

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF WARMINSTER TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the township of Warminster, Pennsylvania, upon the celebration of its 300th anniversary.

The township derives its name from the town of Warminster, in Wiltshire, England. Warminster is the twin township of Southampton, Pennsylvania, which lies immediately southeast and adjoining. It is also bounded by the townships of Northampton, Warwick, and Warrington, all of which lie in my Congressional district, the 8th District of Pennsylvania. To this day, Warminster has the same limits as when originally laid out, with an area of over six thousand and ninety-nine acres.

Warminster was one of the earliest townships settled in America, with roots tracing all the way back to the 17th century. John Hart and John Rush were among the most prominent early settlers in Warminster, both arriving shortly after William Penn in the latter part of the 17th century. Combined, Hart and Rush owned over one thousand acres of land in the Warminster area. They, along with many other early settlers and statesman, helped to foster growth in Warminster by aiding in road and church construction, and farm development, thus laying the groundwork for the beautiful township of Warminster.

Many years later, Warminster became a refuge for American soldiers during the Revolutionary War, at the battle of Crooked Billet. In the skirmish action, British forces launched a surprise attack against Brigadier General John Lacey and three regiments of Pennsylvania militia, forcing them to retreat into the farms in Warminster.

During the wake of WWII, Warminster also became the home of one of the largest naval modification units in the area. At the Naval Air Development Center in Johnsville, large quantities of aircraft parts were modified for use in the war, and progress was made on the development of guided missiles. The NADC also played a critical role in training mercury astronauts and establishing the United States as the world leader in technology and space exploration. During the cold war era, the NADC employed over 2600 people, including 1600 scientists and engineers, and 300 members of the military.

With such a rich history, it is clear that Warminster Township deserves much recognition and praise. I am honored to represent the people of Warminster Township, and wish them all the best on this momentous occasion.

LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN, YASHAR ALIYEV

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, as co-chairmen of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, Congressman BILL SHUSTER of Pennsylvania and I would like to bring a letter to the attention of our House colleagues that we received from the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Yashar Aliyev.

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Washington, DC.

Hon. DAN BOREN,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BOREN, I am writing to express my concerns of the reports that on September 13, 2011 the so-called "Office of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic in the USA", the Embassy of Armenia to the United States and major Armenian-American organizations are organizing event on the premises of the U.S. Congress, dedicated to the so-called "20th Anniversary of Independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic". According to the news reports Mr. Ashot Ghulian, who presents himself as the "Chairman of the NKR Parliament", will be visiting Washington D.C. and will be the keynote speaker at the event.

In this regard, I draw your attention to the fact that so-called "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" is a self-proclaimed entity created on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, supported by Armenia and essentially is under its direction and control. It is entirely unrecognized as such, even by Armenia.

As a result of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict hundreds of thousands of the Azerbaijanis were expelled from the Nagorno-Karabakh region and surrounding territories of Azerbaijan. Four UN Security Council resolutions adopted in 1993 following the armed seizure of Azerbaijani territory reaffirm the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, demand immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all occupied regions.

By engaging in public campaigns using the Congress premises the agents of the separatist regime pursue the goal of distracting the attention of the Members of Congress and broad American public from the continued occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan by the Armenian armed forces, accompanied by gross violation of human rights of hundreds of thousands of the Azerbaijani IDPs. Their ultimate goal is to consolidate the occupation of these territories and to prevent return of the displaced Azerbaijani population to their homes and properties from which they were forcibly expelled.

Allowing organization of such activities on American soil encourages the Government of Armenia to hold on to its uncompromised position in peace negotiations and complicates the already difficult settlement

process. Participation of Members of Congress in these events may be qualified as support for the separatist regime and negatively affects the honest broker image of the United States as a Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group tasked to find just and peaceful solution to the conflict.

Azerbaijan is an important strategic partner of the United States. Azerbaijan provides multi-faceted support for U.S. operations in Afghanistan and remains a steadfast supporter of Israel. Our two countries cooperate on counterterrorism and nonproliferation issues. Moreover, Azerbaijan greatly contributes to the energy security of the United States and Europe.

I ask you to refrain from participating in this event that is directed against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, a key ally of the United States in the strategic Caspian region and to voice your opposition to using Capitol grounds for such activities.

Sincerely,

YASHAR ALIYEV,
Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

IN RECOGNITION OF NICHOLAS CARL GOTTUSO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Police Captain Nicholas Carl Gottuso, "Nick," for his 32 years of service with the Hillsborough Police Department.

Captain Gottuso began his career in law enforcement in 1976 as a Dispatcher for San Mateo County Communication. In 1980 he was hired by the Pacifica Police Department as a Patrol Officer, where he served for two years. In January 1983 he was hired by the Town of Hillsborough as a Police Office, promoted to Corporal in 1990, Inspector in 1992, Sergeant in 1993, Lieutenant in 1999, Police Commander in 2002 and achieved the rank of Police Captain that same year. During Captain Gottuso's employment with the Hillsborough Police Department, he trained as a Field Training Officer, a Background Investigator, and a Traffic Investigator; and he served as the Head Range master and was responsible for the selection and designation of a standardized firearm, the Beretta 92F.

Captain Gottuso proved to be invaluable to his community as both a field agent and an administrator. He was one of the Founding Commanders of the North Central Regional SWAT Team, served as a Sniper Team Commander and led and participated in dozens of successful operations, many of which led to the capture of criminals and the saving of innocent lives.

As a police captain, Captain Gottuso responded to numerous bank robberies and other active shooter incidents. Time and again, Captain Gottuso put his life on the line for the residents of Hillsborough, and the community will forever be indebted to him for his bravery, selflessness, and competence.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Even when Captain Gottuso wasn't on the front lines, he worked tirelessly to improve the lives of Hillsborough's residents, as well as the lives of the men and women serving our country abroad. Gottuso worked with overseas Unit Commanders during his time as the administrator of the Adopt-a-Troop program, a non-profit organization that sends much-needed care packages to our troops fighting overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2004, I worked closely with Captain Gottuso to redesignate the Eugene A. Doran Memorial Bridge which spans the scenic Crystal Springs Dam on I-280 in San Mateo County. The bridge was named after the slain Hillsborough police officer and we passed a California Senate Resolution to include Officer Doran's son who died in the line of duty in Vietnam. The Bridge was renamed the Officer Eugene and Marine Lance Corporal Patrick M. Doran Memorial Bridge.

Despite Captain Gottuso's extensive service on the front lines of law enforcement, he never lost his sense of humor or desire to entertain. Captain Gottuso's ability to lighten the mood delighted generations of schoolchildren during police presentations. His yearly narration of the K-9 squad demonstration made it a truly enjoyable and memorable event for anyone who witnessed it.

Nicholas Carl Gottuso was born in Ft. Carson, Colorado in 1954 and attended Mills High School in Millbrae, California. In his spare time he enjoys boating, karate, flying, coaching soccer and he is an avid Marksmanship advocate.

In 1991 he married his wonderful wife Paulette and they are the proud parents of Dominic, Marisa, Nicolette and Samantha.

Captain Gottuso's dedication to public safety, effective enforcement of the law, record of bringing criminals to justice and protecting innocent life and property while maintaining the highest level of professionalism and an infectious sense of humor all warrant special gratitude and recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of this body to join me in honoring Nicholas Gottuso upon his retirement for his dedication to public service at the Hillsborough Police Department.

EMPOWERING PARENTS THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2218) to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act, H.R. 2218, which is a bipartisan bill to reform and strengthen the charter school program.

I recently gave the graduation speech at the Princeton Charter School, a high quality charter that opened its doors more than a decade ago and was recognized as a blue ribbon school by the U.S. Department of Education in 2004. And I was pleased to see the success

there. But I urged them to make sure they are well-integrated in the public school system in their community.

We need to reinvigorate America's education system and give each and every child the opportunity to learn and thrive. I am an advocate of alternative forms of education including charter schools. I think these institutions can be viable and beneficial in promoting academic achievement and diversity.

It is important to remember that charter schools are part of the public school system, and we must hold them to the same standards of broad educational access and same standards of accountability—which means we have to be willing to shut down charter schools that fail to meet expectations. Otherwise, charter schools are not true to their reason for being: to inject innovation and experimentation into the public school system. I am pleased that this bill increases accountability for charter schools and ensures states use a schools performance as a primary factor for charter renewal.

I have long believed that charter school innovations and best practices must be shared with other school districts—urban, rural, and suburban school districts alike. This requires work on both sides: outreach by the charter schools and acceptance by the traditional public school system to learn what there is to be learned. I worked with Rep. POLIS to include such language in his ALL-STAR Act.

That is why I am pleased that the bipartisan legislation before us today includes provisions to require charter schools to disseminate best practices with other public schools.

This legislation also ensures that States work with charter school authorizers to put in place the quality controls necessary for holding charter schools accountable, including annual performance data and financial audits. These provisions will lead to more replication of high-quality charter schools nationwide.

I share the concerns of some that more can be done to improve the accountability, equity and transparency of charter school, and as we continue to move this bill through the process, I hope additional improvements can be made. But we should all recognize that this bill makes a great deal of progress from the existing program and deserves our support today.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN AND MARY ANNE COX, AND JIM AND PAULETTE PHILLIPS, FOR THEIR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HEROES RUN/WALK

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary fortitude and abiding generosity of two sets of parents of fallen heroes.

John and Mary Anne Cox lost their son, Army Specialist Gregory Cox, in Iraq in September of 2004. Less than 2 years later, in February of 2006, Jim and Paulette Phillips lost their son, Marine Lance Corporal Steven Phillips, in the same war.

In the face of such horrific personal loss, the parents of Army Specialist Cox and Lance Corporal Phillips chose neither to languish in

their own sadness, nor make their own emotional convalescence the focus of their lives. Instead, in the spirit of the selflessness of their courageous sons, they chose to create an event devoted to enriching the lives of others.

The event, the annual Heroes Run/Walk, will take place for the fifth time this Saturday, September 17, 2011, at Green Cove Yacht Club in Millsboro, Pennsylvania. The majority of the proceeds from the event will benefit the memorial funds that have been established to honor the sacrifices of Specialist Cox and Lance Corporal Phillips. Specialist Cox's fund provides support to graduates of Greene County High Schools entering the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) or intending to pursue a field of study that will lead to a career in public service. Lance Corporal Phillips' fund provides support to the computer-aided technology drafting program at Greene County Career and Technology Center. Part of the proceeds from the Heroes Run/Walk will also be used to fund the transportation of veterans living in Greene County who are receiving treatment at the Veterans Affairs Pittsburgh Healthcare System.

Last year, the race's over 400 registrants raised in excess of \$15,000. Sponsors and organizers of the event expect a strong turnout again this Saturday, and are eager to once more honor the memory of Specialist Cox and Lance Corporal Phillips.

The Heroes Run/Walk is a testament to its founders, John and Mary Anne Cox, and Jim and Paulette Phillips, and demonstrates their capacity to turn tragedy into an amazing gift for others. They deserve both our support and appreciation.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANN BARLOW

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ann Barlow who served as president and chairperson of the board for the Professional Businesswomen of California for the last four years. Ann has been an inspirational and effective leader of PBWC which I founded 23 years ago to help women advance professionally. The board of directors is very fortunate to retain her as a member, but will certainly miss her gracious leadership.

Ann became involved with PBWC as soon as she moved from New York to the Bay Area in 2005. She happened to move in next door to the former president, Debra Boblitt, who immediately recognized Ann as a perfect candidate for the board. She was voted in as president two years later.

Ann possesses all the qualities and qualifications it takes to be a successful business woman; she is smart, creative, professional, funny, warm, beautiful and generous. She has lent her talents to Peppercom for the last ten years. She is a partner and the president of its West Coast operations and led the founding of GreenPepper, Peppercom's environmental sustainability services.

Before she joined Peppercom, Ann led the New York office of Interpublic Group-Owned Mindstorm Communications.

Ann is a master communicator and has written numerous articles and given many

speeches on environmental issues and digital communication. In 2009, Ann was named one of the Bay Area's most influential women by the San Francisco Business Times. This year she was chosen to participate in the prestigious Tedwomans conference.

Ann was born in Davenport, Iowa on August 15, 1960. She went to Freeport High School in Freeport, Illinois and received her B.A. in Journalism from the University of Illinois.

She lives in San Ramon, California with her husband Bob, two children Chris and Vivian and her two spoiled beagles Kipper and Osgood. In her spare time she enjoys reading, cooking, playing golf, talking politics and walking with Kipper and Osgood.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to join me in honoring Ann Barlow for her extraordinary contributions to improve the lives and careers of thousands of women in California and all over the world.

COMMENDING RANDY BURGESS
FOR 33 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING
SERVICE TO THE U.S. FOREST
SERVICE

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Randy Burgess who recently retired from the Pisgah National Forest with 33 years of outstanding service to the U.S. Forest Service.

Mr. Burgess began his work in forests during summers while in college at Eldorado and Stanislaus National Forests in California. After he graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in wildlife and forest management, he worked as a ranger at several national forests such as those in Sumter, South Carolina, and Rio Grande, Colorado. He began work at the Pisgah National Forest in 2003.

During his 8 year tenure as head of the Pisgah District Operations, Mr. Burgess was instrumental in the upkeep and renovations in and around the forest. Mr. Burgess helped improve water quality through stream stabilization projects, supported various volunteer corporations, implemented upgrades at the Cradle of Forestry, provided public restrooms in the forest, and built a connector trail from the city of Brevard to the Pisgah National Forest. The 5.5-mile-long Estatoe Trail opened to the public on October 15, 2010, and has been a tremendous benefit to the citizens of that area. Mr. Burgess also served as a Forest Service Liaison to my office, lending his expertise in conservation to positively impact national policy. Mr. Burgess' leadership over the last few years has left a great mark on the Pisgah National Forest and provided positive influence on Congressional policy.

Mr. Burgess has shown extraordinary dedication to our community and has had an indelible impact on the Pisgah National Forest. The service that Mr. Burgess has contributed to Western North Carolina and the U.S. Forest Service is truly inspiring and I am proud to represent him. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the exceptional career and service of Mr. Randy Burgess.

HONORING LEO J. HULSEMAN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas, seventy-five (75) years ago Leo J. Hulseman established the Paper Container Manufacturing Company in Chicago, Illinois, and by the 1940s began manufacturing a paper cone cup known as the "Solo Cup" which provides unparalleled hygiene and convenience to consumers; and

Whereas, the "Solo Cup" was such an inspiration that the company itself was renamed Solo in the 1940s and become a brand that would become ubiquitous across America and the world; and

Whereas, Solo Cup has grown to be a \$1.6 billion company and has demonstrated its concern for the environment by introducing many product lines relying on compostable and renewable sources; and

Whereas, Solo Cup is a recognized industry leader in the areas of sustainability and beautification receiving the 2010 Keep America Beautiful Corporate Leadership Award; and

Whereas, The Solo plant in Conyers, Georgia is a place where 400 of our citizens are employed and is an enthusiastic participant in Georgia's Work Ready Program; and

Whereas, The Solo Company has proven to be a great corporate citizen supporting community outreach and educational initiatives by working closely with public officials, the Conyers-Rockdale Economic Development Council and the Rockdale Chamber of Commerce; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Solo Company, its management and employees for leadership and service to our district;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim September 13, 2011, as Solo Cup Company Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, This 13th day of September, 2011.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. WILLIAM SANDERS, EDUCATOR, COMMUNITY LEADER AND BUSINESSMAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of educator and community leader, William Sanders. Mr. Sanders was born March 27, 1928, in Monticello, Mississippi.

Upon graduation from McCullough High School in Lawrence County, Mr. Sanders continued his education at Alcorn College, where he played basketball. While attending Alcorn, Mr. Sanders was called to fulfill his military duties and later completed his degree in Agriculture Research. Mr. Sanders served in the Army in the 31st Artillery Brigade and was stationed in Alaska during his tour. Additionally, he was assigned to the Special Services. He

was honorably discharged from the Army at the rank of Sergeant.

Mr. Sanders's first professional job was as an educator in the Jefferson County School District, where he also served as principal, assistant principal and football and basketball coach. He would go on to teach in the Hattiesburg and Brookhaven School District, and concluded his career in education with the Hinds County School District. Mr. Sanders worked towards a master's degree during the summers in Boston and Indiana Universities. Mr. Sanders was the Chief Financial Officer for the first Head Start Program in the state of Mississippi, the Child Development Group of Mississippi (CDGM).

Mr. Sanders did not limit his education to the classroom; he remained active in his community, socially and politically, as well as entrepreneurially. Upon leaving CDGM, Mr. Sanders successfully, owned and operated the Delta Drive Texaco service station in Jackson, Mississippi, where his greatest satisfaction was employing others in his community. He was an industry pioneer and received several awards in recognition of his shrewd business sense.

Mr. Sanders married Emma Dunbar Sanders and had six children. He and his family were actively involved in the Civil Rights movement and made enormous sacrifices in an effort to amplify the voice of oppressed blacks in the segregated south. His actions helped shape future civil rights policy in the segregated south and advance the rights and freedoms of African Americans.

Mr. Sanders, a loyal Democrat, was actively involved in local, state and national politics. He attended the Democratic National Conventions in New York, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and most recently the 2008 Democratic Convention in Denver where Senator Barack Obama received the Democratic Party's nomination. He took great pride in the election of the first African American president and viewed this as a logical result of the Civil Rights Movement.

Again, I ask that my colleagues please join me in saluting the life and legacy of educator, community leader and businessman Mr. William Sanders.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNITY SHARES OF WISCONSIN

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th anniversary of Community Shares of Wisconsin and to recognize the commitment of its participants to serving their communities.

In 1971, amidst a deep societal divide over civil rights issues and the Vietnam War, a number of area volunteers created the Madison Sustaining Fund, America's first social action fund. Today, the fund now known as Community Shares of Wisconsin (CSW) partners with donors and non-profit member groups to address social, economic, and environmental challenges through grassroots activities, advocacy, research, and public education.

CSW continues to effect change in all aspects of our society by supporting the work of its non-profit member groups. The sixty-three non-profit member groups currently supported by Community Shares of Wisconsin are groups independently involved in tackling social and environmental issues both locally and nationwide. By working with CSW, each member non-profit group gains access to a larger network of supporters and more abundant resources with which to advance its mission.

For 40 years, CSW has utilized this pooled resource model to devise innovative solutions and ideas that generate lasting changes in social justice across the United States. It is due to the hard work of CSW member organizations like the Fair Housing Center of Greater Madison that more Wisconsinites can live in affordable housing complexes that offer permanent shelter and community safety. Other members of the CSW, like the Wisconsin Women's Network, are committed to the betterment of women's health, safety, and workplace protections. Although these are just a few examples, it is without a doubt that the civil rights and liberties of our family, friends, and neighbors stand better protected today thanks to the dedication and commitment of CSW member groups.

In addition to advancing social justice, the pursuit for environmental preservation is one of CSW's highest priorities. By supporting non-profit groups such as Clean Wisconsin, Friends of Wisconsin State Parks, and the River Alliance of Wisconsin, CSW works to improve the condition of Wisconsin's waters and its air quality. The great State of Wisconsin now thrives as a haven for residents and tourists who take pleasure in the outdoors and depend on the State's natural resources on a daily basis.

Today, CSW continues to bring together thousands of donors to benefit a multiplicity of causes through its non-profit member groups. I extend my sincerest congratulations to Community Shares of Wisconsin on its 40 years of forward thinking and its steadfast pursuit of justice and environmental protection for our community, both here in Wisconsin and across this great Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL J.
CRILLY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise today to pay tribute to Superintendent Michael J. Crilly, who retires this month from the Jefferson Union High School District.

Superintendent Crilly came up through the ranks, spending 39 years in the Jefferson Union High School District as teacher, vice principal, principal, associate superintendent and, for the past 17 years, superintendent. During his tenure at the helm, Mike led the district through two successful bond campaigns, allowing school buildings and fields to be upgraded and modernized to better serve a growing and changing student body. He partnered with the City of Daly City to develop the Challenge Leadership Program, bringing students from various schools together to find

ways to improve their education and learn important leadership skills. Mike also formed a partnership with San Francisco State University, the South San Francisco Unified School District and Serramonte Shopping Center to conduct an annual college fair, providing students access to representatives from nearly 70 colleges and universities.

In 2007, he was named Regional Superintendent of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators, a recognition justly deserved.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Crilly is not an administrator who feels that public service ends at the close of business. He gives tirelessly to his community, having served as President or Chairperson of the San Mateo County Superintendents' Association, Daly City—Colma Chamber of Commerce and Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Committee. Mike has also served on the Association of California School Administrators, Daly City Economic Development Advisory Committee, Daly City—Quezon City Sister City Committee, Pacifica Library Task Force, Skyline College President's Council and the Seton Medical Center Board of Directors.

A native San Franciscan, Mike Crilly was educated in local schools. He received his Bachelor of Arts from St. Patrick's University and his Secondary Teaching Credential and Administrative Services Credential from the University of San Francisco. Mike and his incredible wife, Patricia, raised three inspiring daughters—Jennifer, Megan and Erin—and Mike's retirement will leave even more time to enjoy his family, especially grandchildren Brayden and Ellie.

If I know Mike, retirement will also encourage more home remodeling and gardening projects but I'm sure there'll be plenty of baseball squeezed in as well.

Mr. Speaker, Superintendent Crilly has served his students and his community with the greatest honor and distinction. I am privileged to call him a friend and fellow public servant. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Superintendent Michael J. Crilly for his service to our nation and to the students and taxpayers of the Jefferson Union High School District.

EMPOWERING PARENTS THROUGH
QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2218) to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I voted in favor of House Resolution 2218, the Empowering Parents Through Quality Charter Schools Act. While I support most of the legislation, I have a few concerns which I would like to highlight.

I welcome the additional accountability requirements and the increased access measures incorporated into this legislation, as well as the specific encouragement for public char-

ter schools and traditional public schools to share best practices. However, I am worried about the authority given to the Secretary to dispense charter planning grant money. We have often seen this discretionary authority used to coerce school districts or states into adopting policies that do not fit within the state's education framework.

While I appreciate the bipartisan nature of this legislation, and the important advances it makes for accountability and access issues, I hope that the discretionary authority given to the Secretary is used judiciously.

IN RECOGNITION OF KAREN
PHILIP

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense appreciation and a tinge of regret that I rise today in honor of Karen K. Philip, who retires at the end of this month as Deputy Superintendent of the San Mateo County Office of Education.

There is no doubt that she has earned her retirement, after thirty-eight years educating the children—and impressing the parents—of California's 12th Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I doubt that anyone has ever met Karen Philip where they did not learn something. She is the consummate educator, beginning in 1973 in the South San Francisco Unified School District, where she served for seventeen years as a teacher, speech therapist, special education administrator and principal, Karen has dedicated her life to the children of San Mateo County.

From there, she was recruited by the Millbrae School District to serve as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and, after just two years, was appointed Superintendent of the District, a post she held for fifteen years. During her tenure in Millbrae, the schools in her charge received many prestigious awards, including three California Distinguished School Awards and the National Blue Ribbon, awarded in Washington D.C. to Taylor Middle School.

Throughout her career, Deputy Superintendent Philip has been tapped for numerous leadership positions, including serving as President of the San Mateo County Superintendents Association, the Special Education Local Plan Area Board, and Soroptomist International of Millbrae/San Bruno. She has also been named a "Woman of Distinction" by Soroptomist International, received the California "Schoolmasters Award" in 2011 and was inducted into the San Mateo County "Women's Hall of Fame".

Mr. Speaker, as with all true educators, Karen's greatest achievement is in the many thousands of children—most who are now adults—who have benefitted from her passion and extraordinary talent for teaching. No doubt, our county's loss is Karen's grandchildren's gain. Now they get to spend even more time soaking in all the incredible lessons their brilliant grandmother has to offer.

Karen was born and raised in Michigan and attended Detroit's Wayne State University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Speech and English and her Master Degree in Communication Disorders and Sciences.

Mr. Speaker, I have been honored to work with this incredible woman on promoting sound education policy for more than two decades. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Deputy Superintendent Karen Philip for her remarkable service to our nation's children and wish she and her husband, Lou, a phenomenal retirement filled with exciting travel, good health and the love of their amazing family: Kimberly and her husband Keith, Jeff, and his wife Jenn, and grandchildren Lydia, Mark, Caitlin, John, Emma and Amelia.

RECOGNIZING DR. GEORGE R.
CARRUTHERS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Dr. George R. Carruthers, a world-renowned scientist, an innovative leader in astronomy and engineering, and a resident of the District of Columbia.

Through the guidance and encouragement of his father, Dr. Carruthers discovered his interest in engineering. After graduating from Englewood High School in Chicago, Dr. Carruthers earned a bachelor's of science degree in aeronautical engineering, a master's degree in nuclear engineering, and a doctorate degree in aeronautical and astronomical engineering at the University of Illinois.

Though born in Ohio and raised in Illinois, Dr. Carruthers has spent most of his distinguished career as a resident of the nation's capital. Since joining the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory in 1964, Dr. Carruthers has co-invented the far-ultra violet electrographic camera, which was first used in sounding rockets in 1966 and was used during the Apollo 16 mission to the moon in 1972, giving scientists fresh, revealing images of Earth and space. He was also the first to detect molecular hydrogen in deep space in 1970. Dr. Carruthers has been a driving force in the use of ultra-violet astronomy. Not only was he involved in the review of the early design of the Hubble Space Telescope, which was carried into orbit in 1990, where it remains and continues to operate, he has refurbished the telescope in the Observatory on the campus of Howard University, enabling students, educators, families, and the general public to use the telescope to view special astronomical events.

Dr. Carruthers was inducted into the National Inventor's Hall of Fame in 2003, and has received numerous awards, including the Black Engineer of the Year in 1987, the Arthur S. Fleming Award in 1971, the Exceptional Achievement Scientific Award from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1972 and the Warner Prize from the American Astronomical Society in 1973.

The District of Columbia and its residents are particularly grateful for Dr. Carruthers' work in helping to develop the next generation of engineers by creating the Science and Engineering Apprentice Program, a summer program in which D.C. Public Schools high school students work side-by-side with professional scientists. Dr. Carruthers has also edited and co-authored several publications and co-pro-

duced a series of instructional videos on Earth and space science for high school students.

For more than two decades, Dr. Carruthers has been an active member of Science, Mathematics, Aerospace, Research, and Technology (S.M.A.R.T.), Inc., where he has shared his knowledge through presentations and hands-on activities with students, educators, families, and the general public. Dr. Carruthers spent six years coordinating workshops in aerospace, science and technology for African-American students in the D.C. metropolitan area for S.M.A.R.T. and the National Air and Space Museum.

Dr. Carruthers is the editor of the National Technical Association (NTA) Journal and newsletter, is the President of the D.C. Chapter of NTA, and was a secretary of the Development Fund for Black Students in Science and Technology for more than two decades.

For a lifetime of achievements and for continuing contributions to science, engineering, and astronomy, as recognized throughout the nation and the world, I ask the House to join me in celebrating the uniquely distinctive place of Dr. George R. Carruthers in science.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on Mr. HOLT's amendment to H.R. 2218—Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act. I wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 702, I would have voted "yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD
BOITANO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise this today to ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Richard Boitano as he retires as Associate Superintendent of Education for the Jefferson Union High School District.

Rick Boitano has served his community for 38 years as a teacher, Vice-Principal, District Director of Pupil-Personnel Services and Associate Superintendent. In addition, he has been active in numerous organizations dedicated to helping young people and the community at large, including the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice Planning Council, San Mateo County TANF Planning Council, San Mateo County Community Schools Task Force, Board of Directors of Youth Empowering Systems, Inc., San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission, Pacifica Youth Service Bureau, Every 15 Minutes Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program and the Association of California School Administrators.

In addition, Rick has been a presenter at the California State Juvenile Officers' Associa-

tion Annual Training Conference, the San Mateo County Prevention Coordinators Meeting, and the National School Transportation Association Convention on Gang Awareness, School Safety and Gang Intervention.

Rick has also served as Chairperson of the WASC School Accreditation Process and the San Mateo County Gang Task Force Schools Division. In addition, Rick is a member and past-president of St. Pius Catholic Church Mens' Club.

Rick Boitano was born and raised in San Francisco, having received his Bachelor of Arts, Secondary Teaching Credential and Administrative Services Credential from the University of San Francisco. He and Beverly, his lovely wife of 35 years, have raised four boys—Tim, Jonathan, Matt and Andrew—and his retirement will provide extra time for his grandson, Jude.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Rick for his decades of service to the young people of California's 12th Congressional District. He has earned his retirement and I wish him nothing but the best, which is exactly what he gave the students and parents of the Jefferson Union High School District every day for thirty-eight years.

RECOGNIZING AZERBAIJAN AND
THE AZERI PEOPLE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Azerbaijan and the Azeri people for their ongoing support of the United States and our allies in the Global War on Terror. Azerbaijan has been a consistent supporter of U.S. efforts in the fight against terrorism, and the Azeris have worked with us to strengthen economic and political stability in the Caspian region. It is important that we recognize the sacrifices made by our allies and continue to thank them for their support.

As we reflect back on the recently passed 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, we must remember that the fight against terrorism is not a fight against Islam. On September 11, 2001, Americans of all faiths and citizens from around the world tragically lost their lives.

Today, uniformed and civilian men and women around the world work shoulder to shoulder to combat the ongoing threat of terrorist attacks that don't just affect the United States, but virtually every nation. This effort is not one of faith; rather it is an effort to keep citizens of all nations safe from barbaric acts of terrorism.

Immediately after 9/11, Azerbaijan, a majority Muslim nation, was among the first to offer strong support and assistance to the United States. Azerbaijan participated in operations Iraq and is actively engaged in Afghanistan, having recently doubled its military presence there. Azerbaijan has extended important over-flight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights to support ISAF and has regularly provided landing and refueling operations at its airports for U.S. and NATO forces. Also, Azerbaijan plays an important role in the Northern

Distribution Network, a supply route to Afghanistan by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities.

Additionally, Azerbaijan provides specialized training for Afghan police, border guard officers and de-miners, education and training of Afghan civilian and military medical doctors, and medical treatment of Afghan citizens at Azeri hospitals. Azerbaijan has provided medical equipment and supplies to Afghanistan as well as assisting in the construction of schools and hospitals there.

Azerbaijan remains a reliable partner of NATO and the EU in the South Caucuses through its consistent and effective contribution to common goals and objectives. Azerbaijan is also an active partner of the United States in efforts regarding the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction through its participation in programs such as Caspian Guard and Cooperative Threat Reduction.

On July 5, 2011, an Azerbaijani aircraft flying a support mission for NATO troops crashed as it descended into Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. While it is my understanding that investigations are ongoing, it has come to my attention that one leading theory is that Taliban fighters may have shot down the aircraft as it made its final approach. While we await further information on exactly what happened that night in Afghanistan, it is important that we recognize the loss of life of the nine crew members on board that flight who made the ultimate sacrifice.

While we can take comfort knowing that we are not alone in this fight, we must also make sure we comfort those who make sacrifices alongside us. It is with a heavy heart that I offer my thanks and appreciation to the family, friends, and countrymen to those crew members of Silk Way Airlines IL-76. The world is a safer place due to their commitment to support and supply our troops and allies in their hunt for those seeking to harm peace-loving people around the world.

ENDING CONGRESSIONAL PENSIONS

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to put an end to the defined-benefit retirement plan currently available to Members of Congress.

These are extremely difficult economic times. We are in a debt crisis that will require sacrifices on the part of all Americans. I served in both the U.S. Army and the Marine Corps, and I was taught that leaders should never ask others to do anything that they themselves would be unwilling to do. Congress needs to set an example and lead the way for the country. I think this is a good start.

The defined benefit retirement plan gives Members of Congress an averaged percentage of their annual salary (currently \$174,000) for every year they serve in Congress. To be eligible for the retirement plan they must first serve at least five years. They will then receive 1.7% for every year up to 20 that they serve in Congress, and 1% for every year after 20. For example, if a Member of Congress served for 20 years, and they were at

least 62, he or she would receive 34% of their salary, or \$59,160 per year, based on the current salary. Members of Congress pay 1.3% of their salary into the pension plan and are required to pay into Social Security at the same rate as everyone else. They may contribute to a Thrift Savings Plan that has a match similar to many private sector 401(k) plans.

My legislation will honor any retirement benefits accrued prior to the passage of this bill, and will keep the Social Security and Thrift Savings Plan in place.

I believe that Members of Congress should feel the same economic pressures the rest of society does, and I firmly believe that the current effort to reduce spending and constrain the size and scope of government requires that all possible solutions be taken, including cuts to the Congressional budget. I urge the passage of this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BUILDING OWNERS AND MANAGERS ASSOCIATION OF SAN FRANCISCO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Building Owners and Managers Association of San Francisco on the historic occasion of its 100th anniversary.

BOMA San Francisco has been advocating for commercial real estate interests, training future leaders and promoting sustainable practices. I have partnered with BOMA since my days on the San Mateo Board of Supervisors and in the California Legislature and have witnessed its effective work that supports business growth which in turn creates tax dollars for important public services.

Healthy commercial real estate provides homes for countless businesses that employ our workforce. BOMA always strives to create better work environments for our future generations. It has been honored for its progressive environmental policies to help promote energy conservation and sustainable practices in office buildings. BOMA is also a tireless advocate of emergency preparedness.

For 20 years BOMA has partnered with the San Francisco Fire Department and put big smiles on children's faces. The San Francisco Firefighter Toy Program is the oldest program of its kind in the country and has donated over a million toys to disadvantaged children.

Mr. Speaker, the Building Owners and Managers Association of San Francisco has left its mark on San Francisco and made it a more beautiful, healthy and happier city for a century. I ask this body to honor BOMA on May 19, its 100th anniversary.

MASS GRAVES HOLD THOUSANDS, KASHMIR INQUIRY FINDS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, tonight I wish to call the attention of my col-

leagues to the most recent developments in India-controlled Kashmir. In late August, the Jammu and Kashmir State Human Rights Commission stated that it had found evidence of 2,156 unidentified bodies buried in approximately 40 mass graves, officially recognized for the first time, that pock mark the landscape of this long troubled region. This disturbing revelation, while horrific in scale and heart-breaking in scope, has the potential to serve as a catalyst to propel Kashmir forward, away from its violent past. For the first time, everyone in Kashmir, as well as the rest of the world, will be forced to acknowledge the wanton violence and unrest that have torn their communities apart.

History has taught us that in conflicts like the one propagated on Kashmir and its people, the first casualty is always the truth. The findings in this inquiry have now irrefutably confirmed the very worst fears people like myself who have been concerned about this issue since 1989. It is my sincerest hope that when finally faced with the sum of their actions to this point, those responsible for these crimes will see the error of their ways and summarily be brought to justice; I also hope that all of the well intentioned people of the region, whether they are Kashmiri, Pakistani, or Indian, can use this tragic circumstance to begin to work towards reconciliation, and finally move towards a peaceful resolution for everyone living in Kashmir. I am submitting an article from the August 23, 2011 edition of the New York Times and strongly urge my colleagues to read it.

MASS GRAVES HOLD THOUSANDS, KASHMIR INQUIRY FINDS

(By Lydia Polgreen)

NEW DELHI.—Thousands of bullet-riddled bodies are buried in dozens of unmarked graves across Kashmir, a state human rights commission inquiry has concluded, many of them likely to be those of civilians who disappeared more than a decade ago in a brutal insurgency.

The inquiry, the result of three years of investigative work by senior police officers working for the Jammu and Kashmir State Human Rights Commission, brings the first official acknowledgment that civilians might have been buried in mass graves in Kashmir, a region claimed by both India and Pakistan where insurgents waged a bloody battle for independence in the early 1990s. The report sheds new light on a grim chapter in the history of the troubled region and confirms a 2008 report by a Kashmiri human rights organization that found hundreds of bodies buried in the Kashmir Valley.

Tens of thousands of people died in the insurgency, which began in 1989 and was partly fueled by weapons, cash and training from Pakistan.

According to the report, the bodies of hundreds of men described as unidentified militants were buried in unmarked graves. But of the more than 2,000 bodies, 574 were identified as local residents.

"There is every probability that these unidentified dead bodies buried in various unmarked graves at 38 places of North Kashmir may contain the dead bodies of enforced disappearances," the report said.

The report catalogs 2,156 bodies found in graves in four districts of Kashmir that had been at the heart of the insurgency. It called for a thorough inquiry and a collection of DNA evidence to identify the dead, and, for the future, proper identification of anyone killed by security forces in Kashmir to avoid abuse of special laws shielding the military

from prosecution there. Thousands of people, mostly young men, have disappeared in Kashmir. Some went to be trained as militants in the Pakistan-controlled portion of Kashmir and were killed in the fighting. Many others were detained by Indian security forces. The wives they left behind are known as half-widows, because the fates of their husbands are unknown. Parents keep vigil for sons who were arrested two decades ago.

Parveena Ahanger's son Javed was taken away by the police on Aug. 18, 1990, and never seen again. An investigation found that he had been killed by security forces, but they have not been prosecuted, she said.

"I never got any response from the government," she said. "I never got his dead body."

After years of fighting in the courts to find out what happened to Javed, Ms. Ahanger was skeptical that the human rights report would get her son's body back, or bring her justice.

"If the high court doesn't give any justice on this issue, what will the state human rights commission do?" she said.

Zahoor Wani, an activist who works with the families of people who disappeared during the insurgency, said that the report was a welcome first step but that the government must identify the dead and allow families to bury their relatives.

"It is a very good thing that they acknowledge it," Mr. Wani said. "These families have been living in a hope to see these people again."

"They are neither dead nor alive," he said. "We need to move them to one pole or the other."

Hari Kumar contributed reporting.

IN RECOGNITION OF MATTEO
RIZZO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to Matteo Rizzo, a life-long educator who is retiring as Superintendent of the Jefferson Elementary School District, serving the communities of Daly City and Colma, California.

In his tenure as Superintendent, Mr. Rizzo has been known for his personal involvement with all the stakeholders in his district, from teachers, to parents, to administrators and, most importantly, the students themselves. He served as the District's representative in staff contract negotiations, oversaw budget decisions, coordinated the recruitment, selection and assignment of teachers, principals and other personnel and put his imprint on every aspect of life and learning in the Jefferson Elementary School District.

As is the case in school districts across our country, Superintendent Rizzo was asked to do the impossible—educate a diverse student population in an environment of dwindling financial resources, all the while staying focused on preparing them to achieve to their utmost ability in an increasingly competitive world.

To do this, Matteo relied heavily on the skills he gained as an Assistant Superintendent, Principal, Vice-Principal and teacher—all within the Jefferson Elementary School District. His unsurpassed institutional knowledge and commitment to bettering the lives of

young people will be sorely missed and not easily replaced. Fortunately, he leaves his successor with a legacy of excellence and community involvement that can be built upon in future years.

Mr. Speaker, Matteo Rizzo is a living example of the benefits of public education and the fruits of hard work. A product of local schools, he is a graduate of San Francisco State University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics, his California Teaching Credential and two Masters of Arts—one in Education and another in Educational Administration.

He has been honored at every step of his career, including earning a "California Distinguished School" award for Fernando Rivera Middle School in 2001, while serving as the school's principal.

Mr. Speaker, Superintendent Rizzo has certainly earned his retirement. On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I wish to thank him for his exceptional service to our nation and wish him only the best as he now has time to travel with his amazing wife, Clydie, play a lot more golf, do a little more duck hunting and, as rumor has it, learn to play the guitar.

Matteo Rizzo, simply put, is a good man who spent his entire professional career doing good for his community. There's no need to tell that to the thousands of children he educated, or his son, Matthew, and daughter-in-law, Jill, but the rest of America can benefit from knowing that extremely capable and committed professionals like Matteo Rizzo show up at school districts across this country every day with no other goal than to move our country forward, one student at a time.

It is for these reasons and more that I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Superintendent Matteo Rizzo for his service.

SURFACE AND AIR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS EXTENSION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I have serious concerns about the policies of H.R. 2887, Transportation Extension, and the procedures the House used to pass it.

First, I applaud the House Leadership's numerous statements and actions on working towards fiscally responsible policies that begin to close our deficit and balance our budget. Achieving those two goals will certainly help create an environment for the private sector to create jobs. H. Con. Res. 34, the House Budget for Fiscal Year 2012, laid a solid blueprint for leaders in this Congress to follow towards that end.

Unfortunately, the actions taken yesterday fail to follow the spending plan that 235 members of the House agreed upon earlier this year. The House Budget calls for a transportation policy that puts the bankrupt Highway Trust Fund and the insolvent Airport Improvement Program back operating within their means. Unfortunately, the bill we passed today sacrifices fiscal sanity for continued chaos.

Unlike the House Budget, the policies of this Transportation Extension would continue current spending levels that, without the aid of previous bailouts, would leave the Highway Trust Fund and the Airport Improvement Program completely bankrupt. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office estimates the current policy embraced by this "clean" Transportation Extension would require future billion dollar bailouts in 2013 and every year thereafter over the next decade. Unlike the FY2012 plan called for in the House Budget, the action we took yesterday simply avoids the necessary dirty work associated with making sound fiscal decisions.

Second, I was appalled by the procedure the House used in passing this bill. While I recognize the need to quickly move this bill by the start of Fiscal Year 2012, October 1, 2011, I do not believe that justifies suspending the House rules to move a bill that will cost tens of billions of dollars over six months without any opportunity to offer amendments either in the Rules committee or on the House floor. While such action does not technically violate our House or Conference rules, it certainly flies in the face of the higher standards those rules and protocols promote. Most notably, this multi-billion dollar Transportation Extension was only available for no more than a 24-hour review period, as opposed to the three-day review standard. Also, the bill failed to include a Congressional Budget Office cost estimate. Finally, it was unexpectedly voice voted without the opportunity for Representatives to record the collective voice of their constituents. As a result, we are left to less desirable means to record their vote.

Ultimately, yesterday's action is a missed opportunity to "advance policies that promote greater liberty, wider opportunity, . . . and national economic prosperity," as well as, "to make government more transparent in its actions, careful in its stewardship, and honest in its dealings." Had I the chance yesterday to vote, I would have voted against this Transportation Extension.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on the afternoon of Tuesday, September 13, 2011, I recorded an erroneous vote on Final Passage of the bill H.R. 2218. I intended to vote "no" on rollcall vote No. 705, on passage of H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS
MOHR

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the tireless public service of Thomas Mohr, who is retiring as President of Cañada College in Redwood City, California.

I have had the privilege of knowing and working with Tom for many years. He is without peer and his calm demeanor and inspired leadership will be sorely missed.

While serving as President, Tom revamped Cañada College's planning process and turned it into a state leader in the accreditation process. He helped establish new four-year degrees in art, psychology, human services and business administration by forging new relationships with nearby Notre Dame de Namur University. Under Tom's watch, Cañada started the Center for Teacher Efficacy to provide professional development opportunities for San Mateo County high school teachers. He also developed an Honors Transfer Program designed to support highly motivated students as they pursue their educational goals.

Tom attracted more than \$3 million in grants for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education at the college, established the Veterans Resource and Opportunity Center, and expanded the school's study abroad program. For these and other accomplishments, President Mohr received the 2010 Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction from Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for two year colleges.

Tom holds a Bachelor of Science from St. Louis University and a Master of Arts from the University of San Francisco. He has been an educator on the San Francisco Peninsula since working as a Chemistry teacher in the Jefferson Union High School District in 1961. Since then, Tom has served in nearly every capacity an educator can—teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, superintendent and most recently, college president.

Ironically, Tom thought he had retired six years ago when he left the San Mateo Union High School District. But, ever the public servant, when his community came calling, Tom answered. He agreed to serve as Cañada's President on an interim basis, not knowing that it would stretch into a six-year commitment.

Mr. Speaker, everyone in this body knows that there are no easy solutions to improving education in America. Were it only possible to clone a thousand or so Tom Mohrs, our nation's students would, indeed, be in capable hands. Since we can't do that, we are best served to simply follow his example and learn from the many lessons this lifelong educator has taught us.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE BOOKER T. WASHINGTON LEARNING CENTER ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I rise to congratulate The Booker T. Washington Learning Center as they reach their 25th milestone. This accomplishment has been achieved through dedication and committed service to the most vulnerable children and their families in my Congressional District.

Since 1986, thousands of families have found support, opportunity and resources that have made a life-changing difference through

the Booker T. Washington Learning Center. They have made it possible for people in my community to not only survive, but thrive. The center was originally founded under the parent organization, East Harlem Churches and Community Urban Center by Reverend Leroy Ricksy who decided to help four children being raised by their grandmother. Today, the learning center led by Executive Director, Reverend Kimberly Wright, has expanded its services to include an after school program, Saturday readings, adult education, summer camp, college preparation and support, and art therapy. There is a very personal approach taken at Booker T. They offer children, teens, and adults the extra that they need in order to find success.

The Learning Center is able to look back over these 25 years and feel proud of the investment that they have made in so many lives. They have watched their children grow up to be extremely responsible, hard working, and productive citizens. There are so many who have overcome learning disabilities, achieved academic success—even in a failing school system, graduated high school and gone on to college. It continues to be a cornerstone in my beloved East Harlem Community for families who would otherwise not be able to afford quality services for their children and have no place to turn. Their programs meet the needs of many who are in desperate need of guidance and academic support. The small group of young people the learning center started with are all enjoying their careers, their families, and their lives. They have overcome poverty and beaten the odds.

Booker T. could not exist if it were not for people who believe in our youngsters and their work. They are most fortunate in having the most dedicated group of staff and volunteers that continue to ensure that Booker T. offers quality enrichment programs that move people from poverty and despair to independence and hope.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in celebrating with the staff and wonderful volunteers at the Booker T. Washington Learning Center on their milestone. Let's encourage others to help programs like these to ensure that they continue to offer a helping hand to our fragile families and make certain that each child in our great nation find a second home, a second family, and a second school in our learning institutions.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE USE OF LIBYA'S FROZEN ASSETS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Libya's frozen assets be used to pay for humanitarian relief and military operations associated with the current conflict in that country.

Since Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi responded to peaceful demonstrations by attacking Libya's own citizens, the United States has been actively engaged with our international allies in thwarting the ability of the Qaddafi re-

gime to visit violence, murder, and destruction on the people of Libya. This past February, the United States imposed economic sanctions on Libya and froze the assets of its leadership, promising to hold Qaddafi, his family, and the government of Libya accountable for its human rights abuses. It is estimated that the value of these assets exceed \$30 billion.

On March 19, with the authority of the United Nations, the United States Armed Forces and our coalition partners launched Operation Odyssey Dawn in an effort to enforce the Security Council resolution. That mission has since come under NATO command and is now called Operation Unified Protector. Our Armed Forces have assisted in combat operations including providing intelligence, aerial refueling, targeting, and other aspects of NATO's daily bombardment of Libyan forces loyal to Qaddafi. We have already spent over one billion taxpayer dollars on this effort, with operations costing millions more every day.

When the United States recognized the Transitional National Council as the legitimate governing authority of Libya on July 15, it paved the way for the Council to access some of the frozen assets to be used for humanitarian relief and reconstruction efforts. With the Qaddafi regime at an end and the dictator himself on the run and in hiding, the United States will be moving into a posture that puts less emphasis on military operations and more focus on supporting the Transitional National Council's efforts to establish a working government.

The United States should pursue with the Council the viability of using some of those assets to reimburse NATO members for the cost of their military operations in support of the Libyan people. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BRISBANE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the city of Brisbane, California. Nestled in the lower slopes of San Bruno Mountain, "the City of Stars" stands as a symbol of light in the Bay Area.

Back in the sixth century the Ohlone Indians enjoyed the abundance of resources the land offered. They thrived as hunters and gatherers until the Spanish conquistadores claimed the land in the early 16th century.

The deed to the land changed hands several times before any significant development occurred. The need for real estate triggered by the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake brought new focus to the valley. Developers immersed themselves in the area with new vigor, naming their new hope for future growth "Visitacion City."

It wasn't until the arrival of Arthur Annis that the town finally got off the ground. The "Daddy of Brisbane" came to the area in 1929, bringing hope to an area that desperately needed it. During the worst years of the Great Depression, Annis encouraged settlement and development through extremely cheap land prices. Between 1929 and 1933, over 400 homes were built.

Annis' signature contribution was the christening of Visitacion City as Brisbane. There are two competing theories about how Annis chose the name Brisbane. His daughter insists he named it after the city in Australia, while others believe he named it after the American journalist Arthur Brisbane. Whatever its origins, the name Brisbane has come to mean a city that draws its strength from hope, even in the darkest times.

This strong spirit can be seen in the tradition from which Brisbane draws its nickname, the "City of Stars." In 1940, Brisbane prepared to employ its citizens in the ongoing war efforts and the future was once again uncertain. Resident Arthur Kennedy struck out against the doubt by placing a simple star above his house for the holiday season. Soon, this symbol of brightness could be found above many a house, and the tradition lives on today during every Christmas.

The city was incorporated in 1961. Since incorporation, Brisbane has had twenty-five mayors, including John Turner, James Williams, Jess Salmon, Ed Schwenderlauf, John Bell, Robert McLennan, S.J. Guardino, Julius Stern, Anja Miller, Art Montenegro, Paul Goercke, Jeannine Hodge, Don Bradshaw, Fred Smith, Bill Lawrence, Ray Miller, Lou Graham, Steve Waldo, Brad Kerwin, Lee Panza, Clara Johnson, W. Clarke Conway, Cyril Bologoff, Michael Barnes, and Sepi Richardson.

Brisbane also holds the distinction of being the first community in the United States in which a habitat conservation plan (HCP) was developed. This historic plan, developed in the 1980s, helped to save the Mission Blue butterfly and the Callippe Silverspot butterfly. The HCP served as a model for an amendment to the Endangered Species Act. In addition to legal protections related to land use, Brisbane's fog and ample rains succor the flora needed to create an environment in which these and other species of butterflies may roam largely unmolested over 3,000 acres of undeveloped land.

Brisbane's reputation as a can-do community received national attention in 1990 when residents came together to rescue Humphrey, a disoriented humpback whale who regularly became stranded at various locations around San Francisco Bay. When Humphrey found himself stuck on an embayment very close to Brisbane's Sierra Point, hundreds of Brisbane citizens gathered to cheer the Coast Guard and Humphrey onward towards the whale's successful extraction.

Brisbane hosts a thriving economy including a booming biotechnology sector, a popular harbor for private boats, and other more traditional businesses such as a 100-year-old manufacturer of fruit juices, A.C. Calderoni. Eventually, Brisbane will likely also be the site of a booming clean tech energy sector as the city redevelops vast parcels of unused lands near the bay. Brisbane's economy is so vibrant that the population of the city doubles during the workday.

While not every step in its history has been easy, its residents have always pressed towards the future. Even as it has grown from its decidedly humble origins to its current population of 4,282 residents, the sense of family and community that spurred its development has never diminished.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to join me in celebrating the history and future of the city of

Brisbane as it celebrates its 50th anniversary on September 10, 2011.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARGARET
FUENTES GONZALEZ ZEPEDA OF
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Margaret Fuentes Gonzalez Zepeda on the occasion of her 96th birthday and tribute at the Guadalupe Community Center in San Antonio, Texas.

Born in 1915 Margaret "Margarita" Gonzalez was the daughter of Simon Gonzalez and Maria Fuentes Gonzalez. Margaret and her family grew up in San Antonio, and in April 1931, she married Manuel Zepeda, a union that would last 44 years, produce three girls and one boy.

Margaret worked for the San Antonio Housing Authority for over 20 years and rose to the position of Assistant Manager. Additionally, Margaret was extremely active in the community, and she used sports as a method to mentor San Antonio youth. Through sports Margaret developed a strong sense of discipline that she took to the Guadalupe Community Center and to the City of San Antonio as a recreation leader.

After retirement Margaret accelerated her own participation in sports, and in the late 1980s began her journey into the Senior Olympics. Since 1990 Margaret has participated in Senior Olympics in a variety of sports including: bowling; walking; horse shoes; softball and football for accuracy and distance; and each year has qualified for the National Games. At the age of 96, Margaret has won over 100 gold and silver medals. She has been to the National Games in Baton Rouge, Louisiana (twice); San Antonio, Texas; Tucson, Arizona; Orlando, Florida and has brought home the Gold or Silver (Tucson) every time.

Margaret Zepeda has a "never give up" spirit that impacted the self worth of each child she mentored. She instilled in them pride and discipline, and an understanding that love and command of sports was the great equalizer. For her half century of community work and leadership to the children of San Antonio, I join in celebrating the tribute hosted at the Guadalupe Community Center by the cadre of successful women who began their lives under the tutorage of Margaret Fuentes Gonzalez Zepeda.

TRIBUTE TO SHERRI WINDER

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Sherri Winder, a beautiful and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and excellent member of my staff. Sherri passed away on Sunday, September 11th, 2011 in a tragic car accident in southern Utah. We are all stunned by the sudden and devastating loss of this wonderful woman.

As a faithful employee, Sherri brought grace and style to everything that she did. She was an elegant lady. She was an extremely kind, caring, and selfless person. She was a faithful volunteer in her community and church. She made an immediate and profound impact in my office. My staff and I are each deeply affected by her loss.

I am honored to have been one of the many people touched by Sherri's kindness and generosity. Sherri lived the principle of gratitude—always expressing her appreciation to others and making them feel valued. Sherri was perpetually positive and instantly brought a smile to all those with whom she came in contact. Her love of life and sincere caring was contagious and welcomed by all.

Sherri was involved in politics for all the right reasons. She was the first volunteer in Jon Huntsman's 2004 gubernatorial campaign, she was a prolific grass roots organizer, organizing the efforts to incorporate Taylorsville as a city, and she was a stalwart employee serving all who needed assistance. Sherri simply wanted to help people and strengthen our community. She was known and loved by people all across the Salt Lake Valley. But no more so than by the five loving children she and her husband Kent raised together.

Sherri Winder leaves behind a legacy of service and gratitude. She is survived by her husband, Kent, and their five adult children, Mike and Karyn Winder, Aimee and Matt Newton, Tami and Tom Larsen, Nathan Winder, and Isaac and Candalyn Winder, as well as 11 grandchildren with one on the way.

On behalf of both my staff and the constituents of the Third Congressional District who were served so well by Sherri, I extend my deepest sympathies to Kent and his family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them during this most difficult time.

And although we mourn the loss of Sherri at this time, we will always celebrate her brilliant life, cherish her wonderful friendship, strive to emulate her amazing qualities, and work as she did to improve the world and community around us. She will be sincerely missed, but her profound legacy will never be forgotten.

SURFACE AND AIR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS EXTENSION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Surface and Air Transportation Programs Extension Act, which would authorize surface transportation programs through March and the Federal Aviation Administration through January.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the construction sector faced 13.5 percent unemployment in August. The programs we authorize in this bill create the projects to help put this industry back to work—to rebuild roads and bridges, renovate airports, and expand mass transit options. These are good jobs, here at home, that improve efficiency and economic competitiveness.

But this bill is not enough. We cannot continue short-term extensions and stop-gap

measures to make these critical investments. States need more certainty to plan their projects and industry needs to know that we are committed to rebuilding our infrastructure so they have the confidence to hire back employees who have been laid off.

Additionally, this bill does not include relief for those FAA employees who were furloughed through no fault of their own when Congress failed to extend authorization this summer. It is important to make these workers whole, and we should work quickly to provide retroactive pay.

Mr. Speaker, we need an ambitious agenda of investment that will put Americans back to work, repair our crumbling infrastructure, and jumpstart our economy. We need a long-term reauthorization of these critical programs. The American people are waiting—it's time to get the job done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to state for the record that my vote against the Holt amendment to the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act was made in error. I strongly support this amendment that requires the Secretary of Education to give priority to schools that make investments in green building improvements. We must ensure that Federal investments in our schools set the highest standard for green school building practices. I remain a staunch supporter of green building innovation and I look forward to advancing this important cause in Congress.

HONORING J. CONRAD (JC) SENECA ON HIS NEW RESTAURANT, THE ARMOR INN TAP ROOM

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise today to honor J. Conrad (JC) Seneca upon the occasion of the opening of his new restaurant, the Armor Inn Tap Room, in Western New York.

An entrepreneur with a diversified portfolio of business interests, JC recently purchased the former Hoak's Armor Inn, located in the town of Hamburg. That establishment has undergone a tremendous rehabilitation, and will feature upscale dining in an historical atmosphere. Located where it is, it is certain to draw the attention of Buffalo Bills fans, tourists and the local community.

None of this comes as much of a surprise, however, because JC has been a substantial member of our community throughout his life. A native of the Cattaraugus Reservation in Irving, JC was a multi-sport star athlete while at Silver Creek High School. After graduation, JC served with honor and distinction with the United States Air Force, eventually studying at Bryant and Stratton and at Buffalo State College.

After a stint as a radio disc jockey, JC became incredibly active within the Seneca Nation and on behalf of Native Americans throughout the United States. JC currently serves as a Seneca Tribal Councilor, and has served in a number of business and government capacities on behalf of his nation. JC was a member of President-elect Bill Clinton's Transition Team and has led efforts to ensure cooperative working relationships between other governments and the Seneca people.

You know, Mr. Speaker, we all are a product of our upbringing, and JC is no different. JC's father, William Seneca, an ironworker and World War II Marine veteran, served honorably as President of the Seneca Nation, and later served as Special Liaison Officer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. JC's mom practiced nursing, and was later elected Clerk of the Seneca Nation. Without question, JC's parents served as a strong example for the value of public service and instilled in him a dedication to make contributions back to his own community. As a result, all of those who comprise all of his communities—on a large or small scale—are better for the contributions he continues to make.

JC's new enterprise will add dozens of additional names to the list of employees—native and non-native—for whom he has helped create jobs in Western New York. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I urge you to join with me and with all Western New Yorkers in wishing the very best of luck to JC Seneca upon the opening of the new Armor Inn Tap Room, and to thank JC and his family for the many significant contributions that they make to life here in Western New York.

A TRIBUTE TO CHARITY CAMPBELL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Charity Campbell, a Norwalk physical education teacher known for her leadership and high expectations, in receiving the 2012 Iowa Teacher of the Year Award from Governor Terry Branstad.

Along with teaching sixth and seventh grade physical education at Norwalk Middle School, Ms. Campbell is the Norwalk Middle School girls' track coach and girls' varsity track coach at Norwalk High School. It's her outstanding leadership qualities in addition to skills in physical education that make her special to the Norwalk community.

For example, Ms. Campbell helped her craft and create a mentoring program for first-year teachers at Norwalk schools. She instructs teachers how to use activities that will increase the student's hands-on learning directed at helping them focus and succeed in the classroom.

In 2010, Ms. Campbell's physical education program was named as a top observation program through PE4Life, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improve children's health and wellness in their everyday lives.

I am honored to represent Ms. Campbell in the United States Congress, and I wish her the best in her continuing service to the Norwalk community. I know my colleagues in the

U.S. Congress will join me in congratulating and honoring Ms. Charity Campbell and her 15 years of teaching young Iowans.

TRIBUTE TO MR. R. CATER LEE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of a truly great American, Mr. R. Cater Lee, of Gulf Shores, Alabama, who passed away on August 13, 2011, at the age of 90.

Mr. Lee was a veteran of World War II and a member of America's "Greatest Generation" who helped to liberate Europe from Nazi tyranny. He flew 31 missions with the 448th Bomb Group, Second Air Division, of the Eighth Air Force in the European Theatre. He proudly served as a bombardier and navigator aboard the B-24 Liberator. For his courage and service he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters. Mr. Lee so loved his country that he continued to serve in the U.S. Air Force Reserves during the Korean War, attaining the rank of Major.

After his service to his country, Mr. Lee came home to Alabama, eventually settling in Birmingham, where in 1966 he was one of the co-founders of Vulcan, Inc. He would serve as president of the company for twenty years. At the time of his death, he was chairman of the board of Vulcan Inc., in Foley. Not only a patriot and successful businessman, Mr. Lee was also a leader in his community.

He was a past chairman of the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce and of the Gulf Shores Water Board. He was a former member of the Gulf Shores City Council and recipient of the Free Enterprise Person of the Year Award. Mr. Lee's love of country was only rivaled by his love of family, community, and golf. He served as president of Gulf Shores Golf Club for many years.

Mr. Lee cherished all four generations of his family. The loss of Mr. Lee is one that should be mourned throughout the state and nation, as he was the embodiment of American ideals of patriotism, hard work and giving back to one's community.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I offer condolences to his daughter, Linda Lee Koniar and her husband, John, and his two sons, Bubba and his wife, Cheryl, and Tommy and his wife, Sandra. Mr. Lee had eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, all of whom he loved with all his heart. My thoughts and prayers go out to all his family.

VOTE ON H.R. 2587, PROTECTING JOBS FROM GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE ACT

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 15, 2011, I will be absent and unable to cast my vote in favor of H.R. 2587, the Protecting Jobs from Government Interference

Act, because I will be in Florida attending the memorial service for my friend, David I. "Dave" Bitner. David Bitner was a great Florida statesman, my esteemed colleague in the Florida legislature, and my personal friend for over 20 years. I was saddened by Dave's death on September 8, 2011, which came soon after his diagnosis with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). Although I wish to cast my vote in favor of H.R. 2587, my long-time friendship with Dave and his wife, Wendy, requires me to attend the memorial service in Dave's honor.

I support the Protecting Jobs from Government Interference Act, and I voted in favor of H. Res. 372, the rule for H.R. 2587, in the Rules Committee hearing held on July 26, 2011. (Rules Committee Record Vote No. 121.) I strongly believe in the right of American business owners to make decisions regarding where and when to conduct business, and the right of states to determine the best labor policies for their citizens. I oppose excessive governmental regulation and interference by federal executive agencies that do not have the authority to supplant the best operational judgment of businesses in their employment, production, location, and other investment decisions. Recently, the National Labor Relations Board has taken unprecedented, protectionist actions on behalf of labor unions that fly in the face of federalism, and this cannot be allowed to continue. I am proud to represent the constituents of the 8th Congressional District of Florida, which is a right-to-work state, and I will continue to oppose efforts to impede American private enterprise, capitalism, and economic freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I would have voted "yea" in favor of H.R. 2587, had I been present, rather than in Florida for the memorial service for my friend, David Bitner, in support of his wife, Wendy.

HONORING LT. COL. ANTHONY
SHAFFER, SENIOR INTEL-
LIGENCE OFFICER, UNITED
STATES ARMY RESERVE (RE-
TIRED)

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor Lt. Col. Tony Shaffer, Military Intelligence Corps, for his twenty-five years of service as a field intelligence operative and more than three decades of service to the nation in both the Army National Guard and Army Reserve.

Col. Shaffer's extensive career started in January 1981, while still in high school, when he enlisted in the Ohio Army National Guard.

He went on to graduate from Wright State University in 1986. And this year, 2011, Col. Shaffer was chosen as their College of Liberal Arts Alumnus of the Year.

Col. Shaffer's storied career has been distinguished by his willingness and ability to work at the cutting edge of our nation's intelligence community. He has successfully endeavored to adapt new technology and use these capabilities to ensure the protection of the American people. It is likely that most of Lt. Col. Shaffer's work will never be fully rec-

ognized—but I can assure you it is appreciated by me and the American people.

During his initial years of service, he deployed to Germany during REFORGER 85 to conduct anti-terrorism operations against the Red Army Faction, RAF, and other German based terrorism groups. He was also assigned to the Army's New York City Resident Office during a critical period when foreign terrorists were targeting the United States.

In 1988 he attended training at "The Farm" where he graduated first in his class of the Military Operations Training Course, MOTC, at Camp Perry, VA.

He was promoted to Captain in 1990 and was brought to active duty by the Army for the first Gulf War in 1991 where he worked to develop a key classified program named STARWATCHER B. After the conclusion of the first Gulf War, he was appointed to serve as the chief of the Army's global clandestine HUMINT collection program, and ran specific the Special Access Program, SAP, operation, unclassified nickname: CAROLINA MORNING, which netted highly significant information that was critical to the national leadership during the 1990s.

He was the senior HUMINT advisor to the J2/Senior Intelligence Officer of Joint Inter-agency Task Force East, JIATF-E. JIATF-E conducted counter-drug operations in the Transit Zone between Columbia and the United States southern border. During this tour he was successful in integrating highly specialized hybrid technology/human intelligence operations to obtain high value intelligence information to support the operational forces.

In 1995, Tony transitioned to Defense Intelligence Agency, DIA, as part of the consolidation of all Service, Army, Navy, Air Force, and USMC, controlled HUMINT into the Department of Defense.

He created and directed Task Force STRATUS IVY—a one-of-a-kind special mission task force that harnessed the skills of officers from the National Security Agency, NSA, Army Intelligence and Defense Intelligence Agency that conducted direct support to Department of Defense, Special Operations Command and other non-DoD agencies.

After his promotion to Major, due to his highly sought after skills, he was assigned to serve at both the HUMINT Support Element, HSE, at both Special Operations Command, SOCOM, and the Joint Special Operations Command, JSOC. He also served as a team leader of classified element that provided direct support to the Director of Operations of Defense HUMINT Service, DHS.

During this period of his career he participated in multiple highly classified operations—the most notable, a project known as ABLE DANGER—the controversial counterterrorism operation that was designed to detect, degrade and counter Al Qaeda capabilities that was successful in detecting Al Qaeda cells operating within the United States before the 9/11 attacks.

He had two peacetime overseas deployments—the first to Thailand where he was attached to the III Marine Expeditionary Force, MEF, to attend Exercise COBRA GOLD 1991; the second to New Zealand with attachment to the New Zealand Defense Force for Joint Warrior Interoperability Demonstration in mid 2001.

Just after the 9/11 attacks, in December 2001, he was returned to active duty for a 30-

month period, during which he commanded a DIA operating base and had two successful combat tours to Afghanistan.

He commanded Field Operating Base, FOB, Alpha, a joint DIA/CIA brigade equivalent unit conducting classified collection and special operations support regarding terrorists just after the 9/11 attacks.

During his two undercover combat tours in Afghanistan, he participated in the search for senior Al Qaeda leadership in Afghanistan and is credited for helping to break the back of the Taliban's first attempt to return to power in Afghanistan.

Col. Shaffer received the Bronze Star Medal, BSM, for performance as an Operations Officer of the HUMINT Support Detachment in Afghanistan supporting CJTF 180 and CJTF 121.

After promotion to lieutenant colonel in 2005, he was attached to Navy's premier counterterrorism think-tank, DEEP BLUE at the Pentagon where he worked on key situational awareness and counterterrorism technology and tools.

In 2005 to 2006, Tony worked with the U.S. Congress and testified on multiple issues that relate to the 9/11 terrorist attacks and intelligence failures.

In 2006 he was assigned to and commanded the Special Troops Battalion, STB, of the 9th Theater Support Command, Ft. Belvoir, VA.

He was then, in 2007, selected to serve as the G6/Senior Information Officer, Anti-Terrorism Officer and Public Affairs Officer of the 94th Division, Force Sustainment, Ft. Lee, VA—the 94th Division was re-activated in 2008 and was one of Gen George Patton's key divisions that participated in the Battle of the Bulge, Ardennes, in 1944–45. He remained with the 94th Division until he reached his mandatory retirement date, MRD, in July of 2011.

He continues to serve this great nation through his work at the Center for Advanced Defense Studies where, as a Senior Fellow, he continues to influence national defense strategy and policy through research and advocacy of critical national security issues.

Over these three decades Lt. Col. Shaffer has served with distinction and unmatched willingness to conduct high risk operations, while always recognizing the ethical and moral responsibility of his office.

Lt. Col. Shaffer's keen operational judgment and dynamic leadership has contributed substantially to the development of critical national level intelligence capabilities—many of which remain in operation today. His influence over national defense and security is indelible and significant—his service has constantly worked to identify threats and then develop capability to protect the American people. He consistently worked to influence national intelligence policy and capabilities to insure the security of the American people and has done so in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Army.

On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I would like to recognize Col. Shaffer's outstanding accomplishments, courageous attitude and past and present devotion to this nation. I wish to congratulate him, his wife Rina, and sons Alexander and Ryan on the completion of long and distinguished career.

HONORING MACK STRONG AND
ZOE HIGHEAGLE-STRONG

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a husband-and-wife team filled with love, faith, and determination. I'm proud to call them constituents and friends and I'm honored to be able to recognize their efforts on this floor today.

Mack Strong and Zoe Higheagle-Strong will be honored on Saturday evening, September 17 by the Association of Washington Generals as the Washingtonians of the Year. Mack and Zoe earned the honor by founding and leading the TEAM-WORKS Academy, a program that "develops strong minds, strong bodies, and strong character in underserved youth." Founded in 2002 by Mack and Zoe, TEAM-WORKS Academy grew out of many years of dedicated community service and a strong belief in the validity of their vision for the future. I am thankful that Mack, a graduate of the University of Georgia and a longtime fullback of the Seattle Seahawks, put down roots in the community. His selfless and tireless work on behalf of at-risk youth in my District and beyond is an inspiration. And his wonderful wife Zoe, a member of the Nez Perce tribe and the Executive Director of TEAM-WORKS, is an inspiration to us all. The tandem of Mack and Zoe in the Puget Sound region represent an unstoppable force in the betterment of our communities, schools, and families.

It is clear that TEAM-WORKS is having a positive effect on the young people it directly serves. Over and over again, I hear stories and see the results of improved performance in the classroom and on the field of play. Mack, an accomplished athlete, believes that the link between consistent physical activity and school performance in our young people is a strong one. I couldn't agree more. I think the tactics of TEAM-WORKS should be replicated across this Nation. Mack and Zoe are doing remarkable things. Reading and math scores are up. Relationships at home have never been better. TEAM-WORKS is a god-send and Mack and Zoe show no signs of slowing down.

Again, Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mack and Zoe for their efforts and congratulate them on their well deserved honor. They truly represent the best of the State of Washington. In addition, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Association of Washington Generals for recognizing their efforts and providing Mack and Zoe with the kind of official recognition too many of our best community leaders go without.

IN SUPPORT OF THE WORKERS OF
THE UNITED STATES POSTAL
SERVICE

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the 685,000 workers of the United States Postal Service (USPS), who face a

devastating future which may close thousands of post offices, eliminate hundreds of mail processing facilities, lay off 120,000 of their colleagues, cut their pay, and end their collective bargaining rights.

Each day, the USPS processes an average of 584 million pieces of mail and delivers to 146 million addresses. In my home State of California alone, there are a total of 38,000 active and retired letter carriers.

These employees are fixtures within their communities and are some of the most dedicated, hardworking people out there. That is why I have been a strong advocate for letter carriers throughout my career in public service.

The United States Postal Service offers the most affordable postage in the industrialized world, while being able to sustain efficient delivery schedules at no expense to the taxpayer.

Established in 1775, the Postal Service and the thousands of families who depend on it now face an unprecedented crisis.

Since 2006, an unsustainable retiree healthcare system has saddled the USPS with a \$5.5 billion overcharge to be paid in full at the beginning of every year. Based on longterm projections which are routinely called into question, this fund has established an enormous, unused surplus, estimated by the Postal Regulatory Commission and the Inspector General of the Postal Service to be between \$55–75 billion.

No other Federal agency or private business is forced to pre-fund retiree health benefits in this manner. Since it is not funded by taxpayers, this requirement puts the USPS at a distinct competitive disadvantage. Fixing this problem would allow the Postal Service to compete more effectively with the private sector and return to profitability.

Without this mandate, the USPS would have actually been profitable to the tune of \$611 million over the last 4 years, saving its \$15 billion line of credit from the U.S. Treasury to ride out the bad economy. Instead, the entire agency, which has not taken taxpayer funds for 30 years, is facing default. Its line of credit is nearly exhausted.

Mr. Speaker, the real financial struggles at USPS do not stem from the cost of labor, but from the 2006 congressional mandate requiring the USPS to pre-fund future retiree benefits.

Unfortunately, House Republicans are bent on destroying the Postal Service as we know it and using this crisis as an opportunity to weaken collective bargaining rights.

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee conducted a hearing in April entitled: "Are Postal Workforce Costs Sustainable?" Led by Committee Chairman DARRELL ISSA, this hearing was held to investigate a recent agreement between the USPS and the American Postal Workers Union.

Chairman ISSA's decision to hold a hearing to scrutinize and interfere with the collective bargaining process represents a dangerous precedent that could lead to more GOP interference in labor-management agreements.

In June, Chairman ISSA proposed H.R. 2309, the Postal Reform Act of 2011, which would establish a "solvency authority" with the power to unilaterally cut wages, abolish benefits, and end protection against unfair layoffs. It orders \$1 billion worth of post office closures in the first year and another \$1 billion worth of

facility closures in the second year. It also ends Saturday deliveries.

Mr. Speaker, 6-day delivery is an important service that the USPS provides to the American people and is vital to its long-term sustainability. Ending Saturday deliveries reduces incentive for the American people to send mail through USPS and would lead to more jobs lost and larger reductions in service.

If Saturday delivery ends, it is possible that 80,000 full- and part-time jobs could be eliminated. At a time when we are still recovering from the worst economic recession since the Great Depression, now is not the time to put thousands of jobs in jeopardy.

The USPS estimates that cutting deliveries on Saturday will cut costs by 5 percent, but will slash mail delivery by 17 percent. Clearly the money saved by eliminating Saturday delivery is negligible and does not justify the lapse in efficiency and the loss of jobs that would certainly follow.

Reducing mail delivery service to 5 days a week would cause delays in the delivery of mail and would inevitably lead to increased costs due to the overtime Postal Service workers will be forced to endure in order to handle the backlog of mail. It is also vital for seniors who depend on mail-order prescription drugs and small businesses that need Saturday delivery to meet payroll.

Most importantly, ending Saturday service will remove the Postal Service's key strategic advantage over its competitors and result in a massive loss of revenue for the program.

We can't allow House Republicans to pursue an agenda that threatens the wellbeing of thousands of working families in California and across the Nation. They want to turn back the clock on the progress that has been made over the last century to ensure that American workers have the right to organize and demand fair wages and benefits.

We cannot stand by while thousands of American workers lose their jobs, and House Democrats are putting forth solutions that will take immediate steps to end this crisis without cutting jobs or resorting to taxpayer funded bailouts.

Take for instance H.R. 1351, the United States Postal Service Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act of 2011, which would realign the Postal Service's retiree health prefunding schedule to a larger time period consistent with what the Postal Service can afford. It would do this by first establishing the exact size of the surplus and then transferring it to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund where it belongs.

Furthermore, when the Post Office Department became the Postal Service in 1971, employees who belonged to the Federal pension fund started contributing to the new Postal Service. For employees who worked for both the Post Office Department and the Postal Service, the Federal and the postal pension funds shared responsibility. However, the Federal fund paid for retirements based on 1971 salaries, not final salaries. In essence, the Federal fund collected full contributions, but paid only partial benefits. The USPS was shortchanged \$75 billion as a result of this error.

H.R. 1351 takes necessary steps to correct this by altering the methodology used to determine the allocation of costs for retirement benefits between the Federal government and the USPS. By making these changes, Congress

has the ability to significantly help the USPS cover its expected \$238 billion shortfall for the next decade.

Now more than ever we must fight to preserve the legacy of the letter carrier and promote the value of the services that the workers of the United States Postal Service provide to millions of Americans every day.

H.R. 1351 is supported by the National Association of Letter Carriers, the National Association of Postal Supervisors, the American Postal Workers Union, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union. Advocating for working people is very personal and important to me. You see, you are looking at a Member of Congress who had the opportunity to have a mother who was part of a bargaining unit, who was a member of a union.

She had an opportunity to have someone advocate on behalf of not only herself, but her two daughters as well. And because my mother had that support, she was able to send her daughters to good schools, she was able to put braces on our teeth, and she was able to ensure that, yes, that little girl back in Los Angeles, California, would have an opportunity to one day become a Member of Congress.

Now more than ever, postal workers, teachers, firefighters, police officers and all other public employees must stand together to protect their jobs and their families, in California and across America.

Mr. Speaker, the alternative to H.R. 1351 is a violent downgrade of Postal Service operations which would cost tens of thousands of jobs immediately. Between their recent willingness to hold the nation's economy hostage for spending cuts and their attacks on worker's rights in Wisconsin, it appears that House Republicans would risk a total shutdown of the Postal Service if it meant further weakening the rights of public sector unions.

That is why I stand with 192 of my colleagues in our support for the thousands who play an essential role in connecting our people and building our communities. We cannot afford to lose so many jobs and hard-won benefits by failing to act on a common sense fix to an immediate crisis.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MELVIN E.
PIERCE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of a truly wonderful man, Mr. Melvin E. Pierce, a longtime resident of Semmes, Alabama, who passed away August 19, 2011, at the age of 73.

Mr. Pierce was a husband, father, friend, an entrepreneur and community leader. He wore many hats over his professional career, and is perhaps best known for his successful painting business. He began a career in painting as an apprentice and used his knowledge to later found and develop the Melvin Pierce Painting Company. He subsequently established Melvin Pierce Marine Coatings, Melvin Pierce Sandblasting, Highway Maintenance, Inc., and Dothan, Inc. of Semmes.

His community involvement ranged from president and founding member of "Friends of

Semmes," which pioneered the incorporation of Semmes, to recipient of the 2005 Woodman of the World Outstanding Citizen Award. He was one of the founding members of the Dixie Youth Baseball Program in Semmes. And, in 2003, he was honored with the Award of Gratitude from the Semmes Community Park.

Professionally, he was an active member of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) and the Associated Builders & Contractors. He was a board member of the Mobile Water and Sewer Board, the Abba Shrine Temple, Trade Builder's Association and Woodman of the World. His considerable involvement with contracting gave him the opportunity to play a major role in numerous construction and renovation projects like the Mobile Convention Center and Mobile Government Plaza, the restoration of the historic Alabama Capitol in Montgomery, and the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Melvin Pierce was the epitome of a community-minded businessman and volunteer and his involvement in so many different aspects of South Alabama will be hard to replace. In addition to possessing a charitable heart and an unequalled love of community, he helped found the Christmas parade, Azalea Festival, Easter Egg Hunt and a food pantry in Semmes.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to his wife of 50 years, Evelyn, as well as his surviving children, George, David, Deborah, Jay, Regina and Rebecca, as well as his grandchildren, and his family and friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

HONORING REVEREND CARL
GILLIARD FOR TWENTY-EIGHT
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Carl Scott Gilliard for twenty-eight years of service to the Savannah, Georgia community. Reverend Gilliard, a native of Savannah, has been diligently working to make Georgia a better place through his leadership, community service and passion. Reverend Gilliard has dedicated his life to helping others and serving his community.

A graduate of Alfred Ely Beach High School and Morris Brown College, he first became active in civic affairs in 1984 when he served as the youth coordinator for the presidential campaign of Reverend Jesse Jackson. After working with Reverend Jackson, Pastor Gilliard began his public affairs talk show, "Tell It Like It Is," which became the number-one rated radio program for ten consecutive years. In 1995, Reverend Gilliard was ordained and served as pastor of the Miracle Christian Life Center for six years until he was appointed President of the Georgia Coastal Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Throughout Reverend Gilliard's years as a community activist, he has led a variety of successful efforts to improve the lives of his fellow citizens, including founding the Chatham County Youth Commission, chairing Unity in Our Community, starting the Savannah Out

Marching Against Drugs movement, and organizing prayer vigils throughout Savannah.

Currently, Reverend Gilliard is the Host of "The Urban Journal." In addition, Reverend Gilliard is the CEO of Savannah Feed the Hungry where twice a week he offers a short message of encouragement and prayers to the hundreds who come seeking food at the newly opened Life Center.

I congratulate Reverend Gilliard on his many years of service. He has devoted his life and time to helping others and continues to make invaluable contributions to the city of Savannah and the state of Georgia, and I wish him many more years to come.

CONGRESS NEEDS A FRESH,
BIPARTISAN START

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD, a thoughtful, clear and eloquent opinion piece written for The Washington Post by my friend Congressman JOHN DINGELL. As the Dean of the House and one of the hardest working members of this body, Congressman DINGELL has seen many Congresses come and go and has witnessed countless successes and failures. His wisdom and experience is unmatched. Every member of Congress, and those who aspire to be, will benefit from reading this and historians will find this article valuable in understanding the changes that have taken place in Congress throughout the 20th century. It certainly is an important document that will continue to be a source of information about Congress for years to come.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 9, 2011]

CONGRESS NEEDS A FRESH, BIPARTISAN START
(By John D. Dingell)

I am saddened by what I heard when I was home for the August congressional recess. The American people are fed up with finger-pointing, blame games and infighting by all of us in Washington—the president, Congress and the media.

They are angry and frustrated, and they want Congress to do its constitutional duty. Only 12 percent think we are doing a proper job. It is easy to see why the public is losing confidence in the federal government.

In our debates over the fiscal 2011 spending bill and the debt limit, Congress put off its duties until the eleventh hour in favor of partisan squabbling and stubborn political games. I am ashamed of our performance—of us all, on both sides of the aisle. As a member of Congress who takes pride in this institution and holds its history and procedures in high regard, I am deeply disappointed by the unwillingness of members of all parties to come together for the common good.

Our Founding Fathers intended no parties when they created this institution. And until recently, members took the time to stay in Washington and learn the substance of issues, as well as the rules laid out by our forefathers in the Constitution and by previous generations in Congress. We learned how to draft good, bipartisan bills. Most members of Congress wouldn't remember, and for many Americans this may seem hard to believe, but there was a time not so very long ago when Republicans and Democrats worked well together. We worked long hours, typically five days a week or more for

months at a time. Members of both parties came to the table ready to work, debate and negotiate.

For many years, legislation was drafted from the middle, and we passed bipartisan bills frequently. It wasn't uncommon for an important bill to get 400-plus votes; we didn't stop just because we had 218. Members didn't engage in partisan misbehavior for the sake of a good Twitter hit or the opportunity to call out the other side on cable news. Rather, members had respect for one another and for the political spectrum. They managed to limit outside parties from disrupting the legislative process for political gain.

We in Congress are tearing our country apart and weakening the foundation established by great leaders before us. Is anyone in Congress truly proud that we have not produced a budget? That we caused the downgrading of U.S. government securities, as well as appalling disorder and confusion in financial markets? Or that this situation caused the lack of job creation and economic growth that has contributed to the hopelessness and misfortune of millions of Americans?

Wrangling by all parties, from the top down, cripples our work, and media that encourage confrontation instead of negotiation fuel the fire. Being locked into this system of starting from the far left or the far right and then doing just enough for passage may get a single bill done, but it's not a system that produces the best law that does the most good for all Americans.

This partisan viciousness needs to stop.

I am ashamed of our recent record. I am disgusted with our performance, Republican and Democratic alike. There has been failed leadership and, worse, failed following within the ranks—and we owe the country far better. My daddy taught me that if God had wanted us to talk more and listen less, he would have given us two mouths and one ear. In our most combative moments, we must remember that no cause is greater than this institution and the ideals on which it was founded; no single man or woman is greater than this body and the collective wisdom we are capable of exhibiting. If we hold on to that core principle, we can make changes that will be better for Congress as an institution and for the American people.

We must all help this body improve and call upon our colleagues to join in doing better. It is our duty. If we do not, the people, in their righteous and justified outrage, will get rid of us all—as well they should. I beg my friends in Congress and the administration to put the interests of this great nation before partisan political interests and not let the rivalries of the past prevent us from acting in ways that will better the future of our nation.

The writer, a Democrat from Michigan, is dean of the U.S. House of Representatives and a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 12, 2011, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote No. 699 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2076, as amended), “yes” on rollcall vote No. 700 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2633, as

amended) and “yes” on rollcall vote No. 701 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1059).

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,717,868,058,346.24.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$4,079,442,312,052.44 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

“CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITIES” PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winners of the “Consider the Possibilities” Personal Achievement award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona, given to encourage and reward personal achievement within its community. HealthSouth has presented rehabilitation awards to members of their community who have remained steadfast in overcoming an illness or disability. This year I congratulate: Danielle Gibbons and Frank Germino, winners of the “Consider the Possibilities” Personal Achievement Award; and Shelly Beaver, Sherri McGregor, and Joe Reed, winners of the Advocate Award.

Danielle Gibbons is the winner of the HealthSouth “Consider the Possibilities” Personal Achievement Award. On June 18, 2010, Danielle, 37 years old at the time and a single mother of two, was involved in a motor vehicle accident. Danielle was driving when another vehicle crossed the center line and hit her head on. The other driver was killed and Danielle was left with life threatening injuries. Danielle had to be cut out of the car, and was transported to the hospital where surgeons were ready to amputate her right leg. Instead, she insisted that she be flown to Pittsburgh where she underwent nine surgeries in order to keep her right leg. In October 2010, Danielle began physical therapy and she made remarkable progress. In less than one year, she was ambulating independently. Danielle has returned to work full time as a nurse practitioner. I commend her for her perseverance and good attitude.

Frank Germino is also the recipient of the HealthSouth “Consider the Possibilities” Personal Achievement Award. On October 9, 2010, Frank's life was changed forever when he fell 12 feet from a tree stand while hunting. Frank broke his back in five places. After a five hour surgery, he was told that he would never walk again due to the extensive damage

that was incurred. Frank was determined to walk again and after months of rehab and therapy, Frank did just that. His courageous spirit is an inspiration to everyone around him.

Shelly Beaver and Sherri McGregor are the recipients of the HealthSouth Advocate Award. Through the efforts of Shelly Beaver, Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, and Sherri McGregor, Education and Training Specialist at Penn State Altoona, “Sense-ational Endeavors” was developed. The program creates a combination of sensory activities, physical movement, and social skill development. In addition to therapeutic programs, campers engage in recreational activities and exercise tailored to their ability. Both Shelly and Sherri have dedicated their lives to enriching the lives of countless children.

Joe Reed is also the recipient of the HealthSouth Advocate Award. Joe is responsible for bringing a Miracle League to Blair County. The Miracle League provides baseball for all children with special needs. The field is constructed using a cushioned rubber surface with everything flat and level so there is nothing to trip over. Joe first heard about the Miracle League during a trip to Moody, Alabama while visiting friends in the fall of 2003. About two weeks later he read about it in the Kiwanis Magazine and knew this was something that Blair County needed. He returned to the Moody field, and then went to see the original Miracle League field in Conyers, Georgia. There, he met with the Executive Director of the Miracle League Association, Diane Alford. After getting permission to use the land owned by the Kiwanis Club of Eldorado, he assembled a Board of Directors in early 2004 and began fundraising and promotion. Joe raised over \$150,000. Construction began in the fall of 2006. The total cost of the project was \$497,000. Opening day was July 21, 2007 with 24 children. Today they have 125 players and over 175 volunteers.

Congratulations to Danielle, Frank, Shelly, Sherri, and Joe. Their accomplishments are a testament to us all that with hard work, persistence, and a big heart, we can overcome any hardship. I congratulate each of them on their perseverance, and I wish them the best as they continue to overcome illnesses and disabilities while setting an example for the rest of the community.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CPL. TRAVIS MICHAEL NELSON

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lance Cpl. Travis Michael Nelson who recently lost his life in the service of his country. We will always be indebted to his sacrifice for our freedom and we join his family and many friends in mourning his loss.

Lance Cpl. Nelson was assigned as a rifleman with the 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He lost his life during combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan on August 18, 2011, one month after his unit's arrival.

He was a dedicated Marine who loved his country and loved the Marine Corps. He always wanted to be a Marine and beginning at

the age of 14 he devoted his youth to preparing for his eventual role as a defender of America. Prior to his active duty service, he was a member of the Young Marines of Pensacola, Florida and the Pace High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

A native of Pace, and a resident of Bratt, Lance Cpl. Nelson, also had relatives in the nearby South Alabama towns of Atmore, Brewton, East Brewton and Daphne.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to extend condolences to his parents, Scott and Beckie Nelson; his brother, Daniel Nelson; his half brother, Chandler Case; sisters, Jenna Nelson, and Anna Nelson; and grandmothers, Anna Sanspree and Louise Nelson; as well as his fiancée, Madeline Cates.

You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add to this tribute the words of Sherry Digmon, publisher of Atmore magazine made in honor of Lance Cpl. Nelson.

"In tragedy, we come together. Atmore and the surrounding area came together in August as we all mourned the death of Marine Lance Cpl. Travis Nelson who was killed while on duty in Afghanistan. He was 19.

Most of us didn't know LCpl. Nelson, but we all knew him. His was the face of the young man who always wanted to be a Marine, who loved the flag and country, and who enlisted to preserve our freedoms.

On Friday, August 26, as we waited for the funeral procession to make its way down Main Street from the First Baptist Church to Oak Hill Cemetery, we looked at the people around us, almost all holding flags—the veterans lined up on the sidewalk in front of the American Legion building; the kids and the older folks; people who came out of their businesses and stood in the mid afternoon sun.

The Patriot Guard Riders came to Atmore to accompany the body of LCpl. Nelson and his family from Petty Eastside Chapel Funeral Home to First Baptist Church, then from the church to Oak Hill Cemetery. My hat is off to this fine group of men and women on motorcycles who show their respect to the fallen soldier by honoring and protecting the sanctity of his funeral and burial.

Someone in our group said, "That's America." We agreed. And then I said, "That's Atmore."

This was one event I hope never to witness again—the funeral of a young soldier. I hope never again to think about how a mama feels when she sees the officers standing at her front door. How a fiancée feels when she finds out her intended has been killed. How the men in his unit felt when they heard he didn't make it."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on September 13, 2011, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall votes 702 and 703.

Had I been present for rollcall 702, on agreeing to the amendment, Holt of New Jersey Amendment No. 7 to H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 703, on agreeing to the amendment, King of Iowa Amendment No. 8 to H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act, I would have voted "no."

CELEBRATING ALYCE L. DIXON ON HER 104TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Alyce L. Dixon on her 104th birthday on September 11, 2011.

As the nation and the city recalled a tragic day ten years ago that changed the lives of many and altered American history, the District of Columbia celebrated Alyce's birthday and applauded her for her support to the country and to the city.

Alyce Dixon has spent most of her life as a resident of the District of Columbia. After graduating from Paul Lawrence Dunbar Senior High School, she attended Howard University in the District. Ms. Dixon worked at the Lincoln Theatre, at an insurance company, and was one of the first civilian employees at the Pentagon, from which she retired after 35 years of service to the federal government.

Alyce Dixon was one of the first women to join the military and one of the first African-American women to become a member of the Women's Army Corps. While in the Army during World War II, Ms. Dixon served as part of the 6888th Postal Battalion in France, Scotland, and England, where she and other African-American women sorted mail for soldiers. Before retiring from the military, Ms. Dixon received the Good Conduct Medal to commemorate her service to the Army. She continued to serve the public by volunteering at Washington Hospital Center and Howard University Hospital for 12 years.

As a resident of the Washington, DC VA Medical Center, Alyce is loved by the hospital staff, personnel, and residents alike. She has the unique ability to bring joy to others, and is known especially for her bubbly personality and comedic storytelling.

Ms. Dixon is a member of Jones Memorial United Methodist Church, where she has graced the congregation with inspirations for a long life, filled with joy and laughter. She has also supported D.C. students in their pursuit of higher education through generous donations to church scholarships and youth programs.

In celebrating this significant milestone, we acknowledge the extraordinary personal qualities and contributions of Alyce Dixon to her family and to our community. Her birthday gives me, her family, and friends, as well as the residents of the District of Columbia, an opportunity to thank her for her many gifts of love, friendship, and consideration for others. I ask the House to join me in celebrating the 104th birthday of Alyce L. Dixon, a special woman whose service to this country and community is greatly appreciated.

RECOGNIZING THE YOUNG AMERICA'S FOUNDATION

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the attack against our nation ten years ago today was our generation's Pearl Harbor. Indeed, in many ways it was far more infamous. More Americans died on September 11th than in the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was an attack not upon some distant outpost but upon our nation's greatest city and our nation's capital city. It was an attack not upon heavily armed warships, but upon defenseless Americans peacefully going about their business.

This atrocity set new records for its ruthlessness and barbarity and depravity. Benjamin Netanyahu called it a "wake-up call from hell," and that's exactly what it was. It is appropriate, though, to note one constant that defines us as a people and that guarantees us that all will come right. I speak of something that can only be described as the Spirit of America.

The attack on our nation ten years ago reminded us that the American spirit is still very much alive, and that this generation is more than capable of rising to great acts of heroism.

The attack ten years ago produced a pantheon of heroes—Americans who had gone about their business one peaceful morning, and in a few brief moments found themselves facing well prepared, intractable and barbaric adversaries.

At that fateful moment, they rose to the occasion. They resisted with everything they had. On December 7th, cooks became gunners and nurses passed the ammunition. On September 11th, office workers became rescue workers and businessmen laid down their cell phones and took up hand-to-hand combat in the skies over Pennsylvania.

Centuries from now, Americans will proudly remember the story of the young men and women aboard Flight 93 as it headed for our nation's Capitol: how they responded instantly to their country's peril — and armed only with their bare hands stopped cold those who would destroy our nation. In his last words heard over his cell phone, Todd Beamer asked—not just of his fellow passengers, but of all of his fellow countrymen: "Are you guys ready?" His answer on behalf of us all was, "Then let's roll."

The memory of firefighters and police officers rushing into the burning buildings as everyone else rushed out personified duty and honor for an entire generation.

For those young people in our nation who were not alive to experience, or were too young to remember that day just over ten years ago, we have an obligation as a society to pass on our memories and the lessons we learned, purchased at the high price of innocent life and years of conflict.

I rise today in recognition of the ongoing work of the Young America's Foundation to preserve our history for future generations.

Each year Young America's Foundation helps students—many of whom comprise the "9/11 generation"—to properly remember the anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks through their 9/11: Never Forget Project. Young America's Foundation began this program in 2003.

Young America's Foundation works with students to establish American flag memorials—displays consisting of 2,977 American flags representing each person tragically killed in the terrorist attacks. This year, students at more than 280 schools erected such memorials on their school grounds. Students held campus-wide moments of silence or prayer on September 11, at 9:11 a.m., hosted patriotic speakers and first responders at their schools, and provided 9/11: Never Forget posters and other materials to distribute on the anniversary. Young America's Foundation is making sure that future generations understand the events of that horrific day, remember its victims and remember the many examples of courage, patriotism and dedication which have, and will continue to inspire so many.

This tenth anniversary year is not just a time to memorialize the fallen—as important as that is. This upcoming September 11, we humbly celebrate America's endurance, strength, and goodness. In doing so, we will ensure that future generations will never forget.

While we can erect grand edifices and give speeches about 9/11, it is this simple and poignant tribute in remembrance of those we have lost and all those who serve that speaks loudest across the years. It is my privilege to rise today and thank the Young America's Foundation for its ongoing service to our nation and our posterity.

EMPOWERING PARENTS THROUGH
QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2218) to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965:

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act.

While there is no silver bullet to resolve all the problems facing our nation's education system, this bill represents a critical step toward better preparing our children to meet the challenges of a 21st century economy. It is also the first major element of reform to be acted on this year by either chamber of Congress.

We all want our kids to be able to attend a great school. It's like my father told me, "If you have a good education, you can accomplish anything."

That's why transparent and accountable charter schools are so important. They ensure greater access among our children to the high-quality education they deserve. Moreover, charter schools often operate in flexible and innovative ways that promote student success.

Unfortunately, demand for these opportunities continues to outpace supply. Over 400,000 U.S. students remain on waiting lists for enrollment in charter schools.

That's why I support H.R. 2218, which contains provisions that will remove barriers to the establishment of charter schools, improve academic performance, and reduce the number of students waiting for admission. This legislation also establishes commonsense quality controls that will protect students and taxpayers alike. The bill requires accurate assessments of schools through independent financial audits, and establishes clear academic and performance standards.

Following passage in the House, this bill will be sent to the Senate, where I hope it receives the consideration it deserves. And, should it be signed into law, I will continue to work with my colleagues to monitor its impact and ensure that our nation's charter school system continues to reflect the transparency and accountability required by this legislation.

HONORING SERGEANT KEVIN
GLASER

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sergeant Kevin Glaser of Sikeston, Missouri, for his 28 years of dedicated law enforcement with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. The people of my congressional district and the state of Missouri are grateful for Kevin's commitment to ridding our communities of illegal drug activity.

For 22 years Kevin has been on the front lines of drug enforcement in Missouri as the leader of the Southeast Missouri, SEMO, Drug Task Force. The SEMO Drug Task Force's main objective is to crack down drug creation, distribution and use through the southern Missouri. Kevin commanded the task force for over 16 years.

Kevin displayed courageous leadership in the face of great challenges in the name of safer Missouri communities. As methamphetamine use spread across rural America, Kevin and his squad made record arrests and seizures. In fact, over 75 percent of their efforts in drug enforcement were fighting the scourge of meth use in southern Missouri.

In a 1997 L.A. Times article, Kevin was quoted as saying: "It's hard to imagine a drug controlling you the way it does . . . They see their family falling apart, their bodies falling apart, but the only thing that matters to them is the dope." This drug was Kevin's enemy and the SEMO Drug Task Force's enemy, and they fought the enemy tirelessly.

I am thankful for Kevin's dedicated service with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. I am excited for his retirement, although I hear he is still playing an advisory role with the officers' training. Kevin, I wish you the very best on this new venture.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 15, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
SEPTEMBER 20

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To receive a closed briefing on Iran. SVC-217

Budget
To hold hearings to examine promoting job creation in the United States. SD-608

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine intelligence community contractors, focusing on striking the right balance; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in Senate Security Conference Room 1. SD-342

10 a.m.
Finance
To hold hearings to examine tax reform options, focusing on incentives for innovation. SD-215

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Housing, Transportation and Community Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine new ideas to address the glut of foreclosed properties. SD-538

Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the debt limit. 210, Cannon Building

2:30 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine certain nominations. SD-226

Appropriations
Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Business meeting to markup proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2012 for Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies. SD-124

Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219

SEPTEMBER 21

10 a.m.
Finance
To hold hearings to examine dually-eligible beneficiaries, focusing on improving care while lowering costs. SD-215

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert A. Mandell, of Florida, to be Ambassador to Luxembourg, Thomas Charles Krajeski, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, and Dan W. Mozena, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, all of the Department of State. SD-419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to resume consideration of S. 1546, to authorize certain programs of the Department of Homeland Security. SD-342

Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion. SDG-50

10:15 a.m.
Judiciary
Crime and Terrorism Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine countering terrorist financing, focusing on progress and priorities. SD-226

2 p.m.
Judiciary
Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine Google, focusing on consumers and competition. SD-226

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider S. 1119, to reauthorize and improve the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Re-

duction Act, S. 1207, to protect consumers by requiring reasonable security policies and procedures to protect data containing personal information, and to provide for nationwide notice in the event of a security breach, S. 1307, to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to convey real property, including improvements, of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Ketchikan, Alaska, S. 1401, to conserve wild Pacific salmon, and S. 1430, to authorize certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation, and promotion lists in the United States Coast Guard and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. SR-253

SEPTEMBER 22

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine transforming wartime contracting, focusing on recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Contracting. SD-342

Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine a recently released report by the National Park Service, focusing on "A Call to Action Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement". SD-366

SEPTEMBER 22

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the United States strategy in Afghanistan and Iraq. SH-216

2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the "Tribal Law and Order Act" one year later, focusing on improved public safety and justice throughout Indian country. SD-628

2:30 p.m.
Intelligence
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Irvin Charles McCullough III, of Maryland, to be Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, Office of the Director of National Intelligence. SH-216

POSTPONEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine if today's political rhetoric is true to the United States Constitution. SD-226