

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Awards recognize four avenues of individual growth—community service, physical fitness, exploration, and personal development—and how the fulfillment of these goals forms balanced and promising young citizens.

In their pursuit of these goals, recipients of the Congressional Awards have gained new skills and greater confidence. For many, these projects will be the cornerstone for future endeavors, further enriching their lives and encouraging others to follow their lead.

The recipients of the 2013 Congressional Awards set the finest example and demonstrate dedication to improving their communities and the Nation as a whole.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, it is my privilege to recognize the honored recipients of the 2013 Congressional Award Gold Medal—the highest achievement for America's youth:

Gareth Evans, Martha Costello, Max Benning, Emily Burns, Aimee Miller, Courtney Hayes, Brooke Vittimberga, Matthieu Kaman, Katherine Liu, Alexander Schnorr, Harry Chung, Woody Chung, Austin Devine, Jason Flahie, Diana Kwok, Katarina Mayers, Kyle Kearney, Brandon Hsiu, Jackee Lee, Lauren Cochran, Max Kaplan, Taehyung "Kevin" Kim, Han John Tse, Quinn Hatoff, Anna Najor, Katherine Najor, Samantha Stafford, Austin Threadgill, Nicholas Cousins, Alouette Greenidge, Daniel Greenidge, James Bilko, Brittney Calloway, Brianna Goley, Hannah Foster, Milan Patel, Alexander Smith, Ryan Sutherland, Jake Bakkedahl, Mikaela Balzer, Ilana Berghash, Christine Brookshire, Kathryn Dowling, Steve Glenner, Benjamin Horowitz, Rebecca Meiser, Caitlin Melnyk, Joshua Newell.

Kyle Panton, Brady Pere, Cassidy Poirier, Hiren Prajapati, Kethan Rao, Lauren Rousseau, Erin Tufano, Jamie Wilkinson, Nicky Wood, Katherine Panskyy, Sarah Murray, Riley McDonough, Hannah Howard, Haritha Pavuluri, Megan Chambers, Esther Frederick, Rachel Hooper, Talia Merrill, Emily Peel, Angela Renn, Taylor Adler, Madison Dahlquist, Bryce Ervin, Claire Goss, Micyla Huston, Carmen Perez, Thane Seward, Rebecca Tweedie, Linda Wells, Kimber Sable, Nicholas Oliva, (Joshua) Luke Durell, Chesley Rowlett, Vaibhav Vavilala, David Wintermeyer, Adam Campbell, Seth Campbell, Austin Bachar, Emilio Fajardo, Ryan Fajardo, Lissa Leibson, Darah Pourakbar, Priyanka Rao, Lexi Shealy, Andrea Clarkson, Olivia Foster, Christopher Loucif, Rachel Green, Shabnam Ahmed, Veronica Whelan, Jared Lichtman.

Olivia Stanhope, Kayla Nicole Peabody, Pranita Balusu, Gabrielle Herin, Bronson Bruneau, Gabriela Anderson, Gregory Botts, Zohra Coday, Henry Bair, Molly Burton,

Annika Fredrikson, Brett Hodgins, Theresa Jabouri, Natalie O'Loughlin, Griffin Reed, Glenn Lane, Canary Brooks, Paulina Hinton, Bridget Bergin, Carol Ann Schwarzenbach, Caroline Fay, Elizabeth Van Eerden, Michael Brienza, Terrell Chestnutt, Randall Schroeber, Wilmouth Kerns III, Lukas Stewart, Jacob Grabowski, Rebecca Sis, Matthew Ost diek, Aaron Clark, Kristin Davis, Chad Kahn, Sean Platt, Erin Price, Francis Uzzolina, Niral Desai, Nora Laberee, Rishi Sharma, David Wu, Christina Coleburn, Shivangi Goel, Sera Lim, Eric O'Hare, Spencer Holmsborg, Melissa Louie, Kathleen O'Donnell-Pickert, Smitha Pallaki, Neeraj Shekhar, Aparna Sundaram.

Olivia Lascari, Zachary Certner, Robert Harvey, Catherine Wong, Eva Boal, Reema Chopra, Kunaal Patade, Lindsay Ramsland, Divya Ramakrishnan, Taylor Miller, Michael Farese, Courtney Stiles, Christopher Kunkel, Samuel Lam, Sachit Singal, Dan Wang, Jonathan Gidley, Tushar Goswami, Katherine Ervin, Alexandra Gritta, Stephen Christianto, Karika Gnep, Irene Thio, Albertus Nugroho, Elyse McMahon, Geoffrey Pyke, Nayeli Avalos, Evangeline Cai, Daniel Castellanos-Mendez, Thalia Medina, Christopher Merken, Jonathan Rosenbaum, J. Cameron Barge, Natalie Domeisen, Seung Jin Bae, Won Chang, Ana Cvetkovic, David Ha, Chae-Eon Jang, Samuel Joo, Grace Kim, Julianne Lowenstein, Quincy Morgan, Channouch Morn, Christine Palazzolo, Kara Schoch, Zachary Schwarz, Abbie Starker, Michael Tershakovec, Andrew Van Buren.

Sereipong Yoeurn, Elizabeth Gahman, Valerie Poutous, Madison Thomas, Robert Cook, Rachel Park, Andrew Barry, Taiyi Ouyang, Daniel Hux, Angela Fan, Eric Menees, Joseph Rosenberger, Timothy Harakal, Nicholas Cruz, Hunter Behrends, R. Adrian De Leon, Abby McAnany, Sharon Li, Nevin Shah, Niloy Shah, Nicholas Cen, Karsyn Robb, Abby Mietchen, Caroline Dunmire, Joshua Tubb, Elizabeth Bird, Jonathan Rintels, Meagan Bedsaul, Truman Custer, Isaac Grunstra, Megan Ganley, Jane Willner, Dev Lakhia, Chase Robinett, Erik Edwards, Elisha Gentry, Katrina Freeland, Samantha Below, Samuel Brackett, Reed Dickerson, Bailey Dolph, Zachary Griffith, Daulton Grube, Jaimie Lee, Kayleigh Skolnick, Grant Thompson, and Sara Vestal.

FOUR STUDENTS HONORED WITH CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL AWARD FOR THEIR COMMIT- MENT TO SERVING PINELLAS COUNTY

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend four students who are being honored today with the Congressional Award Gold Medal for individual achievement in volunteer public service, personal development, physical fitness, and exploration. For the benefit of my colleagues, I would like to outline some of their accomplishments.

Hannah Foster, a resident of Seminole, Florida, volunteered with the Largo Library and the Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing & Interactive Museum in Florida's 13th congressional district where she arranged exhibits and hosted a summer camp for students. She tested her endurance through kayaking voyages and attended the Student Leadership University to enhance her ability to inspire others. She has studied history extensively in order to widen her international perspective. Hannah reconnected with her heritage through a seven-day Mandarin language immersion trip to Chinatown in San Francisco.

Another one of my constituents, Milan Patel of Clearwater, Florida, volunteered more than 400 hours for Suncoast Hospice, a valued center in the community, for more than 35 years. She founded the Suncoast Hospice Teen Music Program and played the guitar daily at the bedside of terminally ill patients. In addition, Milan traveled to Boca Raton every weekend to hone her fencing skills. She also fenced in the Junior Olympics for the past two years and journeyed to Cambodia and Laos to learn the art of meditation while living with a group of monks.

Alexander Smith of St. Petersburg volunteered with Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas County. He worked both in a warehouse and on job sites to build houses in low-income communities. Alexander also hiked for seven days in the Blue Ridge Mountains to refine his survival and team-building skills and played the bagpipe competitively. A skilled athlete, he also participated in his high school's rowing team, won a United States Rowing Silver Medal, and is currently rowing for Cornell University.

Ryan Sutherland volunteered at Bay Pines Veterans Administration hospital, and he also served as a sailing instructor for underprivileged youth. Because of his deep interest in healthcare and his experience as a boy scout, he completed both an advanced emergency medical technician and American Red Cross lifeguard course and dedicated 1,000 hours to focusing on expanding his healthcare, music, and leadership knowledge. Ryan aided in Pinellas County's humanitarian efforts through his own organization, Water for Africa. He served as the president of the Inklings Book Club, which sought to promote literacy in my district. Ryan reached the summit of Mount Washington and spent 300 hours hiking, cycling, and running. He also sailed a 34-foot sailboat to Key West and the Dry Tortugas.

Mr. Speaker, these four young people serve as models of patriotism and principle for the rest of our nation's youth. Their goals of self-motivation will continue to guide them throughout their lives, and I have no doubt they will make great contributions to our country in the future. The Congressional Award program is essential to our nation, and I commend these students for attaining this high level of community service and personal responsibility for which it stands.

● 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.

IN MEMORY OF DR. JOHN M.
SMITH

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a World War II Veteran and tremendous leader in rural healthcare, the late Dr. John M. Smith.

Dr. Smith was quite a pioneer in his time. He was one of the first graduates from Caney Creek College, now known as Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes, Kentucky. After graduating from the University of Kentucky in 1942, he enlisted in the United States Navy and valiantly served as a first lieutenant aboard the U.S.S. *Weeden*, serving in both the Atlantic and Pacific campaigns. Smith was later selected as one of the first recipients of the Rural Kentucky Medical Scholarship Fund and graduated from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in 1949. After completing medical school, Dr. Smith decided to extend his service to our country by volunteering as a medical officer during the Korean War at the Louisville, Kentucky recruitment station.

In 1951, Dr. Smith began his mission to provide healthcare to the people of southeastern Kentucky, in a rural region plagued by high rates of health disparities and limited access to healthcare. He opened his first medical practice in Beattyville, Kentucky where he faithfully treated patients for eleven years. However, his passion for additional education in the medical field also led him to practice radiology at Morehead Hospital, Woodford County Hospital, and the Lexington Clinic for a little more than a decade. In 1974, he returned to Beattyville as a general practitioner where he dedicated nearly 40 years of quality healthcare for the people of Lee and surrounding counties until the age of 90.

He was involved in numerous civic activities, serving as a member of the Masonic Proctor Lodge 213, the Lee County Shrine Club, VFW Post 11296, and the Kentucky Medical Association. He served as the Medical Director of the Lee County Constant Care and Geri Young House, and a member of the Lee County Board of Health.

Dr. Smith leaves behind a devoted family: his loving wife, Patty of 54 years; seven children, 17 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. His son, William, has been one of my most trusted advisers, working on my team since 1995, and now serving as my Chief Clerk of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee. Will's extensive policy knowledge and legislative wisdom has been vital for our nation's economy and for projects supporting the good people of southern and eastern Kentucky. On behalf of my wife Cynthia and myself, I want to extend our deepest heartfelt sympathies to the entire Smith family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a tireless leader in rural healthcare and a true patriot, the late Dr. John M. Smith.

THE FUTURE OF RELIGIOUS
MINORITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I delivered the following remarks at a Wilson Center event focused on the future of religious minorities in the Middle East.

I'd like to begin by thanking my former colleague, Congresswoman Jane Harman, and the Wilson Center for hosting this discussion on such a timely issue. I have long been focused on international religious freedom—specifically on the plight of persecuted people of faith wherever they may be.

Martin Luther King Jr. famously said, 'In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.'

America has always been a friend to the oppressed, the persecuted, the forgotten. But sadly today, that allegiance is in question as religious freedom and human rights abuses around the globe increasingly go unaddressed and unanswered.

Looking to the Middle East there is often societal and communal violence and repression against religious communities which specifically targets religious minorities.

Too often the governments of these lands foster an atmosphere of intolerance or in some cases such as Iran, outright criminality as it relates to different faith traditions like the Baha'is.

Tragically, Since 1979, the Iranian government has killed more than 200 Baha'i leaders and dismissed over 10,000 from government and university jobs. Further, throughout the region, there is impunity surrounding acts of religiously targeted violence, onerous registration requirements for houses of worship, and a general climate of fear which isolates and too often drives out religious minorities.

These realities have been exasperated by the so-called Arab Spring—a Spring which has devolved into Winter for many of the most vulnerable in these societies—foremost among them the ancient Christian communities.

The future of religious minorities in the Middle East is of course the focus of our discussion today. I would argue that if the current trajectory holds true, the future of these communities—communities which are woven into the very fabric of the region—is uncertain at best.

In February I travelled to the Middle East—specifically to Lebanon and Egypt. One of the main purposes of the trip was to spend time with the Syrian Christian community—a community with ancient roots dating back to the 1st century. We read in the Bible about Paul on the road to Damascus.

According to the latest estimates the brutal civil war, which continues to rage, has taken nearly 93,000 lives.

With the Syrian crisis entering its third year, the eventual outcome, including how many will perish in or be displaced by the continued violence and who will step into the power vacuum, is far from certain. Moreover, what that will mean for the Christian community in Syria is largely unknown and, unfortunately, rarely addressed by Western media.

I wanted to hear firsthand from Syrian Christians about their concerns and to put this issue in the larger context of an imperiled Christian community in the broader Middle East, specifically in Egypt and Iraq.

Coptic Christians and other minorities in Egypt have increasingly been marginalized

with the ascendancy of the Muslim Brotherhood. The recently drafted constitution, which made blasphemy a criminal offense, is highly problematic.

A February 5 Associated Press article reported, '[p]rovisions in the document allow for a far stricter implementation of Islamic Shariah law than in the past, raising opponents' fears that it could bring restrictions on many civil liberties and the rights of women and Christians.'

Increasingly these fears are being born out. Just last month, a young Christian teacher in Egypt was accused of insulting Islam while teaching a social studies class.

In a Christian Science Monitor article about this case and the trend more broadly, a local human rights activist reportedly said, 'All Coptic teachers are scared here now that any child who fights with them could accuse them of blasphemy and drag them to court.'

The issues I've just outlined must be viewed not simply as today's news but rather through the lens of history.

A phrase not often heard outside the majority Muslim world is 'First the Saturday people, then the Sunday people.' The 'Saturday people' are, of course, the Jews.

Except for Israel, their once vibrant communities in countries throughout the region are now decimated. In 1948 there were roughly 150,000 Jews in Iraq; today 4 remain. In Egypt, there were once as many as 80,000 Jews; now roughly 20 remain.

It appears a similar fate may await the ancient Christian community in these same lands.

Consider this observation by author and adjunct fellow at the Center for Religious Freedom, Lela Gilbert, who recently wrote in the Huffington Post: 'Between 1948 and 1970, between 80,000 and 100,000 Jews were expelled from Egypt—their properties and funds confiscated, their passports seized and destroyed.'

They left, stateless, with little more than the shirts on their backs to show for centuries of Egyptian citizenship. . . .

One of my last meetings in Egypt was with 86-year-old Carmen Weinstein, the president of the Jewish Community of Cairo (JCC). She was born and raised in Egypt and had lived her entire life there—a life set against the backdrop of a great Jewish emigration out of Egypt, namely the departure of thousands of Egyptian Jews from the 1940s—60s. She led a small community of mostly elderly Jewish women in Cairo, who with their sister community in Alexandria, represent Egypt's remaining Jews.

There are 12 synagogues left in Cairo. Some, along with a landmark synagogue in Alexandria, have been refurbished by the government of Egypt and/or US. Agency for International Development (USAID) and have received protection as cultural and religious landmarks—many have not. Further, the 900 year old Bassatine Jewish Cemetery is half overrun with squatters and sewage.

Ms. Weinstein sought to preserve these historic landmarks as well as the patrimony records of the Egyptian Jewish community.

Not long after my return to the US., Ms. Weinstein passed away and is now buried in the very cemetery she sought to protect. Meanwhile, with the fall of Hosni Mubarak, Coptic Christians, numbering roughly 8-10 million, are leaving in droves in the face of increased repression, persecution and violence.

A January 8 National Public Radio (NPR) story reported 'Coptic Christians will celebrate Christmas on Monday, and many will do so outside their native Egypt. Since the revolution there, their future in the country has looked uncertain and many are resettling in the United States.'

A May 15 New York Times piece with the headline, ‘Christians Uneasy in Morsi’s Egypt,’ reported that, ‘Since the ouster of Mr. Mubarak in February 2011, a growing number of Copts, including some of the most successful businessmen, have left Egypt or are preparing to do so, fearing persecution by an Islamist-controlled government as much as the stagnant economy that is smothering their industries.’

And yet our government continues to give increasingly scarce U.S. foreign assistance to the Egyptian government without a single string attached.

Just last month, weeks before an Egyptian court sentenced more than 40 pro-democracy NGO workers, several of whom are American, including Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood’s son, to jail, Secretary Kerry quietly waived the law that would have prevented the \$1.3 billion, BILLION, in U.S. taxpayer money from going to Egypt absent concrete steps toward true democracy and respect for basic human rights and religious freedom.

Similarly, Iraq’s Christian population has fallen from as many as 1.4 million in 2003 to roughly 500,000 today. Churches have been targeted, believers kidnapped for ransom and families threatened with violence if they stay.

In October 2010, Islamist extremists laid siege on Our Lady of Salvation Catholic Church in Baghdad, killing over 50 hostages and police, and wounding dozens more.

The head of the Chaldean Catholic Church in Iraq reportedly told MidEast Christian News that the number of Christian church declined precipitously in the last decade. There are roughly 60 Christian churches in the entire country, down from more than 300 as recently as 2003.

Of course other, much smaller but no less vulnerable, religious minorities have also suffered greatly in Iraq. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, in its recently release annual report found that, ‘Large percentages of the country’s smallest religious minorities—which include Chaldo-Assyrian and other Christians, Sabean Mandaeans, and Yezidis—have fled the country in recent years, threatening these communities’ continued existence in Iraq.’

And yet, last year, the General Accounting Office (GAO) released a report titled, ‘U.S. Assistance to Iraq’s Minority Groups in Response to Congressional Directive,’ which it had conducted at the request of several Members of Congress, including Congresswoman Anna Eshoo and myself after hearing from representatives of the Iraqi Diaspora community that despite targeted congressional funding intended to assist these religious communities, little tangible proof or impact was being seen on the ground.

Over multiple years, Congress directed the State Department and USAID to dedicate certain funds to help Iraq’s minority populations. But GAO found that these agencies couldn’t prove they spent the funds as Congress intended.

Perhaps this failure to follow a clear congressional directive was attributable in part to a refusal on the part of this administration, and frankly the previous administration, to acknowledge that minorities were being targeted, rather than merely victims of generalized violence in Iraq.

In short, over the span of a few decades, the Middle East, with the exception of Israel, has virtually been emptied of Jews. In my conversations with Syrian Christian refugees, Lebanese Christians and Coptic Christians in Egypt, a resounding theme emerged: a similar fate may await the ‘Sunday People.’

While it remains to be seen whether the historic exodus of Christians from the region

will prove to be as dramatic as what has already happened to the Jewish community, it is without question devastating, as it threatens to erase Christianity from its very roots.

Consider Iraq. With the exception of Israel, the Bible contains more references to the cities, regions and nations of ancient Iraq than any other country. The patriarch Abraham came from a city in Iraq called Ur. Isaac’s bride, Rebekah, came from northwest Iraq.

Jacob spent 20 years in Iraq, and his sons (the 12 tribes of Israel) were born in northwest Iraq. A remarkable spiritual revival as told in the book of Jonah occurred in Nineveh. The events of the book of Esther took place in Iraq as did the account of Daniel in the Lion’s Den. Furthermore, many of Iraq’s Christians still speak Aramaic the language of Jesus.

In fact a February 2013 Smithsonian Magazine story noted [ajs Jesus died on the cross, he cried in Aramaic, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Further, in Egypt, some 2,000 years ago, Mary, Joseph and Jesus sought refuge in this land from the murderous aims of King Herod. Egypt’s Coptic community traces its origins to the apostle Mark.

If, as appears to be happening, the Middle East is effectively emptied of the Christian faith, this will have grave geopolitical implications and does not bode well for the prospects of pluralism and democracy in the region. These developments demand our attention as policymakers.

But rather than being met with urgency, vision or creativity, our government’s response, both Executive and Congressional, has been anemic and at times outright baffling especially to the communities most impacted by the changing Middle East landscape.

We would do well to recall the words of Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, ‘We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.’

Prior to February, I was last in Egypt in June 2011 four months after Hosni Mubarak stepped down as president and turned over power to the military.

In the face of decades of human rights and religious freedom abuses under the Mubarak regime, successive U.S. administrations, including the Obama Administration, failed to advocate for those whose voices were being silenced. Many pro-democracy activists and religious minorities that I spoke with during that trip felt abandoned by the West. Their disillusionment with the U.S. and general trepidation about the rise of Islamists in the lead up to the elections was tempered by a palpable sense of anticipation, and in some cases, even hope about what the future might hold for the Egyptian people.

That hope has long since faded and fear has taken up residence.

In conversation after conversation Coptic Christians, reformers, secularist, women and others told me that the U.S. was perceived as the largest supporter of the Muslim Brotherhood-led government. Further, there was a widely held perception that the U.S. was either disengaged or simply uninterested in advocating for religious freedom and other basic human rights.

This is a perception informed by reality. Briefly turning from the Middle East for a moment consider the following:

Genocide persists in Darfur; the Sudan Special Envoy position has been vacant for 3 month; an internationally indicted war criminal, Sudanese president Bashir, travels the globe with impunity; meanwhile the administration actively worked to undermine congressional attempts to isolate Bashir by cutting off non-humanitarian aid to coun-

tries who host him, and then in April rewarded a notorious Sudanese government official, accused of torturing enemies and seeking to block U.N. peacekeepers in Darfur, with an invitation to Washington for high-level meetings.

In China, human rights issues are consistently relegated to the back-burner as seen in the recent summit.

This administration and the previous administration have ignored bipartisan Congressional calls to place Vietnam on the State Department’s list of the most egregious religious freedom violators, despite crackdowns on people of faith and an overall deteriorating human rights situation, preferring instead a policy defined simply by trade.

Consecutive administrations have been silent about the brutal gulags enslaving thousands in North Korea and can barely muster an objection when the Chinese government flouts its international obligations to North Korean refugees by deporting them to an almost certain death sentence.

The examples are too numerous to cite.

In 1998 I authored the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) which created a dedicated office at the State Department headed by an Ambassador-at-Large who was intended to serve as the primary advisor to the Secretary of State on matters of religious freedom.

It also created the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), an independent, bipartisan advisory body distinct from the State Department which can make clear-eyed policy recommendations unfettered by other diplomatic or bureaucratic considerations.

The legislation created the ‘Countries of Particular Concern’ designation, reserved for those countries with the most severe systematic, ongoing and egregious violations.

A designation which has been grossly under-utilized—this administration has failed to even designate ANY CPC’s since 2011.

At the time of introduction, as is their institutional inclination, the State Department was adamantly opposed to the legislation and sought to undermine it at every turn.

Just last week, the National Security subcommittee of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee held a hearing which examined the government’s record on implementing IRFA, at which panelist Chris Seiple testified.

There was near unanimity that over the course of successive administrations, both Republican and Democrat, IRFA had not been implemented as Congress intended.

The IRE office is presently buried in the bureaucracy. The ambassador, a fine person, is marginalized. The issue itself America’s first freedom, is viewed as periphery.

Fast forward to 2011. I worked with Congresswoman Anna Eshoo to introduce bipartisan legislation to create a high-level special envoy charged with advocating on behalf of religious minorities in the Middle East and South Central Asia.

At the time of introduction, the IRE ambassador post had been vacant for two years, sending a clear message globally that this issue simply was not a priority.

The legislation overwhelmingly passed the House last Congress only to stall in the Senate. Then Senators Webb and Kerry blocked it from moving forward largely at the request of the State Department.

Congresswoman Eshoo and myself along with Senators Roy Blunt and Carl Levin have reintroduced the legislation this year.

The legislation mandates that the envoy would have a priority focus on Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan—countries where Christians, Bahá’ís, Ahmadiyya Muslims, Jews and more face incredible repression, persecution, violence and even death.

There is a historic precedent for effective special envoys advancing seemingly intractable issues. Consider former Sudan Special Envoy John Danforth. His laser beam focus on the peace process, high-level access to the White House and undivided attention to his mission was incredibly effective.

I don't pretend to think that a special envoy will single-handedly solve the problem, but it certainly can't hurt to have a high-level person within the State Department bureaucracy who is exclusively focused on the protection and preservation of these ancient communities.

This will send an important message to both our own foreign policy establishment and to suffering communities in the Middle East and elsewhere that religious freedom is a priority—that America will be a voice for the voiceless.

Let me conclude by sharing the quote of a Coptic priest who was recently interviewed about the blasphemy charges facing the young Coptic teacher I mentioned earlier.

He said, "Today, despite this repression, we can live. But tomorrow, what will we do? The coming days will be much worse."

This much is clear: absent strong, principled U.S. leadership on this fundamental human right, the future for religious minorities in the Middle East will indeed be much worse.

In a Constitution Day speech, President Ronald Reagan described the United States Constitution as "a covenant we have made not only with ourselves, but with all of mankind."

We have an obligation to keep that covenant for it is a covenant that transcends time and place—it is a covenant with the beleaguered Coptic Christian in Egypt, the imprisoned Baha'i in Iran, the fearful Chaldean nun in Iraq.

We would do well to remember that repressive governments the world over fear the words of the Constitution and the promise they hold as much as they fear the aspirations of their own people."

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JANET BLAUFUSS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Janet Blaufuss, a woman of vision. She passed from this life in May 2013, in Toledo, Ohio.

Janet was born in Minneapolis on July 6, 1941 to Mary Vonda and George Bernard Boutlinghouse. She graduated from the University of Illinois College of Nursing. During the 1960s, she worked in juvenile and psychiatric nursing, and was instrumental in establishing the first sheltered care homes in central Illinois. She served as president of the Illinois Association of Local Health Department Nursing Administrators.

Janet then moved to Toledo to work for the Visiting Nurse Service. She worked for the agency for eleven years and was its executive director for the last four years. In 1978, Janet Blaufuss teamed with other leaders in the American hospice movement to found Hospice of Northwest Ohio. "She believed strongly in it because it allowed people to remain at home with more dignity and comfort" her son explained.

In 1989, Janet Blaufuss moved to North Carolina to become director of nursing for the

Iredell County Health Department. Fourteen years later, she returned to Toledo and family.

Janet Blaufuss invested her life in caring for people and taking care of others. Her legacy has lifted up countless others and their families in their time of need. We offer our condolences to her family, and hope they may draw strength from Janet Blaufuss' memory and the gift of her life.

RECOGNIZING NEUQUA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, NAPERVILLE, IL- INOIS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate students from Neuqua Valley High School, in Naperville, Illinois, for placing 2nd in the 10th annual national SIFMA Foundation Stock Market Game or "Capitol Hill Challenge." This marks the 3rd year in a row that students from Neuqua Valley High School have placed either 1st or 2nd, earning them a trip to Washington, D.C.

Under the guidance of Kevin Geers, this year's participating team members, Manas Gosavi, Fahad Khan, Manish Lakkamsani, Colin Pinto and Tyler Rund, produced a portfolio with a value of \$246,823.00, a return of over 138 percent.

During the 14-week competition, students invest a hypothetical \$100,000 in listed stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, with the objective of learning the value of investing and saving. The Capitol Hill Challenge allows students to enhance their understanding of the global economy, while simultaneously strengthening their knowledge of our government.

I am delighted to see students taking an interest in expanding their financial literacy and awareness of the capital markets. As a businessman who understands the value of financial planning, I know how rewarding it can be to discover what you can accomplish if you start with a plan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Neuqua Valley High School, not only on this remarkable feat, but also on their ongoing efforts to generate enthusiasm in the fields of economics and business. They truly embody their mission of "commitment to excellence."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. Speaker, I was in my district participating in the groundbreaking of the downtown crossing of the Ohio River Bridges Project during the series of recorded votes leading up to final passage of H.R. 1797, the so-called Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. Had I been present I would have voted no on H.R. 1791 because this legislation would endanger the health of women and chip away at a woman's right to choose.

Consideration of H.R. 1797 and General Debate of H.R. 1947—Motion on Ordering the

Previous Question on the Rule: roll No. 248; "no";

Rule Providing for Consideration of H.R. 1797 and General Debate of H.R. 1947—H. Res. 266: roll No. 249; "no";

Passage of Suspension Bill—H.R. 1151: roll No. 250; "yes"; and

Final Passage—H.R. 1797: roll No. 251; "no."

RECOGNIZING RUSSEL EFIRD

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Russel Efird as he is honored with the Distinguished Service Award by the Fresno County Farm Bureau (FCFB) for his contributions to agriculture. His decades of service and dedication to the farming community are to be greatly commended.

Russel's passion for farming began at a young age when he would help on his parents' farm in Caruthers, California. The Efird family has run a successful farming operation for over 70 years. They are hard-working and understand what it takes to produce quality crops.

Russel joined the FCFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Program when he was a teenager. Russel has been a member of the FCFB for over 18 years, and has served in various leadership positions within the bureau which ultimately earned him a presidency from 2006–2008. As president of the Farm Bureau, Russel did a great job leading the organization. His focus was on immigration and water which are two issues that affect the agriculture industry daily. Russel's knowledge coupled with his love for agriculture, make him a great advocate for the farming community.

In addition to all of his work at the Farm Bureau, Russel has been a member of various boards including the Western Cotton Growers Association, Fresno County Fire Protection District Board of Directors, Laton Co-op Cotton Gin Board, and the Caruthers Unified School District. Additionally he was a graduate of the Ag Leadership Program's Class X.

Farming is a huge part of Russel's life, but family is most important. He has been married to his wife, Kathleen, for almost 40 years, and they have four grown children: Matthew, John, Adam, and Elizabeth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Russel Efird for the contributions he has made to the Central Valley and the entire State of California. He serves as pillar in the community, and I thank him for his hard work and devotion to maintaining Fresno County's valuable agricultural strength.

CONGRATULATING DANIELLE L. SCOTT, THE RECIPIENT OF THE BEACON FOUNDATION, INC. SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join with

me in congratulating Danielle L. Scott, the recipient of the Beacon Foundation, Inc. Scholarship Award. The scholarship, which is awarded to college students aspiring to become future leaders, was awarded to Ms. Scott based on her exemplary academic performance and extensive community service. I also commend the Beacon Foundation, a relatively new foundation, for its record in education.

Danielle is currently a junior at Howard University studying Political Science with a minor in Community Development. Prior to her enrollment at Howard University, she attended Monticello High School in Charlottesville, Virginia. During her time at Monticello, she held numerous leadership positions and was very involved in her community. She oversaw the school's Peer Mediation Program and Big Brother Big Sister mentoring program, and was class president all four years. Upon her graduation in 2011, she received the \$10,000 Congressional Harry F. Byrd Jr. Leadership Award, the Susan N. Gilkey Award for Leadership, and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated Leadership Scholarship.

With her acceptance to Howard University, she was awarded the Legacy Scholarship and was accepted into the College of Arts and Sciences Honors Program. Since her arrival at the University, she has continued her service and is active in the university. She serves as the Chief of Staff for the Howard University Student Association and is also a member of Alpha Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated. In addition, she mentors young girls on a weekly basis as a cheerleading coach at the George Ferris Jr. Clubhouse 6 Boys and Girls Club. Maintaining a 3.95 grade point average, she is on the College of Arts and Science's Dean's List. Currently, Ms. Scott holds an internship at the Economic Development Administration in the Department of Commerce.

After Howard, Ms. Scott hopes to continue her education in pursuit of a Master's degree and potentially a PhD. She hopes to help underserved communities in the United States. Specifically, she would like to help urban black communities by reinvigorating the basic infrastructure, function, and atmosphere of these areas. She lives by the words of Mary McLeod Bethune, "Faith is the first factor in a life devoted to service, without it nothing is possible, with it, nothing is impossible."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to congratulate Ms. Danielle L. Scott as this year's recipient of the Beacon Foundation, Inc. Scholarship Award.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OREGON CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the rich history and successes of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association as they celebrate their 100th anniversary this week in their birthplace: Baker City, Oregon. I commend the Oregon Cattlemen's Association for their century of commitment to producing high quality livestock, managing our natural re-

sources, and being a highly respected voice for Oregon's livestock industry.

On May 14th, 1913, over 100 ranchers met in Baker City with concerns about the high rate of livestock theft. They sought to create an organization that would represent the livestock industry, guard against theft, and implement a brand inspection program for livestock markets. During that inaugural meeting, 51 attendees joined as charter members of the "Oregon Cattle and Horse Raiser Association," which eventually became the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

In 1913, the new association provided a much-needed voice to an industry facing chronic outbreaks of livestock theft across the range. It was reported that a rancher could turn out 500 horses for the summer, and only gather up 150 before winter. The organization brought its concern to local and state leaders, who worked with them to implement a system of brand laws and a brand inspection program. This effort cemented the Oregon Cattlemen's Association as an indispensable part of the state's livestock industry.

Ranching runs deep in Oregon's history. Way back in 1834, nearly a decade before the first of the famous covered wagons came via the Oregon Trail, Ewing Young drove a herd of cattle from California to Oregon, establishing one of the first large commercial cattle grazing operations in Oregon. Ranchers today continue in many centuries-old traditions like moving cattle horseback, grazing cattle on large tracts of land, and raising prized horses. Much of the work is physically demanding, occurring from "dawn to done".

These communities, and the ranchers that support them, understand that raising livestock takes more than just hard hands and a stubborn will. Today, ranchers must look towards the needs of their customers, the protection of the environment, building collaborative relationships with the government and non-governmental partners, and care for their livestock.

Like many other areas of the West, ranchers in Oregon face many of the same challenges as their counterparts did in 1913—from Mother Nature's inconsistent attitude, loss of livestock to theft and predatory animals, ever changing markets, to burdensome costs and an overabundance of government involvement in the cattle business. Like in the past, ranchers have a horseback view, up close and personal, regarding the effect that management practices have on the land, cattle, and ultimately the consumer. Advances in science including range and meadow management, veterinary medicine, and nutrition offer new avenues for building on tradition.

Additionally, ranchers have something in common with many city dwellers: they have a passion for healthy soils, plants, water, and wildlife, maintaining large open spaces, and ensuring a future place to share with family and friends. The Oregon Cattlemen's Association and its members continue to work towards solutions so they can to keep producing the high quality livestock that feeds the world. As the younger generation take over their families' operations, they will continue that legacy well into the next century.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Oregon Cattlemen's Association on their century of commitment to livestock producers in Oregon and recognize them for all they have done for livestock pro-

ducers, the state of Oregon, and those across the West that make their living off the land. I am very proud to represent them in the United States Congress, and I wish them the very best for their next 100 years and beyond.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

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

Today, it is \$16,738,653,639,711.53. We've added \$6,111,776,590,799.45 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

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

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the University of California, Irvine's (UCI) men's volleyball team for winning the 2013 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Men's Volleyball National Championship. This is UCI's fourth Men's Volleyball Championship in the last seven years. They previously won in 2007, 2009 and 2012. UCI is the first school to win back-to-back NCAA Championships since UCLA in 1995 and 1996. This marks the 28th overall NCAA Division I Championship for UC Irvine overall.

UCI, which swept USC in the final a year ago, is the first school to sweep in the NCAA Championship match in back-to-back years since UCLA in 1982 and 1983. UCI joins UCLA, Pepperdine and USC as the only programs to have won four titles. UCI is now 4-0 in NCAA championship matches and 8-1 all-time in the NCAA Tournament.

UCI's Connor Hughes was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player. He joined Chris Austin, Michael Brinkley, Collin Mehring and Kevin Tillie on the All-Tournament Team. Hughes, Austin and Tillie were selected for the second consecutive year.

UCI was 25-7 overall, the second most wins in the country this season. They finished second in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) with an 18-6 mark. The Anteaters' 25 wins this year are fifth most in a season, while the 18 league wins were third. They began the year ranked No. 1 and end the year ranked No. 1. They were also ranked either No. 1 or No. 2 for 13 of 17 weeks this season.

UCI was 21-0 on the year when producing more kills than its opponent and 25-0 when out-hitting its opponent. They had 17 blocks in the title match, the second most in a match this season. The Anteaters hit .500 against

Loyola in the semifinals, their second-best hitting percentage on the year.

Sophomore libero Michael Brinkley had 290 digs this season which was third on UCI's single-season digs list. Kevin Tillie and Michael Brinkley were named first team All-Americans, while Collin Mehring was a second team All-American selection. Tillie and Brinkley were also named to the All-MPSF first team, while Mehring and Scott Kevorken were named to the second team.

UCI started the season by winning the UCSB Invitational where Collin Mehring was named MVP. Jeremy Dejno was named AVCA National Player of the Week on Jan. 8, while Klye Russell garnered the award on April 9.

Congratulations to head coach, David Kniffin, who is just the second coach in the 44-year history of NCAA men's volleyball to coach a team to the NCAA Championship in his first season, and the men's volleyball team of UCI, for winning the 2013 NCAA Division I Men's Volleyball National Championship. I am proud to recognize the achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and staff who were instrumental in helping UCI win the national title.

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

TRIBUTE TO ERIC GOLDBERG AND ERIKA GRAY FOR THE SELECTION TO THE NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eric Goldberg and Erika Gray for their achievement in being selected for the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America. The National Youth Orchestra, spearheaded by Carnegie Hall, showcases America's finest young musicians and reinvigorates interest in youth musicianship at home and abroad. This achievement is the culmination of Eric and Erika's hard work, dedication, and training to hone their talent and develop their skills as musicians.

The National Youth Orchestra provides Eric and Erika the opportunity to build upon their experiences in studying music at the Percussion Scholarship Group of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and New Trier High School, respectively. They will join an elite group of young musicians from across this country on an international tour that highlights the vast musical talent that exists in the United States. Their whirlwind tour will include performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC; Bolshoi Hall of the Moscow Conservatory in Moscow, Russia; the Mariinsky Theatre Concert Hall in St. Petersburg, Russia; and the Royal Albert Hall in London, England.

I am so proud that these talented young people will represent my congressional district, Illinois, and the United States as cultural ambassadors during their time with the National Youth Orchestra. I wish Eric, Erika, and other

members of the National Youth Orchestra the best of luck on their tour and in their future musical endeavors.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS MINNESOTA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the athletes, volunteers and fans of Special Olympics Minnesota in honor of their 40th anniversary. This weekend, thousands of people will be gathering in Stillwater, Minnesota to celebrate this momentous milestone with a variety of activities, including athletic competitions and live music.

Founded just five years after Special Olympics was established nationally, thousands upon thousands of Minnesota athletes with intellectual or physical disabilities have had the opportunity to compete in 17 Olympic style sports year round, including alpine skiing, volleyball, golf, snowboarding and tennis. The Special Olympics message is simple and profound: "Through sports, our athletes are seeing themselves for their abilities, not disabilities. Their world is opened with acceptance and understanding. They become confident and empowered by their accomplishments." Rather than focusing on what they can't do, Special Olympics Minnesota focuses on what the individual can do.

Respect, accomplishment, choice, quality, partnership and integrity are the six core values represented by Special Olympics Minnesota. These values contribute to an understanding of the whole person and the whole athlete.

This year, members of our law enforcement in Minnesota are participating in the Law Enforcement Torch Run, which has taken place annually across the country since it was founded in 1981 by Police Chief Richard LaMunyon, of Wichita, Kansas. In 2012, more than 1,200 law enforcement officers throughout the State of Minnesota participated in this special torch run for Special Olympics Minnesota. Thanks to the hard work and commitment of the officers, \$3 million was successfully raised for Special Olympics Minnesota in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the athletes, volunteers, donors and staff of Special Olympics Minnesota, I proudly submit this statement to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in recognition of their 40th anniversary as an organization, and I commend all those joining in celebration this weekend in Stillwater, Minnesota.

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. NOLAN. Madam Chair, today, as the House of Representatives debates the five-year Farm Bill, I am hopeful that my colleagues can come together on issues that touch all Americans. This bill makes great strides for energy programs, the forestry industry, the organic sector, and rural areas.

I have always supported family farmers. They need protection from the vagaries of pestilence, drought, flooding, and the like. A five-year Farm Bill will offer them the certainty they need to make planting decisions.

I do not believe this Farm Bill is perfect, but I also do not think that perfection should be the enemy of the good.

In the Agriculture Committee last month, we spent more than ten hours debating amendments. That is how the legislative process should function. After it was all said and done, Chairman LUCAS and Ranking Member PETERSON felt this was the best product they could get through the House. I commend them for their hard work in pulling together a bipartisan compromise.

I will vote for passage of this bill because I have confidence that the conference committee can merge the House and Senate bills in a way that provides for family farmers without gutting the SNAP program.

Again, I will not claim that this bill is ideal—but we need to respect the work of our colleagues and advance this process.

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Chair, today I rise to oppose the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act plan to cut SNAP funding by \$20.5 billion over the next ten years.

The need for food assistance has increased dramatically during our nation's economic slump. Texas's rate for food insecurity is 27.6%—more than one in four Texas children is food insecure.

The impacts to Texas would be devastating, including 171,000 immediately off of SNAP and the elimination of almost 500 million meals from hungry Texans. In Harris County alone, more than 27,000 children, seniors, and their families would lose SNAP benefits; more than 76 million meals would be eliminated; and the Harris County economy would lose almost \$175M in lost food retail dollars.

Meeting the need for food assistance is especially critical for our most vulnerable citizens—pregnant and nursing women, infants, children, and seniors for whom the consequences of hunger and poor nutrition are

the most severe. It is critical that we maintain support for the charitable food system and funding for SNAP.

I have been a strong supporter of SNAP in Congress to help those who are food insecure during their time of need. Our office works closely with the Houston Food Bank, the largest in the Country, and the Texas Food Bank Network to help end hunger in America.

HONORING LARRY POWELL

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my colleagues, Representatives COSTA and VALADAO, to honor the accomplishments of outgoing Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Larry Powell, who has dedicated forty-three years to public education in the Sanger Unified, Fresno Unified, and Central Unified school districts.

Mr. Powell began his career in education with a B.A. in Political Science from California State University Fresno and later received his M.A. in Educational Administration from Fresno Pacific University. He was named Superintendent of the Year in 2003 by the Association of California Administrators Region 9 and received the prestigious designation of "Top Dog" in 2007 from California State University Fresno.

A dedicated public servant, Mr. Powell has served on the boards of numerous community and educational organizations, including the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association, Break the Barriers, the Sequoia Council of the Boy Scouts, the Fresno Sports Council, the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame, the Economic Development Corporation, the Fresno Compact, SALT-Fresno, the Highway City Development Corporation, the School Employers Association of California, CSUF President's Commission on Education, and Rachel's Challenge.

Characteristic of his courage and determination, Mr. Powell was diagnosed with Polio as an infant but overcame all challenges, became a champion wrestler and coach, and has shared his inspirational story in over 1,600 speeches nationwide. He lives by the message that the only things you cannot do are the things you do not attempt.

Mr. Speaker, we commend and applaud Larry Powell for his dedicated career in public education and congratulate him on a well-deserved retirement.

REINTRODUCING DUWAMISH TRIBAL RECOGNITION ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Duwamish Tribal Recognition Act affecting the indigenous people of metropolitan Seattle. Nearly 150 years after the Duwamish Tribe signed the Point Elliott Treaty in 1855, they are still seeking federal recognition, which was granted to them in

2001 but denied under dubious circumstances eight months later.

On March 22, 2013, U.S. District Judge John Coughenour vacated the September 2001 denial of the Duwamish Tribe's recognition by George W. Bush administration officials in the Interior Department. As Judge Coughenour stated, "plaintiffs should not be left to wonder why one administration thought their petition should be considered under both sets of rules, but a second did not." I agree.

This issue of Duwamish recognition has been pending for so long that the Interior Department's rules for federal recognition of tribes have changed from the original regulations set in 1978 to those that were revised in 1994. There is significant evidence to support Duwamish recognition that is not in current record, which was filed 20 years ago.

I have asked the new Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell to look into this matter. Meanwhile, this bill would provide federal recognition to the Duwamish Tribe.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure. Thank you.

RECOGNIZING ENTERPRISES OF WASHINGTON STATE AND THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Skookum Contract Services and the AbilityOne Program. AbilityOne partners with over 600 non-profit agencies across the United States to provide services and sell products to the U.S. government. AbilityOne and Skookum empower people with disabilities by providing training and job placement services that help disabled folks in our region achieve gainful employment. Organizations like Skookum employ nearly 40,000 disabled Americans.

I applaud the work of these organizations to offer skills training and opportunities for people that are blind or have significant disabilities. By directly matching employers with well-qualified employees with disabilities, AbilityOne is helping employers address their workforce needs and creating opportunities that help people with disabilities become more productive and self-reliant.

In Washington State, Skookum partners with the Naval Bremerton Hospital and Jefferson County General Hospital to provide housekeeping services and ensure that hospitals are clean and sanitary for patients, doctors, and health care workers. In addition, they contract with Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Naval Base Kitsap to provide fleet management, janitorial, and grounds maintenance. Last year, I had the opportunity to see firsthand the important work of Skookum and their employees through visiting some of their work sites and can attest to the quality of their work. The agency also provides several other services to the community including warehouse and distribution, sanitation, and recycling services. "Skookum" is a Chinook word that means stronger or well-made in a better or unique way. The products that come out of Skookum demonstrate how effectively their employees are able to craft unique, high quality items.

Mr. Speaker, our community is a better place because of the work of Skookum employees. I commend the work of Jeff Dolven, the President and CEO of Skookum, and his staff in helping to uplift the disabled community and place them in meaningful employment that brings this region together. I applaud the work of Skookum employees in providing several meaningful services to the people of Washington State. I am pleased today to recognize this extraordinary service today in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING JORGE ARIAS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM FAIRFAX COUNTY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and commend Jorge Arias, the famous mosquito hunter of Fairfax County, on the occasion of his retirement after a decorated career in the field of medical entomology, which culminated in his 10-year tenure as the Supervisor of the Fairfax County Health Department's Disease Carrying Insects Program.

When most people hear the familiar buzz of a fly or mosquito, their natural instinct is to swat them away or reach for the repellent. Not Jorge. He welcomes the pests of summer with open, exposed arms, inviting them to creep, crawl, and chomp on him. It is that passion which made him an easy selection when Fairfax County was looking to start its insects program in 2003.

Clearly the feeling was mutual. In a 2006 profile in The Washington Post, Jorge said at the time, "I thought, 'Oh my lord, this is heaven.' I get to play with mosquitoes!" It is that zeal for entomology that has made Jorge a respected expert in international circles. Along the way he has suffered multiple infections, mentored countless students in the field of biology, and even had several bugs named in his honor.

Jorge is a native Virginian, born in Charlottesville. He was the son of a doctor and survived polio as a young child growing up in Panama. He went to college thinking he would follow in his father's footsteps, but that changed once he sat down for his first entomology class. Some people claim to have been "bitten by the bug" when describing their career choice. For Jorge, it was quite literal. He was known for offer himself up in "live bait" experiments, sitting out in the rain forests for hours unprotected. He became so close to his subjects that he could identify the species of fly or mosquito feasting on him even in the dark. He has dedicated not only his career, but his very health, to the study of insects. Through the years, he has survived bouts with multiple diseases, including malaria and, remarkably, hepatitis.

He received a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees in biology from Whittier College in California, and he went on to receive his doctorate of philosophy in medical entomology from the University of California Riverside. From there, he and his wife, Kathy, joined the Peace Corps. They were posted in Brazil, where Jorge helped found graduate degree programs in entomology. He later pursued research activities in Brazil, Panama,

and Venezuela, and then continued that work as a consultant with the Pan American Health Organization.

In Fairfax, Jorge led the creation of an insect identification and surveillance program, targeting mosquitoes, ticks, and other insects. He has helped raise public awareness about the public health risks of West Nile Virus and Lyme Disease and offered helpful tips for precaution, particularly among the County's diverse immigrant community and in our school classrooms. He also has helped train a new generation of "mosquito hunters" to carry on this important work.

The American Mosquito Control Association recognized Jorge in 2011 with its Volunteer of the Year Award, "for his outstanding contributions to the furtherance of mosquito control education and outreach programs in Fairfax County Virginia and to communities around the world." Last year, the Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association recognized him with its 2012 R. E. Dorer award for his "exceptional contributions to mosquito control in the Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control region."

Mr. Speaker, when I was a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, we often joked that we should not allow such talented and dedicated community servants to retire. We certainly wish that was the case here. I wish Jorge, his wife, Kathy, his children, and grandchildren, all the best in this well-deserved retirement, and I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in expressing our appreciation to Jorge for his commitment to public health service and for keeping the bugs at bay for the rest of us..

IN CELEBRATION OF JUNETEENTH

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Juneteenth, the oldest known celebration marking the end of slavery in the United States.

It was not until June 19, 1865, two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, that Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced that the war had ended and the slaves were freed. Since then, Juneteenth has been celebrated nationally, serving as an important opportunity for friends, families and neighbors to come together and rejoice in our shared heritage. It's an important reminder both of the great tragedy of slavery and of the courage and resilience of all those who fought for change.

I am proud to look back on this day at my own family's tradition of fighting for civil rights in this country. My great grandfather led one of the first units of African-American soldiers into battle, where they risked their lives and their own freedom to bring greater freedom to all Americans of every skin color. That tradition carried on through my family to my father who joined the civil rights struggle of the 1960s and went on to write much of the enforcement language behind the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Recently, I attended a ceremony commemorating the life of civil rights leader Medgar Evers on the 50th anniversary of his as-

sassination. His legacy is a reminder of the courage of individuals who fight for freedom and opportunity. While we have made great strides since that day in 1865, the struggle for equality is not over.

As I commemorate this historic day, I would like to urge my colleagues to honor the memory of all who have fought for freedom and equality and stand with all who continue the struggle today.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF BETTY MORAIS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a woman of substance: Betty Morais passed from this life in May 2013, in Toledo, Ohio.

Betty was born in Minneapolis on March 5, 1923, to Esther and Lewis Himmelman. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota and her graduate degree from Ohio State University. She worked in New York City of the Army Adjutant General's Office, then made her way to Toledo where she worked for Lasalle & Koch. It was at the downtown department store that she met her husband, Harold. They married in 1950 and together raised three children, sons Peter and Anthony, and daughter Nina. Harold and Betty enjoyed 49 happy years until his passing. Betty met further heartache when her son Anthony passed away a decade later.

Betty spent twenty years as a committed volunteer for the Toledo section of the National Council of Jewish Women, the Junior League and the League of Women Voters. She volunteered with groups assisting children in need and worked for the Economic Opportunity Planning Association of Toledo. Betty's calling, however, was to lead Planned Parenthood of Northwest Ohio.

Betty Morais became the executive director of Planned Parenthood and ably guided the agency for eighteen years until retiring in 1993. Under her leadership, the agency grew from a storefront to its own clinic, expanded educational initiatives and medical services, and growing into the rural areas of the region. She was open, compassionate and a visionary. It was important to Betty to serve people who needed her help. Her efforts brought her recognition from the Junior League, receiving its Community Service Award; the YWCA, receiving its Milestones Award; and the legal aid associations' Community Advocacy Award.

Betty Morais gave fully of herself. She was a pioneer in many ways, and a focused advocate. She has left her mark on our community. We offer our condolences to her family, and hope they may draw strength from Betty Morais' memory and the gift of her life.

NOBODY HOME ON SUDAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, more than three months since the departure of Sudan Special

Envoy Princeton Lyman, this administration has yet to fill his position.

A June 11 UPI story covered a recently released Amnesty International report which underscored that, "Indiscriminate bombing has been the Sudanese government's signature tactic in Blue Nile state, to devastating effect."

Amnesty reported on the desperate humanitarian situation facing the people of the region—including acute food shortages and virtually non-existent access to medical care.

The report underscored the fact that an internationally indicted war criminal, Sudanese President Omar Bashir, continues to evade justice and concludes: "With no accountability for past crimes, there is little deterrence for those of the present."

I couldn't agree more which is why I attempted to restrict non-humanitarian foreign assistance to countries that diplomatically welcomed an architect of genocide in an effort to isolate a man who undoubtedly has blood on his hands. I offered an amendment to that effect to last year's appropriations bill—an amendment which the Obama Administration sought to defeat as the appropriations process moved forward.

These realities beg certain questions: What is this administration's policy on Sudan? Is it to isolate Bashir? Apparently not. Is it to pursue justice for the Sudanese people? Not if it risks ruffling diplomatic feathers. Is it to elevate the issue within our own foreign policy establishment? Not really—how else to explain a prolonged vacancy of the Special Envoy post?

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION OF PORTER COUNTY HOSPICE PROGRAM

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I recognize the Visiting Nurse Association, VNA, of Porter County Hospice Program as the organization celebrates its 30th anniversary. In honor of this momentous occasion, the VNA Hospice is hosting a celebratory event on Saturday, June 22, 2013 at Central Park Plaza in Valparaiso, Indiana.

The VNA Hospice Program was established in 1983 with the goal of providing comfort, care, and compassion to terminally ill patients and their families in and around the communities of Porter County. The program started with only 22 patients and has quickly grown over the years, caring for 742 patients in 2012. In 1994, in order to meet the growing need for inpatient hospice care, the VNA of Porter County opened the 10-bed Mary E. Bartz Hospice Center in Valparaiso, which was the first self-supporting hospice center in Indiana. Due to the tremendous support of the community through a \$2.85 million capital campaign, the Arthur B. and Ethel V. Horton 20-bed hospice center was built to replace the Bartz Hospice Center in 2002. Throughout the last 30 years, the VNA Hospice Program has been able to help more than 11,000 patients live their final days with peace and dignity.

The VNA of Porter County Hospice Program has been successful due to the unwavering

dedication of its leadership, volunteers, and staff, including nurses, social workers, home health aides, clergy, and therapists. Northwest Indiana is not only grateful, but proud to have had the organization's support and help during the past 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the VNA of Porter County Hospice Program on their 30th anniversary. For their remarkable leadership, commitment, and compassion shown through their service to so many in need throughout Northwest Indiana, they are worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING DR. STEVEN BREM

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Steven Brem and all those who have come to America, worked hard and embraced this great country as their own. We are truly a nation of immigrants and many of us have a story to tell about how our families came here, some dating back to the discovery and settlement of the continent and others more recent, but all are proud of the day they or their ancestors were welcomed as citizens and finally called themselves Americans. The process can be hard, and the journey difficult, but the stories of immigrants like Steven and his family continue to enrich our country and exemplify what so many seek to achieve when they come here.

Dr. Steven Brem was born Szmul Szaja Brem, in a displaced persons camp in Germany following World War II. His parents were survivors of the Holocaust and, in 1949, the family traveled to the United States on a troop support boat. The Brem family embraced this country as their own and they were grateful for the opportunities they were provided, especially the access to an education, which was denied in the concentration camps. His parents instilled the value of education in Steven and maintained that in America success would come to those willing to work hard to achieve their goals. Steven took his parents philosophy to heart and, upon deciding he wanted to pursue a degree in medicine, worked hard, and received his degree from Harvard Medical School in 1972.

I first met Steven when he was helping one of my employees fight a brain tumor. He was serving as the Chair of Neuro-Oncology at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa and proved an invaluable resource during that difficult time. Although she ultimately lost her battle, Steven was there for her during her struggle, exemplifying all the traits one could wish for in a doctor. His kindness and caring for his patients made a lasting impression, and our families have become good friends. Steven has since moved to Pennsylvania and is now serving in the Department of Neurosurgery at Penn Medicine as Professor of Neurosurgery, Chief of Surgical Neuro-oncology and Co-Director of the Penn Brain Tumor Center. He is recognized as one of the preeminent doctors for the treatment of brain tumors, recently receiving the Joel A. Gingras, Jr. award from the American Brain Tumor Association for his work to advance the understanding and treatment of brain tumors.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the story of the Brem family is one of the most positive stories of the American experience I have ever heard. As Steven has said to me many times "we want to make a stronger, more beautiful America by passing down from generation to generation the love of learning and service to our fellow man." I am proud to call Steven my friend and ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing the contribution he and his family have made to our great nation.

JOSEPH A. PIERANGELI, FORMER
UNICO PRESIDENT

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Joseph A. Pierangeli, the former president of the UNICO Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania Chapter.

Mr. Pierangeli has served as a member of UNICO for 10 years. UNICO is the largest Italian American organization in the United States. Members seek to improve their communities by providing assistance to area and national charities through fundraisers and donations. Additionally, they strive to honor and educate others about their Italian culture and ethnic heritage.

Currently, Mr. Pierangeli serves as the Chief Executive Officer of United Rehabilitation Services in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. A graduate of Penn State University, Mr. Pierangeli is a proud husband and father who plays an active role in many civic organizations throughout Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties.

Mr. Speaker, for his dedicated service to both his Italian heritage and our community, I commend Joseph A. Pierangeli, former president of the UNICO Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania Chapter.

SPENCER WEST SUMMIT
ANNIVERSARY

HON. CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of Spencer West's summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. A man of many talents: relentless climber, accomplished speaker, motivating author, thriving philanthropist and activist. This Wyoming native from Rock Springs is a man who is inspiring the world to follow in his path and redefine possible.

"Redefining Possible" is the phrase that West has chosen to embody his life. At age of 5, he was diagnosed with sacral agenesis, a genetic disorder which led to the amputation of both his legs. The 32 years old man today is an inspiration, proving no handicap can hold you back from changing the world.

Just one year ago, West climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, the highest peak in Africa on his hands and in his wheelchair. West's climb was dedicated to the fundraising campaign for Free the Children's sustainable water initiative, which raised more than half a million dollars committed to create clean water programs in Kenya. He now shares with audiences the struggles he has overcome. His motivational speeches have reached over 150,000 people where he captures audiences with his charismatic and dynamic personality.

His powerful message continued to reach a larger audience when West teamed up with Nelly Furtado in her lyrical video for her single titled *Spirit Indestructible*. Furtado's video chronicles West's astonishing journey during his week-long climb to the summit of one of the world's most famous mountains.

Since his climb, West has not slowed down in his efforts to raise awareness and additional funds for the clean water project in Kenya. He recently finished a 300 kilometer trek between Edmonton and Calgary in Alberta, Canada. He completed the journey in 11 days, undertaking nearly an entire marathon every day.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Spencer West for his inspiring achievements for powerful social change. Through his determined work and optimism, he has demonstrated that the impossible is indeed possible.

A TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN
JOHN D. DINGELL JR.

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, on June 7, 2013, Congressman JOHN DINGELL became the longest-serving Member of Congress in the history of our country.

To put Congressman DINGELL's tenure into perspective mathematically, one would need a calculator. The Washington Post reported that since the American Revolution, Congressman DINGELL has been a Member of Congress for 24 percent of that time. That's over 20,000 days.

I measure his tenure in far greater terms . . . his contributions to our country.

Nearly every major law one can point to today bears the imprint of Congressman DINGELL. From fighting for civil rights and clean water, to improving labor laws and health care, JOHN DINGELL is the epitome of effective service to our country.

He has seen Popes pass and Presidents elected, wars won and wars lost, championship sports teams and the first email.

Much in the world has changed since Congressman DINGELL was first elected in 1955, but he has been the "constant" in Congress to count on. He fights for what's right, putting his constituents first and politics second. He sets his sights on his goals and relentlessly pursues them. He is a prudent and wise man.

So thank you, Mr. DINGELL. Thank you for inspiring us, and thank you for all you've done for our country.

It's an honor to serve with you.

RECOGNIZING THE 148TH ANNIVERSARY OF JUNETEENTH AND THE 20TH CELEBRATION OF THE JUNETEENTH FREEDOM & HERITAGE FESTIVAL IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 148th anniversary of the observance of Juneteenth in the United States. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Abraham Lincoln in September 1862, it was not until June 19, 1865, that Union Soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger granted freedom to the last slaves in Galveston, Texas. This year also marks the 20th annual Juneteenth Freedom and Heritage Festival in Memphis. To commemorate this day in our history and the contributions of many African-Americans to our nation, this year the festival has chosen the theme, “Honoring African-American Medical Doctors.”

Over the course of history, there have been many obstacles in the path to success for African-Americans in many fields, and the medical field is no exception. In fact, the nation’s first African-American doctor, Dr. James McCune Smith was barred from attending medical school in New York City, where he lived, so he attended medical school in Scotland and obtained his degree in 1837. He then returned to New York, set up a medical practice in lower Manhattan, and became the resident physician at an orphanage. In addition to his medical practice, Dr. Smith served as a schoolteacher, a prolific writer and a strong abolitionist. The bravery of Dr. Smith paved the way for more African-American doctors to climb the ranks to prominence.

Because Memphis is a medical center, the city has seen its own share of African-American doctors who have made a difference in the lives of their patients and left their respective marks on the medical community. Dr. Edward Reed was the first black general surgeon to set up practice in Memphis and to integrate the surgical staffs of Memphis hospitals during the 1960s. Dr. Lawrence Seymour was a pioneer in the fight against prostate cancer, developing several new treatments for the disease, including one that shrinks the prostate gland before surgery. Dr. Linkwood Williams moved to Memphis, after his tenure training many of the 450 pilots who served in the 332nd Fighter Group at Tuskegee University, and began an OB-GYN practice, becoming the first African-American OB-GYN in the city. Dr. Vasco Smith, a civil rights leader and the first African-American elected to the Shelby County Commission, also served the medical community as a well-respected dentist and an instrumental founder of the Regional Medical Center at Memphis. Dr. Ethelyn Williams-Neal worked to become one of the first black pediatricians in Memphis, and she continues to serve as a prominent pediatrician in the Memphis community.

Mr. Speaker, it is in the spirit of these great medical professionals that I ask my colleagues to join me in observing our nation’s 148th anniversary of Juneteenth and the celebrations in Memphis. This is a time to reflect upon the

end of slavery in America and to recognize the many contributions of African-American citizens. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, the Emancipation Proclamation “came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House on Friday afternoon, June 14th, due to attending a family funeral out of town. The House considered amendments to H.R. 1960, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted: “aye” on rollcall No. 230 (Holt amendment); “aye” on rollcall No. 231 (McCollum amendment); “aye” on rollcall No. 232 (Nolan amendment); “aye” on rollcall No. 233 (Larsen amendment); “aye” on rollcall No. 234 (Gibson amendment); “aye” on rollcall No. 235 (Coffman amendment); “aye” on rollcall No. 237 (Smith amendment); “aye” on rollcall No. 238 (Polis amendment); “aye” on rollcall No. 239 (Polis amendment); “aye” on rollcall No. 240 (Van Hollen amendment); “aye” on rollcall No. 241 (Blumenauer amendment); “aye” on rollcall No. 242 (DeLauro amendment); “aye” on rollcall No. 243 (Motion to Recommit H.R. 1960 with Instructions); “no” on rollcall No. 229 (Turner amendment); “no” on rollcall No. 236 (Walorski amendment); and “no” on rollcall No. 244 (final passage of H.R. 1960).

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of 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, June 20, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 24

3 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine curbing drug abuse in Medicare.

SD-342

5:30 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Howard A. Shelanski, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, and Daniel M. Tangherlini, of the District of Columbia, to be Administrator of General Services.

S-216

JUNE 25

10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine private student loans, focusing on regulatory perspectives.

SD-538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the challenges and opportunities for improving forest management on Federal lands.

SD-366

Committee on Finance
To hold an oversight hearing to examine recovery audit contractors, focusing on program integrity.

SD-215

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia
To hold hearings to examine measuring the impact of preparedness grants since 9/11.

SD-342

12 noon
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies.

SD-124

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider S. 718, to create jobs in the United States by increasing United States exports to Africa by at least 200 percent in real dollar value within 10 years, S. 559, to establish a fund to make payments to the Americans held hostage in Iran, and to members of their families, who are identified as members of the proposed class in case number 1:08-CV-00487 (EGS) of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, S. Res. 144, concerning the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the need for international efforts supporting long-term peace, stability, and observance of human rights, S. Res. 167, reaffirming the strong support of the United States for the peaceful resolution of territorial, sovereignty, and jurisdictional disputes in the Asia-Pacific maritime domains, S. Res. 165, calling for the release from prison of former Prime Minister of Ukraine Yulia Tymoshenko in light of the recent European Court of Human Rights ruling, S. Res. 166, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and commanding its successor, the African Union, and any pending nominations.

S-116

2:30 p.m.	Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	3 p.m.	Committee on Appropriations	2:30 p.m.	Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Energy	To hold an oversight hearing to examine S. 1084, to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to establish the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy as the lead Federal agency for coordinating Federal, State, and local assistance provided to promote the energy retrofitting of schools, S. 717, to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a pilot program to award grants to nonprofit organizations for the purpose of retrofitting nonprofit buildings with energy-efficiency improvements, and other pending energy efficiency legislation.	To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2014 for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission.	To hold hearings to examine advancing the science and standards of forensics.	SR-253	
	SD-366		SD-138		
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	To hold hearings to examine 75 years of the Federal minimum wage.	10 a.m.	Committee on Finance	JUNE 27	
	SD-430	To hold hearings to examine health care quality, focusing on the path forward.	SD-215	10:30 a.m.	Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Select Committee on Intelligence	To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.	Joint Economic Committee	To hold hearings to examine reducing red tape through smarter regulations.	Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight	To hold hearings to examine contract management by the Department of Energy.
	SH-219	To hold hearings to examine the impact of Federal budget decisions on children, focusing on investing in our future.	SD-G50	SD-342	SD-342
		2 p.m.	Special Committee on Aging	2:30 p.m.	Select Committee on Intelligence
		To hold hearings to examine respecting patients' wishes and advance care planning.	SD-124	To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.	SH-219
				JULY 16	
				2:30 p.m.	Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
				Subcommittee on Water and Power	To hold hearings to examine the Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study.
				SD-366	SD-366