” and has served as a model for other NASA centers.

During the 25 year history of the LARSS program, more than 4,500 competitively selected students from all over the United States and the U.S. territories have participated in the program. The program began with a class of 20 in 1986 and has since grown to include more than 200 students annually. This year the program received its largest applicant pool with nearly 800 applicants applying over the fall, spring, and summer sessions.

The LARSS program has been benefiting engineering undergraduate and graduate students for 25 years. Many of these students have joined NASA’s workforce and have taken a significant role in preserving NASA’s leadership in aeronautics and space science. This program has been a catalyst for promoting careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics especially in the African-American, Hispanic, and Native American communities. The result continues to be a well educated, well trained, and diverse engineering and science workforce for NASA. Minorities made up 23% of the 200 scholars participating in the program this past year and that number continues to increase.

Since 2006, the Virginia Space Grant Consortium has managed the LARSS program for NASA under a sub-award from the National Institute of Aerospace. This has allowed the program to grow from a summer only program to a year round program in the spring, summer, and fall. The success of the LARSS program has been recognized by the Langley and Hampton Roads communities, and it was recently ranked sixth on a national list of the “10 Best Internships for 2011” by Vault Career Intelligence.

As the world becomes increasingly relevant on technology, the importance of the United States remaining technologically competitive and producing quality engineers and scientists is vital.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that 25 years later we are able to recognize the importance of this great program and the dynamic impact it has made on American society. In the 25th anniversary of LARSS, I commend NASA for the progress it has made to strengthen STEM education, and I challenge it to continue to inspire our youth to create new ideas, new products and innovative solutions to solve our nation’s problems.

It is my hope that LARSS will continue to provide NASA and our nation’s engineering and science community a pipeline of problem solvers and innovators. I thank NASA Langley for continuing the great legacy of the LARSS program over the past 25 years, and I look forward to its continued success.

IN HONOR OF REV. DR. JOHN A. SEVERSON CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF PREACHING THE GOSPEL

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor of the Rev. Dr. John A. Severson, who will celebrate fifty years of preaching the gospel this weekend. Through these many years, Rev. Dr. Severson has remained dedicated to spreading the Word of God and striving to improve his community, particularly those less fortunate.

John A. Severson was born in Calhoun County in Edison, Georgia to the late Mr. Lucious B. Severson Sr., and the late Mrs. Annett H. Severson. He received his early education in the public schools of Calhoun County, and in 1961, felt the call to ministry. Rev. Dr. Severson received his Bachelors & Master’s Degrees in Ministry from Bethany Theological Seminary, and he received his Doctorate of Theological Studies from the Bethany Divinity College and Seminary, in Dothan, Alabama. Since graduating Rev. Dr. Severson and has been proclaiming the good news of the gospel to this day, serving several congregations in both Georgia and Alabama.
Presently, Rev. Dr. Severson faithfully serves the Union Missionary Baptist Church congregation, where he has given spiritual guidance for the past thirty-three years. Under his gracious leadership, many in his community have developed a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Further, many physical changes have come about under his leadership: Rev. Dr. Severson has organized many new ministries and new outreach ministries in the community.

Dr. Severson is the past moderator of the Camilla Missionary Baptist Association; Co-Founder of the Christian Unity—bipartisan organization; past president of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Dougherty County; a member of Vision Albany; a member of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia; and a member of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education—National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. Inc.

As the Founder and CEO of the Union Mission Outreach Center, an outreach ministry for the Union Missionary Baptist Church and community, Rev. Dr. Severson and the congregation continue Jesus' work of helping the poor by providing medicine, eye glasses, and dental care to those community residents who otherwise could not afford it. In addition, Rev. Dr. Severson developed a summer enrichment program held at Union Missionary Baptist Church each summer which is available to the community free of charge.

Mr. Speaker, Rev. Dr. Severson's devotion to the improvement of his community reminds me of Matthew 25:35–37, in which Jesus says, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me . . . . Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Rev. Dr. Severson has done a remarkable job of touching the lives of his congregations, his communities, and especially the least of these. As we mark his fiftieth year of religious service, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks and sincerest congratulations for his incredible contributions.

COMMEMORATING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, twenty-one years ago on July 26, 1990, the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) was enacted with complete bi-partisan support; opening doors that were once shut and enabling persons with disabilities to go to work, movies, take public transit, and enjoy everyday activities with dignity. Where physical and mental difficulties once served as barriers, countless numbers of employment and educational opportunities are now available as a result of this important piece of legislation.

I am proud to recognize the great work of The Harlem Independent Living Center in my congressional district in Manhattan, an organization that emerged under the ADA, and offers invaluable services for the disabled community such as counseling, training, and job referrals. Under the leadership of Ms. Christiana Curry, who heads the center, all disabled New Yorkers have access to these services and the organization works tirelessly to make sure that businesses abide by the ADA.

While there is much to be proud of, we must do more to better accommodate the disabled community. Compared to the national unemployment rate of 9.2%, a disproportionate 16.9% of our disabled Americans are currently unemployed. At a time when we are reyling more heavily on advanced technology and Internet services, our hearing-impaired are being left behind. Worse, the cuts proposed under the Republican agenda take away vital support services, including Social Security, which is relied on by 55 million people with disabilities.

I will continue to fight to ensure that all Americans, regardless of background, ethnicity or physical or mental capabilities have the same opportunities to enjoy the American Dream. We owe it to one out of five Americans with a disability, including 16,000 residents in my district, who are counting on Congress to be there for them.

IN TRIBUTE OF MR. BODHISATTWA CHAUDHURI

HON. JOE COURTNEY
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations to Dr. Bodhisattwa Chaudhuri, who has been awarded a 2011 Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Foundation award. Connecticut's Second District is honored to recognize the outstanding achievement of Dr. Chaudhuri's extensive work at the University of Connecticut.

For 45 years, the PhRMA Foundation has assisted scientists with their research. The Foundation believes that science and the world of medicine can improve if scientists have the right resources readily available to them. Scientists who have been supported by the PhRMA Foundation have shared their knowledge with about 20,000 graduate students.

Born in Agartala, India, Dr. Chaudhuri attended the Indian Institute of Science where he received a MS in Chemical Engineering. He then went on to the New Jersey Institute of Technology, where he studied Mechanical Engineering and received his doctorate. Today, Dr. Chaudhuri serves as an assistant professor in the departments of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Institute of Material Sciences at our very own University of Connecticut. He and many of his students are passionate about researching granular mechanics in order to better understand different processes in pharmaceutical manufacturing.

We need leaders and researchers—like Dr. Chaudhuri—who are dedicated to sharing their knowledge with young students. I stand with my constituents in eastern Connecticut in honoring the successful efforts of Dr. Chaudhuri's inventiveness, his originality, and his contributions to the birth of new life.

THE 184TH RETURNS: A MOMENT IN HISTORY

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, on July 25, an exchange of authority took place at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, signifying the end of mission for the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command—the largest Mississippi Army National Guard Unit and the largest one ever led by Mississippians.
The guard unit is more than 250 strong; most are Mississippians; and the size of the unit reflects the size of the mission. They served as headquarters for Joint Sustainment Command—Afghanistan, affecting more than 100,000 U.S. and coalition soldiers and civilians. Over the past 9 months, the unit delivered nearly 414 million gallons of fuel, 26 million pounds of ammo, 110 million meals, and 43 million pounds of mail.

This marks an important moment in history and for military logistics, and the 184th has made Mississippi, the National Guard, and this Nation proud. To them, I am honored to say, “Welcome Home and thank you.”

VERNORSHIP OF THE SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH IN WADSWORTH, OHIO

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in my home town, Wadsworth, Ohio.

Sacred Heart has been encouraging the Wadsworth community to participate, celebrate and spread Catholic values for over a century, and quite successfully, I might add. Sacred Heart aims to empower and encourage others to make a positive difference in the world. With their devotion to the community comes the lasting effect of true humanitarian work.

As a proud member of this parish, it has been a truly humbling experience to witness so many students, faculty, volunteers, and citizens brought together by this one entity. Sacred Heart has been a place of learning, sharing the Catholic faith and creating life-long friends for the last 125 years.

It is my pleasure to commemorate this momentous anniversary and to acknowledge all of their accomplishments within the Wadsworth community.

TRIBUTE TO EDITH MAE JORDAN WILCOX

HON. JO BONNER
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my profound sadness at the passing of long-time Washington County, Alabama resident and community leader, Mrs. Edith Mae Jordan Wilcox, who passed away on July 12 at the age of 95 after an extended illness.

“Miss Edith”—as she was affectionately known—was born May 23, 1916, in Spencer, Alabama. Her schooling began in the one-room schoolhouse with her two older sisters. In 1932, she graduated from Murphy High School in Mobile. From there, she attended the University of Alabama where she received an A&S Degree in 1936 and an LLB Degree from the School of Law in 1939. Upon graduation from law school, she was admitted to the State Bar.

Miss Edith and her husband, Roy, married on January 31, 1942. While he served in the Army Air Corps in New Guinea during World War II, Miss Edith became a very active community volunteer and a part of the family’s land, timber, and mill business in Jordan. When Staff Sgt. Wilcox returned from service to his country, they established the Wilcox and Plemmons Sawmill Company. The company remained a vibrant part of the local economy until it closed in 1980.

Throughout her life, Miss Edith was an avid volunteer. She was actively involved with the board of the Washington County Chapter of the Red Cross and was chairman of the board of the Red Cross Blood Program when it was first introduced in the county. She spent many years traveling throughout the state with the Bloodmobile.

Miss Edith was a member of the committee that organized the Washington County Health Council and was appointed to the Washington County Hospital Board where she served for 10 years.

She was elected State President of the Alabama Extension Homemaker’s Council and served as an active and founding member of the Washington County United Way. For all her volunteer service, Miss Edith was awarded with the Washington County Humanitarian of the Year Award in 1997.

She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for over 50 years and served as state officer of the Alabama Grand Chapter. She was also one of the founding members of the Washington County Public Library and served on its board for over 20 years.

In 2002, in recognition for her lifetime of remarkable achievement and public service, Miss Edith was inducted into the Washington County Hall of Fame and a plaque was placed in the courthouse in her honor.

Today, Jordan-Wilcox Stadium at Washington County High School bears her family name as a tribute to her vision and generosity. She donated the land for the building of the Chatom Community Center that is also named for her.

During her long and active life, Miss Edith traveled to over 60 countries and throughout all fifty states. She established an art gallery in Chatom to showcase collectibles and memorabilia from her world travels. The Wilcox Gallery and Foundation will continue to educate and entertain the residents of Washington County for years to come.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I extend my deepest condolences to Miss Edith’s family, including her daughter, Susan Wilcox Turner and one granddaughter, Jordan Anne Garner. Miss Edith’s memory will live on through her great legacy of service to our area.

The Federal Aviation Administration, FAA, was forced to shut down many of its operations last Saturday, because the House of Representatives refused to pass a simple bill to extend its funding authorization. As a result, 4,000 FAA employees in 35 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico were placed on furlough. Those affected include many of the FAA’s engineers, scientists, research analysts, administrative assistants, computer specialists, program managers, environmental protection specialists, and community planners. These government workers are being forced to live with uncertainty and anxiety as they lose their jobs developing our air traffic infrastructure and serving the flying public.

The FAA has assured the American people that air traffic controllers will remain on the job, and the safety of the flying public will not be compromised. However, numerous FAA projects and services have been affected.

Earlier this week, the FAA AN as forced to issue stop work orders to construction and technology contractors for critical air port modernization projects. As a result, dozens of construction projects to build and modernize air traffic control towers and other aviation infrastructure were immediately halted. This work stoppage risks putting numerous construction workers and other private sector employees out of work as well.

In my home state of California, the FAA shutdown has delayed $131.5 million in funding for projects and furloughed 203 FAA employees in the Los Angeles area alone. But the actual impact on the Los Angeles area is far greater. Los Angeles International Airport, LAX—which is located in my Congressional District—is the world’s sixth busiest airport. LAX creates an estimated 59,000 jobs in or near the airport and has a total annual economic impact estimated at $60 billion. In 2008, 60 million passengers and 1.8 million tons of freight and mail passed through LAX. All of this economic activity depends upon the safety and efficiency of our air travel system.

The work stoppage will have an immediate negative impact on LAX, delaying a much needed project to design and install new runway status lights. These lights improve visibility for pilots and help them see when it is safe to enter, cross or take off on a runway. Stopping work on important projects like this one will not only delay their completion but also significantly increase the long-term costs for taxpayers.

Unfortunately, LAX isn’t alone in losing out on these funds. Nationwide, over $250 million in contracts for runway status lights have been suspended. Also affected are nearly $20 million in construction and engineering contracts to protect air traffic control towers from earthquakes and over $14 million in projects to research weather technology systems for air traffic facilities and aircraft cockpits. This is no way to run one of the top air transportation systems in the world.

Why are the Republicans refusing to allow the FAA to reopen its doors? The Republicans certainly cannot claim they are trying to be fiscally responsible. The FAA shutdown is costing the federal government $30 million a day in lost revenue from uncollected airline taxes. FAA employees are dedicated public servants who work hard to ensure safe and efficient air travel for the flying public. They are proud of the work they do. I urge my Republican colleagues to let them go back to work.
ON THE OCCASION OF THE WESTACRES COMMUNITY’S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GARY C. PETERS
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Community of Westacres in the Township of West Bloomfield, as its residents celebrate its 75th anniversary.

In 1936, as the nation was still in the throes of the Great Depression and stood on the precipice of an unknown future, United States Senator James Couzens partnered with the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and Oakland Housing Inc., to establish the Westacres community. The vision was to build a community where working class Michigan residents and their families could have a place of their own and strive to achieve the American Dream. To this end, Oakland Housing Inc. put forward a number of guidelines to ensure that the residents of Westacres would be families interested in the welfare of their neighbors and in using the land they were provided to help them be self-sufficient.

As with all new communities, Westacres faced a number of challenges, but its residents always rose to meet the call of service to their neighbors. In 1937, to address the need for public safety, residents started the Westacres Fire Department, a volunteer force to protect their community. Residents also took it upon themselves to create the Westacres Credit Union and Westacres Library to provide important and continuing education for their neighbors. The residents also supported the Orchard Lake Community Church and at the height of our nation’s need for austerity, established the nation’s oldest ride pool to get workers to work while conserving resources.

It is with a sense of great pride that over the last 75 years and from its humble beginnings, the Westacres community has grown and flourished as its residents have moved into America’s dynamic middle class. Today, the community has grown over 300 residences with dozens of families who have been part of Westacres for generations. As was the case when it was founded, service has continued to remain strong with the community. Residents volunteer countless hours across the greater southeast Michigan community.

It is with great honor and pride that I represent the community of Westacres, as it celebrates this most auspicious occasion. Through its history, Westacres and its residents represent the powerful success that can be achieved in the face of adversity. Westacres’ 75th anniversary is indeed an impressive milestone and I wish its residents many more years of success and service to our community.

THE GOLDEN WEST HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Golden West Humanitarian Foundation.

Since 1998, the Golden West Humanitarian Foundation has been proactive in combating shortfalls in heavily mine-impacted countries. With innovation, foresight, partnership, appropriateness and affordability as its key strategies for intervention, the Foundation’s mandate is to safeguard the lives of men, women and children across the globe where landmine and unexploded ordnance contamination is a major threat. That commitment and investment is most certainly deserving of recognition. Their tireless work brings countries closer to land and prosperity and serves as inspiration to others to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, in December I traveled to Cambodia and saw first-hand the great work that Golden West Humanitarian Foundation does in that country. Golden West has been actively removing landmines and other unexploded munitions in Cambodia caused by three decades of war. Estimates are that up to six million landmines still remain in Cambodia. Landmines claim more than 200 lives annually in Cambodia and possibly more people to live as amputees. This means that one out of every 230 people living in Cambodia is an amputee.

Mr. Speaker, the 37th Congressional District of California, has the largest population of Cambodians living in the United States. What happens in Cambodia affects my constituents in California. Every time someone in Cambodia is maimed or killed by a landmine, it is likely that person has family members or friends that live in my district.

Mr. Speaker, the Foundation is hard at work doing the important work of removing landmines in Cambodia and elsewhere around the world. Golden West Humanitarian Foundation has implemented several other successful programs. They offer soldiers who, while at work or play, face the risk of death or maiming by these remnants of conflict.

One of Golden West Humanitarian Foundation’s most effective programs is its Explosive Hazards Program. This program recycles explosives extracted from existing weapons stockpiles to create disposal charges for humanitarian demining. Since its inception, EHP has provided the bulk of all demining explosives used in Cambodia. The Explosive Hazard Program has led to over 200,000 landmines and has removed more than 24 tons of explosives from potential black market sales.

Another effective way the Foundation is preventing unnecessary deaths in Cambodia is through Research and Development. Research into explosive and non-explosive demining tools, as well as landmine and unexploded detection technologies, is where investments have produced impressive returns on investment. The Foundation has provided cutting edge solutions for problems encountered in humanitarian demining. The technical achievements of their research have been utilized by numerous organizations worldwide.

The Foundation further aids in protecting the most vulnerable group of people by landmines and unexploded ordnance—children. Children are at a high risk of either dying or becoming physically or psychologically injured from land mines and other detonators in Cambodia. According to reports, in the last two years mines in Cambodia for every child. Curious and trusting by nature, children are easily attracted by the explosives’ texture and shine and too often find themselves exposed to the risk of harm.
ESTABLISHING SPECIAL ENVoy FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE NEAR EAST AND SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA

SPEECH OF
HON. RON PAUL OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose yet another of our misguided foreign policy initiatives. Of course none of us favors religious persecution, but how would we feel if Iran, Israel, Afghanistan, or Iraq—all targeted by this bill—sent a government representative here to dictate what our government policies toward religious minorities should be? In many parts of the world certain religious institutions are financed by the state. How would we feel if foreign governments demanded that we abide by such practices? In short, it is arrogant and counterproductive to attempt to impose our values—which we sadly do not always live up to—onto nations overseas. I certainly do not want people should have the right to worship as they wish without government interference, but it would be far better for us to lead the rest of the world by example than by the implied force of a “special envoy.”

Finally, I find it disturbing but sadly telling that on the day we are debating our dire fiscal condition and contemplating the implications of the debt ceiling we nevertheless do not hesitate to obligate taxpayer dollars to fund yet another boondoggle overseas. This bill will spend another million dollars per year for the special envoy and his staff to travel throughout the Middle East and South Central Asia lecturing foreign governments on religious policy. What a waste.

I輩 would like to submit the following:

59TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST—PART I

HON. JEFF MILLER
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

59TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2011, WASHINGTON, DC, CO-CHAIRS, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JEFF MILLER, FORMER REPRESENTATIVE ANN KIRKPATRICK

Congressman Jeff Miller: Good morning everyone. Welcome to the 59th National Prayer Breakfast. I’m Congressman Jeff Miller from the state of Florida and this is my co-chair, Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick of Arizona. Congressman Miller: We are all here to pray, to listen, to learn, to build new relationships for the good of the city of Washington, D.C., the United States and the world. If you would, please bow your head with me.

Lord, God of the universe and history and each one of us here today, thank you that we are here and more importantly you are here with us. We pray that the distractions and worries we brought in here with us will suddenly fade away so we can be present for you and our neighbor today. May everything we say and think and do in and around this breakfast be pleasing to you. Change us with your love and your truth. Thank you for the physical food and the spiritual food we are about to consume. In the wonderful name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: Jeff, I just want to tell you it’s amazing that we got this many people into this room for this breakfast. Many of you have probably experienced a very crowded elevator bank this morning, and so my husband and I decided to take the stairwell, and we ended up in the kitchen. And I said, ‘‘Well you know—go to
the source.” But you know what—I always like to thank our people who prepare our food, our food servers. So, would you join me in a round of applause to those who are serving us this morning?

I’m now going to introduce the head table. We are very honored to have Mr. Dudley Hall, who is an associate with Ms. Alison Krauss. He is a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-political way and share our life experiences with one another. Prayer is a powerful reconciling force. Just because we can’t resolve every issue doesn’t mean we can’t have strong relationships together.

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers.” He didn’t say peace lovers because we all love peace. He said, “Peacemakers.” It is the obligation of all of us, whether we are Christians, Jews, Muslims, or people who believe in the tragedy of Tucson, in my home state of Arizona, and the turmoil in the Middle East today make it clear we have a lot of work to do in prayer is the best place to begin.

Congressman Miller: Ann and I, along with our colleagues, have worked all year long to provide you an uplifting and encouraging experience this morning. We hope you receive it in faith and think about how a small prayer breakfast group or a big event just like this one might fortify your leadership and the place you call home.

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: Music has an amazing power to touch our emotions and lift our spirits. We are pleased to have with us a supremely talented woman who will give us a worshipful sense of just why we are all here. With her violin and her voice, she has won many more than any musical instrument. Here to join our hearts together with her beautiful music, Alison Krauss.

[Song by Alison Krauss]

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: Thank you, Alison. Part of what makes service in the House fascinating is all the different backgrounds of people elected to serve here in the 435 seats. It is the small group of, for example, a government or a social studies teacher who first taught how nations and people come together to make decisions.

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: President and Mrs. Obama in a little bit. We have Mrs. Miller, Jeff’s wife, Senator Mark Pryor, Jose and Mrs. Obama in a little bit. We have Mrs. Miller, Jeff’s wife, Senator Mark Pryor, Jose Enrquez from the Chilean miners, Alfredo Cooper who is the chaplain of the President of Chile, Senator Kay Hagan, and Captain Mark Kelly, the husband of my dear colleague, Congresswoman Gabriell Giffords. Please enjoy each other’s company and your breakfast, thank you.

[President Obama Remarks]

Announcer: Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States and Mrs. Michelle Obama.

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: The vision of this breakfast was first cast by President Eisenhower and the members of a small weekly breakfast group that met in the Senate and House of Representatives. They advanced the idea and strength of praying together, they decided to share the experience with the country and eventually the world.

Congresswoman Miller: That small group in the Senate and its counterpart in the House continues to meet over five decades later. What a small group of people can do, starting with the public version of what we do in private as members of Congress every single week that Congress is in session.

Senator Jeff Sessions: Good Morning. I’m Jeff Sessions from Alabama, a Republican.

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[President Obama Remarks]
spend money, it is good to have some people around who know how to make wise decisions with money.

Congressman Miller: So it’s good that the people of North Carolina, again, sent us a banker to provide us a reading from the Holy Scriptures, Senator Kay Hagan.

50TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST—PART II

HON. W. TODD AKIN
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. AKIN.

Senator Kay Hagan: Thank you and good morning. We weren’t here last night, and I was actually back in my home state of North Carolina on a Wednesday morning, I would attend a prayer breakfast with a small group of women at my church. And I have asked them today to pray for you and to lift all of you in prayer and to pray for peace. I do want to read from the Old Testament, Isaiah chapter 49, verses 23 and 24.

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. Even youths shall faint and fall, but those who hope in the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.”

Congressman Miller: Sometimes as busy people we say that we are buried in our work. Our next presenter knows the literal meaning of the term. Along with 32 other miners, he spent a half a month or so trapped down in a Chilean mine. The world marveled at the technological achievement of their rescue.

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: Our guest today brings us the story of how God protected and encouraged them until their rescue. Please welcome the man who led those miners in worship and prayer throughout those dark and fearful days, Jose Enriquez.

Translating for Jose will be the chaplain of the Democratic community, we voted 50 plus one for every major decision and we went along with it. We realized, however, that we only had one vote in the end. He said, “You and me.”

We were different creeds and different churches, so I got them all in a circle and began our participative prayer. We made sure that each one, in his own way, could pray and participate. And as we prayed, we began to know the power of the prayers of a community, and we walked down in the mine. We were strengthened and our spirits were revived.

We had some serious problems. We had very little food—for three days only, we had no water and we had to sort out the jobs like repairing the electrics and the piping. So we decided how we had to sort out these problems, and if there was a miracle, there would be no way out. And that became our daily hope and comfort as we began to pray—that He would do miracles among us and solve our problems.

The first 17 days were the worst, with no communication with the outside world. But we kept preaching the word of God. And God was with us and among us and he began to deal with us and teach and speak to us. He began to make the unanswerable tensions that occur in such a situation. And so in this democratic, not secular democratic but praying democratic, community God began to reconcile us. Together we would get the one with the other and force them to shake their hands and to become reconciled and we maintained the community spirit down there that way. And then we had the great miracle where the second drift, the first one had passed us by, glanced off of a rock only slightly the right level, at exactly the right angle to enable our rescue. And then of course you know the rest of the story—52 days of surviving down there but now in touch with the outside world. At last we were able to eat. We got our beef steaks that we wanted, and we got all our medications. And then there was the greatest blessing of all that came down that small pipe, small Bibles, because those fitted. They came down, and I then had a Bible to speak from, which spoke powerfully and profoundly from the very word of God. There was one Bible for each man with his name on it.

There is a story I tell you, dear folk. And finally that day came when we were rescued. And even before we went up, I encouraged them to pray away one final time. Some wanted to dive into the capsule and get out immediately. But we said, no, hold it, wait one moment: we’re going to pray. And so we put our hands together, I said to them, brethren, we pray to our God in a desperate situation, and he answered our prayers. So now we wish to express thanks to all the people who helped from all over the world. We blessed the capsule and thanked God for the work that so many had put into it—’the many authorities, politicians, our very President who committed himself sparing no expense or effort to make sure we were found. And then came that great day when we began to come up one by one—which it seems all of you saw, and the whole world was watching. We felt the best way to express what we were feeling was to write it down. So we sat down and we composed due to get out of a job.

Mr. Cooper translating for Mr. Enriquez: First of all, greeting to President Obama and all present, government authorities and church authorities. My name is Jose Enriquez. I serve God for being in this world, but I have come to give a testimony of what God did in that mine of San Jose. On the 5th of August, we were surprised by a rock fall and an explosion, and we had to organize ourselves down there to face this crisis. We had many difficulties, but we were able to overcome them, unless we prayed and God did a miracle, there would be no way out. And that became our daily hope and comfort as we...
that since I was a Hollywood director I didn’t know the difference between a hymn book and a Bible. And I have to admit, it did strike me that I had the perfect chance to steal it. So if anyone else—my dad and myself, I’d just say, “She gave it to me.” It was worn with use, marked with joy and tears. Imagine what it would bring on e-bay.

To get back to that story, I remember the speeches of those who have preceded me in this position in past years. The causes they’ve advocated from this podium are vital, and I have no way to compete with their accomplishments or their eloquence. So this morning I’d like to do something that as nearly as I can seems like a prayer and for a knock on the door—dress at the National Prayer Breakfast. I’d like to speak about . . . prayer. I’m not a philosopher. I’m not a preacher. I’m a storyteller, nearly as I could, that is my only similarity to Him. Actually there is one other: I too have cried out, “My God, why have you forsaken me.”

I’ve lived a life of tremendous privilege. I grew up just down the road from here, in Lynchburg, Virginia. Virginians are a righteous and sober people, too proud to tell a lie. But I confess. My sister was born in Lizard Lick, Tennessee. The men in my father’s family are Alton, Elton, Dalton, Lymon, Gleeman, Herman, Thurman and Clyde. They called Clyde Pete. Nobody knew why.

When I was a child I suffered from attacks of asthma so severe that I couldn’t breathe at all. My mother—my grandmother that I liked—would give me a glass of cold water that I would die. Grandmother would hold me in her lap all night long, and she would sing to me, and tell me stories from her childhood, from the Bible. And she would look into my eyes, and she would smile. And I don’t look at blue eyes to this day without seeing her.

And I grew older. I found her looking at me in a different way—quietly, distantly, and so I asked her, “Grandmother, why are you looking at me at that way?” And she answered, “You remind me of Rufe.” Rufe was her husband—my grandfather—who had died of heart failure before I was born. Of course, I became hungry to learn about him, so I asked my father to tell me what he was like, and he told me this story.

During the Great Depression my grandfather, who was a farmer, decided to open a country store to feed his family. There was no wood to be had and no money to buy any, but he found a wrecked riverboat on the shore of the Tennessee River, and he salvaged the wood to build his store. But he needed cash to buy the stock to sell, and there was one place in town that paid cash for labor, and that was the plant where they froze huge blocks of ice, and men would pick them up with tongs and sling them up onto wagons so they could sell them to farmers whose cows were in the barn. My grandfather was the only white man who did that job; all the rest were what they then called “colored.”

So his first day on the job, the supervisor, another white man, approached my grandfather and told him, “Listen, I just want you to know, all you got on this crew besides you is a bunch of . . . Colored men, and I cuss at ‘em to make ‘em work. So if I forget myself and I call you an S.O.B., don’t pay me no mind, I don’t mean nothin’ by it, that’s just the way I am.”

And in that one story I understood exactly who my grandfather was, and exactly who I wanted to be. And I understood the power of a story.

My father, and mother, worked extremely hard so that I could go to school. He was a salesman who loved his customers, and he rose in his company, with promotion after promotion . . . until one day the family-owned company he had worked for twenty years was sold to a professional investment group who knew nothing about the business itself but who believed it would prosper if they fired all the old guys and hired cheaper younger guys. My father was one of the old guys. He was 38. I’ve always wondered if my father lived his life hungry for the father he’d never had, his own father had died before he was born. He’d never told me about his own father, not his. He had never been fired from anything. The strongest and best man I ever knew, and he had a complete breakdown.

While he was in the hospital, my sister and I were farmed out to relatives. For awhile, we lived in a house that had no indoor plumbing. When I told my father about that, he said, “Well . . . rich people have a canopy over their beds—and we’ve got a can of pea under ours.” And that’s when I knew my daddy would be all right.

The last sale he had made for his old company was for 90,000 dollars—in 1961. The first independent job he took after that was for 90 cents. Working one hundred hours a week, he clawed his way back to success. God Bless America. And God bless my Daddy. He told me that I couldn’t go to college—something he and my mother had never gotten a chance to do. I chose the most expensive place possible—and he was so proud of me.

But when I graduated, I didn’t want to be a doctor or a lawyer, I wanted to be a writer. I wanted to tell the kind of stories that would let a young man know whom he was and where he might be. The kind of story that might keep a child alive through a long night.

I got down on my knees; I had nowhere else to go. And I prayed a simple prayer. I said, “Lord, all I care about right now are those boys and maybe they don’t need to grow up in a house with a tennis court and a swimming pool. Maybe they need a little house with one bathroom, or no bathrooms at all. Maybe they need someone who does what you do when he gets knocked down, the way my father showed me. But I pray, if I go down, let me go down not on my knees, but with my fists.”

And I got up and I began to write the words that led to “Braveheart.”

Great writers like Robert Frost and Jane Austen have said that an ending that does not surprise the reader won’t surprise the writer. When I wrote about William Wallace, I wanted him to have a chance to die for what he believed, I felt it and when I came to the end I wept.

Was that moment of prayer the single决定性 factor in the writing of “Braveheart”? Of course not. My teacher and mentor in college, the great Thomas Langford, of Duke University, once told me in class that no decision in our lives stands alone; the trajectory of all other decisions we’ve ever made points our direction for the future.

Our lives are unfolding stories, they are moving pictures. If we took a freeze frame of Golgotha, on the day that Jesus was crucified, and showed that picture to anyone unfamiliar with the story and asked them to tell us what the image means, they’d be unlikely to say: “The hanging on the cross in the middle.”

“Was it from that cross that Jesus cried, ‘My God! Why have you forsaken me?’” That cry does not amaze me. What does amaze me is that while one of the two thieves hanging on either side of Jesus mocked Him, the other acknowledged the justice of his fate and asked Jesus for help; and Jesus, in the agonies of crucifixion, told that thief, “This day you will be with me in Paradise.” That does more than amaze me. It makes me believe that any power that could enable Jesus to say that, then, could do anything.

And it seems to me that Jesus’ response is the answer to every prayer that thief never prayed. If God is God, then God knows our prayers whether we pray them or not.

So why pray the prayers? To me, it’s not because God needs to know our prayers, but because I do.

I want to write stories like sand. Take any moment of our lives; take this one. Here, in a room resonant with power. Did we come this morning because we wanted a closer connection to God? Do we come here before God because what we truly want is to use the ultimate power we imagine God has? Or do we fall to our knees and admit the truth of our weakness—and stand again, in the strength of that truth?

Jesus said the truth will set us free, and He said the truth is God is love.

It seems to me that the prayer that comes from Love is the prayer that goes to God.

My father once told me a story of a man drowning in the ocean. He cried out, “Oh God! If you save me, I will spend the rest of my life in serving You!” A few moments later a boat appeared and he was pulled from the water. On the dock the man lifted his eyes to heaven and said, “Of course You do understand that I meant “in
an advisory capacity.' But life does not give us the option of Advisory Capacity. Tolstoy wrote in War and Peace that in a battle, one man throwing down his weapon and running back toward the enemy can rally 26,000, and in a panic, one man lifting up the flag and running back toward the enemy can rally 4,000, but God knows what will happen, and when.

What if prayer is the way to glimpse God's true intentions—the divine purpose for each of us? I'm not looking for a logic—I'm only trying to find an understanding for my experience that prayer matters. Does it change the mind of God? I don't know if you that it changes mine. When I was a boy we sang a hymn called "Footsteps of Jesus." Not everyone grew up as I did. I'm sometimes described as a rarity, a filmmaker who might speak freely about prayer. But really I'm not so unusual. All of us dreamers in Hollywood are keenly aware of the futility of fame, the fleeting nature of beauty, the illusions of power. And when I pray with or for my friends, my first concern is not whether they follow the footsteps of Jesus, but—

And even as we pray for Gabby in the aftermath of a tragedy here at home, we're also mindful of the violence that we're now seeing in the Middle East, and we pray that this week of violence and SASHEHBlU rights and aspirations of the Egyptian people will be realized and that a better day will dawn over Egypt and throughout the world. Mr. President, for all those who are here, or who weeping over their friends and family, we pray for them, and we pray for the nation. This is the week that I'm told we have one President at a time and it is the genius of our founders that you can walk shoulder to shoulder with the President of the United States if you have a heart to love.''

I want to begin by just saying a word to our distinguished guests who have traveled so far and for millions across our country and the world. The director of our Faith-based and Community Initiatives, Mr. McINTYRE.

Congressman Miller: Thank you, Randall. Thank you for inviting all of us. And now it is my honor to introduce my President, our President, the President of the United States of America. Mr. Obama.

President Barack Obama: Thank you so much. Mr. President, the President of the United States, and for millions across our country and around the world, we pray for you each day as you lead our country. Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States, Barack Obama.

President Barack Obama: Thank you so much. Mr. President, we have a tradition in this body of not recognizing members of Congress who are here, the distinguished guests who have traveled so far to be here this morning; to RANDALL for your wonderful letter, to Kaye Wilson, to the members of Congress who are here, and to millions across our country and the world, we pray for you each day as you lead our country. Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States, Barack Obama.

I know—I've got—someone who I just had to say a word to Mark Kelly, who's here. We have been praying for Mark's wife, Gabby Giffords, for many days now. But I want Gabby and Mark and their families—Mrs. Kelly to know that they are not alone in this, that with them for the long haul, and God is with them for the long haul.
keeps me going and that keeps me from being overwhelmed. It’s faith that reminds me that despite being just one very imperfect man, I can still help whoever I can, however I can, for as long as I can, and that somehow God will buttress these efforts.

It also helps to know that none of us are alone in our call. It’s being taken up each and every day by so many of you—back home, your churches, your temples and synagogues, your fellow congregants—so many faith groups across this great country of ours.

I came upon a group recently called charity: water. It was started by a former night club promoter named Scott Harrison who grew weary of living off aPaste of the crap we can eat. There are places like that scattered across this room, of people who have taken upon themselves to make a difference.

Now, faith groups can do the work of caring for the least of these on their own; sometimes they need a partner, whether it’s in business or government. And that’s why faith groups have taken a look at how we organize with faith groups, the way we work with faith groups through our Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

And through that office, we’re expanding the way faith groups can partner with our government. We’re helping them lend support where kids who otherwise would go hungry. We’re helping fatherhood groups get dads the support they need to be there for their children. We’re working with nonprofits to improve the lives of people around the world. And we’re doing it in ways that are aligned with our constitutional principles. And in this work, we intend to expand it in the days ahead, rooted in the notions of partnership and justice and the imperatives to help the poor.

Of course, there are some needs that require more resources than faith groups have at their disposal. There’s only so much a church can do to help all the families in need—need help making a mortgage payment, or avoiding foreclosure, or making sure their child can go to college. There is only so much that a non-profit can do to help a community rebuild in the wake of disaster. There is only so much the private sector will do to help folks who are desperately sick get the care that they need.

So my prayer is that we might seek His face not only in those moments, but each and every day; and every day as we go through the hustle and bustle of our busy lives, whether in Holywood or anywhere in between, that we might every so often rise above the here and now and kneel before the Eternal, that we might remember, Kaye, the fact that those who wait on the Lord will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not be weary and they will walk and not faint.

When I wake in the morning, I wait on the Lord, and I ask Him to give me the strength to do right by our country and its people. And when I go to bed at night I wait on the Lord, and I ask him to look after my family and the American people, and make me an instrument of His will. I say these prayers knowing that the act of praying itself is a source of strength. It is a reminder that our time on Earth is not just about us; that when we open ourselves to the possibility of the love that God has for our lives, there is a chance that somehow, in ways that we may never fully know, God will use us well.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, and may He bless this country that we love.

(Song by Alison Krauss)
from my home in West Orange, New Jersey—but from space far above that traffic on the New Jersey Turnpike, you have an entirely different perspective of life on our planet.

It's humbling to see the earth as God created it in the context of God's vast universe. Many of you may also know that my twin brother Scott is also an astronaut. And through this very difficult time, he has been aboard the International Space Station. It's a relief to know that your twin brother and your family, and the nation, is going through something that is so difficult. He was asked by several journalists what it's been like to be up there away and having to turn to the family this time of day, and I think what he said bears repeating. Scott said, "What we do here in space is incredibly challenging. Our country faces a lot of challenges and the way we address those challenges is through teamwork. And I'd like to see more teamwork with more people not only in government but everyone in meeting the challenges our country faces. Hopefully if anything good can come from this, it's that we learn to work better together." Scott concluded by saying, "We are better than this. We must do better." My brother is right. I know we will do better, and I know that prayer must be part of that effort.

One morning when Gabby was still in Tucson at the Tucson University Medical Center, I was outside visiting that memorial that just sprung up on the grass in front of the hospital. It's a formal religious site but there is a lot of religious material that people left there on the lawn—Bibles, angels, prayers. And the people of Arizona have turned there into a place of prayer, a pilgrimage site. On that particular morning there was no wind, there were candles burning on the lawn, hundreds of them, and it was like stepping into a church, a place with hearts and souls. That reminded me that you don't need a church, a temple or a mosque to pray. You don't even need a building or walls or even an altar. You pray where you are. You pray when God is there in your heart and prayer isn't just asking, it's also listening for answers and expressing gratitude, which I've done a lot lately.

With that, I'd like to conclude with a prayer that my wife's Rabbi, Rabbi Stephanie Aaron, said over Gaby's hospital bed on the first night when this happened on January 8. Rabbi Aaron said, and this is my prayer:

"In the name of God, our God and Israel, may Michael, God's angel, messenger of compassion, watch over your right side. May Gabrielle, God's angel, messenger of strength and courage, be on your left. And before you, guide your path. Uriel, God's angel of light, and behind you, supporting you, stands Raphael, God's angel of healing. And over your head surrounding you is the presence of the Divine."

Thank you, God bless you and please, please, please, continue to keep Gabby's thoughts and prayers in your heart, it is really helping. Thank you.

Congressman Miller: I would ask that you all remain in your places to allow the President to be ready to depart. Thank you so much for coming Mr. President and thank you for bringing Mrs. Obama with you today.

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: Jeff, it's been quite a morning, and thank you again for being the chair with me on this. Thank you and God bless you and now go and make peace.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 2417 "BETTER USE OF LIGHT BULBS ACT" HON. LAURA RICHARDSON OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Friday, July 29, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I am compelled to rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2417, the "Better Use of Light Bulbs Act." I oppose the "Bulb" Act because it is costly to taxpayers, harmful to the environment and an impediment to technological innovation. In short, H.R. 2417, the "Bulb" act should be rejected. It is unnecessary and, to put it simply, not a bright idea.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a thinly veiled attempt to reverse the advances made by the "Energy Independence and Security Act," passed by the Democratic controlled 111th Congress. In fact, the original 2007 light bulb efficiency language was co-sponsored by Rep. Upton, R-Mich., and then-House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill. Of the 95 Republicans who originally voted for the new energy standards in 2007, 55 of them remain in office, including the current chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee and several members of the Republican leadership. House Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton and Republican leaders Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Peter Roskam and Pete Sessions. It was a good idea then and is a good idea now. I was proud to vote for that bill and oppose this effort to undo it.

Mr. Speaker, the "Energy and Independence Act" did not ban incandescent bulbs; it spurred innovation and economic growth. This growth is put at risk by H.R. 2417. In my home state of California, light bulb standards have spurred innovation and economic growth. It does this not by banning incandescent bulbs, but rather investing in innovative technologies such as advanced incandescent, compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs). These policies translate into significant cost savings for American households; H.R. 2417 does not.

Second, the energy efficiency standards threatened by H.R. 2417 translate into huge cost savings for Americans. The standards would save American families, businesses and the country more than $12.5 billion annually, reducing Americans' energy costs by an average of 7 percent or about $85 per household each year. In California, standards have already resulted in tens of billions of dollars in utility bill savings for its citizens.

Studies have documented that energy efficient bulbs would save the average California household $125 a year, while the reliance on inefficient bulbs would cost consumers $35.6 million in unnecessary and unreasonably higher electricity bills.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is harmful to the environment. The efficiency standards that H.R. 2417 would repeal have been shown to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Thus, it is not surprising that H.R. 2417 is strongly opposed by environmental groups like Environment America, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the Natural Resources Defense Fund. They understand that the long-term effects of the repeal of H.R. 2417 would have on our environment, and what that means for the quality of life of our children and families nationwide.

Efficient light bulbs decrease the level of harmful air pollution by 100 million tons of carbon pollution per year. That is the equivalent to the emissions of 17 million cars. H.R. 2417 would dismantle what has proven to be successful efforts at reducing harmful emissions associated with much-needed energy production and job creation.

Finally, and most importantly, H.R. 2417 will impede new job creation in America. The new standards that H.R. 2417 would repeal are already prompting manufacturers to build new U.S. plants. Nationally, more than 2,000 jobs have already been created at new factories across the country, including Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Carolina, Florida and my home state, California. We need to adopt policies that will create jobs, not jeopardize them as H.R. 2417 does.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2417 is a dim idea that should not see the light of day. Because I am focused on spurring innovation, conserving energy, protecting the environment and creating jobs, I strongly oppose H.R. 2417, and urge my colleagues to do likewise.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH OF WASHINGTON IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 22, and Monday, July 25, 2011, I was unable to be present for recorded votes due to a family commitment. I request that the record show that I been present, I would have voted “yes” on roll call vote No. 629 (on passage of H.R. 2551), “no” on roll call vote No. 630 (on approving to the resolution H. Res. 363), and “yes” on roll call vote No. 631 (on approving the journal).

TRIBUTE TO PIETRO SAMBII, APOSTOLIC NUNCIATO TO THE U.S.

HON. JOHN B. LARSON OF CONNECTICUT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to inform my colleagues of the recent passing of The Most Reverend Pietro Sambi, who was the Titular Archbishop of Bellicastrum and the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, on July 27 at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. He was 73 years old.

Archbishop Sambi was born in Sogliano at Rubicone (Forli-Cesena), Italy on the 27th day of June, 1938. He was a respected scholar who had doctorates in both theology and canon law and spoke Italian, English, French and Spanish. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Marino-Montelferto on March 14, 1964, and began his distinguished career in the diplomatic service of the Vatican’s Secretariat of State in 1969.

His overseas assignments included sensitive postings to Cameroon, Cuba, Algeria, Nicaragua, Belgium, India, Indonesia and Cyprus. In 2000, Archbishop Sambi led discussions with Israeli religious and political leaders.
orchestrating Pope John Paul II's historic visit to Jerusalem. As the Papal representative to Israel in 2002, Archbishop Sambi reportedly helped end a 39-day standoff between Israeli troops and Palestinian militants, who had holed up inside the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

Pope Benedict XVI named Archbishop Sambi as the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States on December 17, 2005, and he was installed in early 2006. Shortly after his appointment, he toured the damage left by Hurricane Katrina. He was deeply involved in efforts to introduce the Pope to American Catholics and he accompanied the Pope during his April 2008 visit to the U.S. and hosted him at the Apostolic Nunciature, where the Pope held a historic private meeting with five victims of clergy sexual abuse. In September of 2010, he presided at a Mass to mark the 13th anniversary of the death of Blessed Mother Teresa, which coincided with the U.S. Postal Service's issuance of a commemorative stamp in her honor.

Archbishop Sambi received numerous tributes and honors over the years, especially for his ecumenical activities and efforts to increase and secure access to religious sites in the Holy Land.

Like many of my colleagues, I had the honor of knowing Archbishop Sambi through my friend Luca Ferrari, the former Minister Counselor for Public and Legislative Affairs at the Embassy of the Republic of Italy here in Washington. The Archbishop was always willing to gently inform us on theology as well the critical international issues of the day. He was an amiable conversationalist and a good friend, and will be greatly missed by so many of us here in Washington, DC, as well by family, friends and colleagues around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by urging all of our colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Archbishop Pietro Sambi's service to all of our colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Archbishop Pietro Sambi's service to the Embassy of the Republic of Italy here in Washington. The Archbishop was always willing to gently inform us on theology as well the critical international issues of the day. He was an amiable conversationalist and a good friend, and will be greatly missed by so many of us here in Washington, DC, as well by family, friends and colleagues around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by urging all of our colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Archbishop Pietro Sambi's service to the Embassy of the Republic of Italy here in Washington. The Archbishop was always willing to gently inform us on theology as well the critical international issues of the day. He was an amiable conversationalist and a good friend, and will be greatly missed by so many of us here in Washington, DC, as well by family, friends and colleagues around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Samuel Flores for his dedication and contributions to the city of Seguin and south Texas.

Mr. Flores was born in San Marcos, Texas as the middle child of seven and raised during the difficult years of the Great Depression. During his early years, he lived the arduous life of a migrant worker traveling from California to Minnesota as the seasons changed. At the age of seventeen, he dropped out of school, returned to school. Flores earned a degree in education from Southwest Texas State University, as well as a Master's degree in school administration. After marrying Velia Flores after moving to her hometown of Seguin, Texas, he started working for Harlandale Independent School District where he resided for an accomplished 35 years of service.

Throughout his career in education, he taught mainstream and special education to elementary and secondary school students. He distinguished himself as the first Hispanic Principal for Harlandale Independent School District. He became Director for Special Education for six school districts and later worked for the Seguin school district as the Attendance Officer. Even after his retirement in 2000, he continued to serve his community by becoming chairman of the Walnut Branch Restoration Project.

Aside from his teaching vocation, Flores dedicated a great part of his life to fighting against discrimination in public places. He founded the Seguin Bi-racial Committee during the 1960s. Thanks to his hard work and dedication, schools like Texas Lutheran University, now have a Mexican-American Studies Program for the benefit of the students. He also assisted in founding the Seguin Boys club, as well as establishing the Health Unit Project, the Walnut Creek Flood Project, and a new Seguin Post Office. Along with forming these vital programs and initiatives, Mr. Flores served as a member of the Seguin City Council from 1965–2000.

Mr. Flores' tremendous commitment to the Seguin education system and the overall community was honored by having part of Highway 46 in Texas dedicated to him. He was also recognized on the floor of the Texas House of Representatives with a resolution in his honor presented by Edmund Kuempel in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the dedication, accomplishments, and commitment of the late Samuel Flores.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOE MORTON
HON. JO BONNER
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the work of Alabama State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Joe Morton, who has been a leader in education for 42 years and will officially retire on August 31, 2011.

Dr. Morton grew up in Pleasant Grove and graduated from Hueytown High School. He then received his B.S. degree from Auburn University in 1969 and later his M.A. in 1973 and Ph.D. in 1974 from The University of Alabama.

Upon graduation from Auburn, he began a life of dedicated service to the field of education. He worked his way up from a school teacher to the superintendent of the Sumter County Board of Education. He is presumed to be the youngest person in the history of the State to be a local superintendent of education at the age of 27.

On July 13, 2004, he was selected by Governor Bob Riley to be the State Superintendent of Education. Along with a long-standing love of education, he has always held to the belief that Alabama students have the capability to compete with top students from around the world.

In order to engage students' interest in reading, he created and co-founded the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI). The ARI has since become a national model and has helped the National Assessment of Educational Process in 2007 achieve the largest gains recorded in Grade 4 Reading. In 2010, AMSTI was recognized by the Center for Excellence in Education as the model of laboratory education in the United States.

Other educational programs he helped create and co-founded were the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) and the Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators and Students Statewide (ACCESS).

At the request of Governor Riley, Dr. Morton also chaired the Seat Belt Study Commission after a tragic 2006 accident in Huntsville. The Commission's research into school bus safety and seatbelts is considered to be the most extensive in the country.
In 2009, he also launched First Choice, a plan to combat high school dropout rates by doubling the number of graduates. First Choice has already helped deliver a greater number of well prepared high school graduates.

As a result of Dr. Joe Morton’s achievements in education, Alabama had the fourth largest increase in the number of students who graduated from high school in the Nation. His achievements also paved the way for Alabama to lead the Nation in student enrollment gains and Advanced Placement exam scores.

Above all, under Dr. Morton’s leadership as Alabama’s Superintendent of Education, the State has achieved its greatest overall educational rating in its history.

On behalf of the people of Alabama—especially the thousands of school children who will reap a lifetime of rewards because of his leadership—I wish to extend congratulations to Dr. Joe Morton for a job well done and for his many contributions to better the education and the futures of many Alabamians. My colleagues in the Alabama delegation join me in wishing him and his family the very best as they start a new chapter in their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICK MULVANEY
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I missed rollcall No. 601 on July 18, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes”.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICK MULVANEY
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I missed rollcall 602 on July 18, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes”.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MELVIN L. WATT
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make sure that we acknowledge in our official record an important event that took place on June 14, 2011 in the Gold Room of the Rayburn House Office Building, the award by the World Peace Council of the 2010 World Peace Prize.

The World Peace Corps Mission confers World Peace Awards to individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to peacemaking efforts around the world. This year the Top Honor Prize was given to His Holiness Dorje Chang Buddha III and to Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman. The 2010 Roving Ambassador for Peace Award was awarded to the Civil Air Patrol.

H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III is the highest leader of Buddhism in the world. He was recognized for his support of a wide variety of healing and rescue-relief activities around the world, as well as for his art and poetry, through which he has promoted nonviolence, charity and love for humanity. H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III is the first Buddhist leader to be awarded the World Peace Prize. In his acceptance speech, H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III said, “I believe this is not an affirmation of me personally. Rather, it is an affirmation of all human beings who seek happiness, freedom and equality. It is an affirmation of all efforts to selflessly benefit and help others.”

Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman served 15 terms in the United States House of Representatives. He was recognized for championing human rights, fighting world hunger and fighting drug abuse and trafficking. While in Congress he served as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, as Congressional Delegate to the United Nations, on the Ukrainian Famine Commission and as Vice Chairman of the Select Committee on POWs. He organized successful “prisoner exchanges” which freed American citizens held in East Germany, Mozambique, Cuba and several other countries.

The Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. It was recognized for providing disaster relief and emergency services following natural and man-made disasters. The CAP performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Regional Coordination Center. It was credited with saving 113 lives in fiscal year 2010.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III, Hon. Benjamin Gilman and the Civil Air Patrol for receiving these awards.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICK MULVANEY
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I missed rollcall No. 612 on July 21, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”