

"Yea" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res 230, a bill Recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo (Rollcall No. 229); and

"Yea" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Con. Res 111, a bill Recognizing the 61st anniversary of the Independence of the State of Israel (Rollcall No. 230).

ON THE ENDORSEMENT OF "ONE SECOND AFTER" BY WILLIAM R. FORSTCHEN

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring up the book *One Second After*, which was written by historian and novelist William R. Forstchen. It lays out a fact-based scenario of what life would be like after an EMP attack. I think that the American people should read this book. It tells the story of a ballistic missile EMP attack on our country. The weapon was launched from a ship off our shore, and then the ship was sunk so that there were no fingerprints. It was launched about 300 miles high over Nebraska, and it shut down our infrastructure country-wide. This book is a realistic assessment of what a really robust EMP lay-down could do to our country.

As a scientist and engineer now serving my 17th year on the House Armed Services Committee, I have studied the threat of EMP with the world's experts and it is real. I find it very disturbing that EMP is well understood and its capability is actively pursued by America's potential foes, but it is virtually unknown to the American public. Imagine a world where the only person you could talk to is the person next to you, the only way you could go anywhere is to walk and the electronic grid is destroyed. This is only the beginning of the impact from an EMP attack.

Glen Reynolds, who is a law professor at the University of Tennessee, a contributing editor at *Popular Mechanics*, and the author of various law review articles, writes as the editor of *Instapundit.com* how much he enjoyed the book and how he hopes that this book will draw attention to the threat of an EMP. I want to take this opportunity to share it with all of my colleagues.

"So I finished William Forstchen *One Second After*, and it's pretty good—sort of an *Alas, Babylon* for the 21st Century. Forstchen hopes to attract attention to the danger of an EMP attack, and I hope he does. I'm somewhat less positive about whether that will produce any actual, useful preparation."

HONORING DETECTIVE JEFFREY K. SWINDOL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor Detective Jeffrey Swindol for being selected as the Bartlett Police Department's 2008 Officer of the Year.

Since joining the Bartlett Police Department in 1998, Detective Swindol has made an immediate impact in a police force through his professionalism and loyalty to the Bartlett community. It is through Detective Swindol's chosen career path that is a testament of the values that were instilled in him by his parents and family members. Detective Swindol displays his leadership that is expected during investigations for illegal sales, distribution of narcotics as well as other substances.

On April 1, 2007, Detective Swindol was promoted and began utilizing his talents on the Bartlett Police Department's Narcotic Unit. Detective Swindol has displayed his ability to adapt, overcome obstacles, and thrive under pressure. His dedication and diligent work with the unit even led to the seizure of \$62,000.00 cash as well as the suspect. Detective Swindol was an integral part in this investigation, which deserves the credit for one of the largest cash seizures in the department's history. I can proudly say that all of this hard work paid off. I commend Detective Swindol for his exemplary example of dedication and service. I have no doubt that Detective Swindol's hard work has improved the lives of everyone that calls the City of Bartlett their home.

Please join me in honoring Jeffrey Swindol and wishing him and his family the best on this well-deserved award.

IN MEMORIAM: CORRINE CONTE

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Corrine Louise Conte, a beloved neighbor and community member in western Massachusetts and Washington, DC.

Corrine was a woman of many talents. A native of Pittsfield, she was a star swimmer at Pittsfield High School, and she later became an accomplished pilot. Once, while flying near her home, her plane's engine failed, but she steered the descending plane into an open field and escaped with only a fractured rib, an injury she dismissed as trifling.

During World War II, Corrine served as a nurse in the Navy, where she met her future husband, the late, great Congressman Silvio O. Conte. The couple married after the war, and Corrine continued to serve as a nurse while raising their four children. When Silvio was elected to the House of Representatives, she moved their family to Bethesda, Maryland, where she became a successful real estate agent.

Ever-welcoming, Corrine opened her family's home in Bethesda to ambassadors and politicians, regardless of political party. Her gatherings were known for being intimate and down-to-earth. When a Russian delegation once came to dinner, they were surprised to find that Corrine had done all the cooking herself.

She was a friend to several Presidents, meeting each Chief Executive from Dwight Eisenhower to George H.W. Bush, and even dancing with Lyndon Johnson at his inaugural ball. True to form, she made all of her White House gowns herself, working from a sewing table in her basement. In the late 1980s, she

served on President Bush's Special Committee on Mental Health.

Despite remarkable talents and powerful friends, Corrine never lost touch with her community or shrank from the rigors of public service. The phone number to her family's Pittsfield home was listed publicly, and, during the three decades her husband served in Congress, she fielded calls from constituents and often followed up on requests herself. She was an active campaigner, regularly putting in long days on the campaign trail, and a favorite with voters, who appreciated her practicality and command of the issues. After her husband's death in 1991, she dedicated herself to preserving his extensive and important legacy.

Away from the public eye, Corrine was known to be a loving mother and a woman of great faith. She was also a life-long Boston Red Sox fan and reportedly was elated to see her team finally reverse the "Curse of Bambino" by sweeping the World Series in 2004.

Corrine Conte's strength, warmth and charm were legendary. The friends she made and the people she touched throughout her remarkable life will miss her dearly.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 627) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights. I am very pleased that leadership has brought this important consumer protection legislation to the floor today.

As we all know, having a credit card account is essential to building the credit history needed to buy a home or obtain a loan. Given the necessity of having good credit, I am very concerned that in recent years, credit card companies have established policies which result in limiting the control that individuals have over their financial decisions. This inappropriate level of control has serious implications for people's lives and their financial security.

One common practice is that a credit card company will raise interest rates without warning. When a credit card holder tries to opt out, they realize they are locked into a plan that differs vastly from what they originally signed up for. These types of abuses against consumers have even more serious implications in these trying economic times, in that families may not be able to meet credit obligations that were not expected or planned.

The Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights ensures that credit cardholders are protected from unfair and confusing credit card gimmicks that result in their being required to pay more than what they should owe to the credit card companies.

The bill protects cardholders against arbitrary interest rate increases, empowers them to set limits on their credit and requires card companies to fairly credit and allocate payments. It also prohibits charging fees just to

pay a bill by phone or issuing credits cards to minors.

These new, common-sense protections will empower consumers and prevent the credit card industry from continuing to reap excessive profits from often unsuspecting customers.

I ask my colleagues to vote "yes" on this critical consumer protection measure, and I urge the Senate to act on this measure so that it can be quickly signed into law.

CONGRATULATING SAUNDERS
YACHTWORKS ON ITS 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Saunders Yachtworks with facilities in Orange Beach and Gulf Shores, Alabama, on its 50th anniversary.

In 1959, the Saunders Engine & Equipment Company, Inc. was founded by Andrew Saunders Sr. in Mobile, and today members of the second and third generation represent the majority of the company's ownership. The company's "can do" attitude has set it apart as a premier marine service provider along the central Gulf Coast.

In 1993, Saunders Yachtworks opened as a mechanical service facility in Orange Beach, and in 2007, Saunders Yachtworks became the sole focus of the corporation. This year, the company expanded its operations to Gulf Shores with the opening of its new corporate headquarters and mechanical service shop.

This new facility features one of the largest boat lifts on the central Gulf Coast allowing Saunders to work on boats up to 115 feet. There is no doubt this new expansion will bring yachters from around the world to Alabama's Gulf Coast.

Throughout its 50 years of operations, the company has received numerous awards and accolades. In 1990, Saunders Engine & Equipment was named "Small Business of the Year" by the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce. Earlier this year, Saunders Yachtworks was named Boatyard of the Year by the American Boat Builders and Repairers Association. This award is given to the boatyard that "demonstrates excellence in all facets of business through commitment to customer service, quality management and positive vendor and employee relations."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Saunders Yachtworks on its 50th anniversary and for being recognized as the Boatyard of the Year. I know John Fitzgerald, the company president, Andrew Saunders Jr., chairman of the board, along with the company employees, their friends, families, and members of the community also join with me in praising Saunders Yachtworks for their many accomplishments and for extending thanks for their continued service to the Alabama business community and the First Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO TYLER CLARY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual who possesses the talent, athleticism and dedication of an Olympic athlete. University of Michigan Sophomore Tyler Clary is turning heads and breaking records in the swimming world; and he's ready for the next step—the Olympics. Tyler grew up in Riverside, California, where his parents still reside. Our entire community is very proud of this young man and his accomplishments.

Tyler graduated from Poly High School in 2007 where he was a CIF champion in swimming. Tyler is now flourishing at the University of Michigan. He recently captured his first NCAA title and his time of 3:35.98 broke the American Record of 14-time Olympian gold medalists Michael Phelps by 28 hundredths of a second. Tyler received a congratulatory text message from Michael Phelps, who Tyler trained with at Michigan. The next night Tyler captured the 200-yard backstroke title and broke another NCAA record of Olympian gold medalists Ryan Lochte.

Tyler's coaches are not only impressed by his pure athleticism but by his great attitude. A recruiting coach from Cal said that he knew Tyler "was going to be one of the greats." Tyler intends to prove that correct as he sets his sights on the 2012 Olympics. He was just shy of making the cut for the 2008 Olympics and Tyler doesn't intend to let anything get in his way the next time around. He has begun preparation for this year's world championships, which will be held this summer in Rome.

Tyler is also a five-time All American Athlete, the 2009 Swimmer of the Year, the 2009 Big Ten (Conference) Swimmer of the Year, and holds the University of Michigan's records in the 200 Individual Medley (IM), 400 IM, 200 Backstroke and 800 Free Relay. Tyler was the 2006 Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA) World Youth Top Male Performer. In 2007, Tyler was the Silver Medalist in the 200 Backstroke at the Pan American Games.

Madam Speaker, it is a rare honor to be able to speak about an athlete who is expected to break records and possibly become a future Olympic champion. Tyler Clary has everything it takes and I believe that three years from now I will be on the House floor congratulating Tyler on a successful return from the 2012 Summer Olympics being hosted in London. Tyler exemplifies the best of our future generations and I look forward to watching him in the years to come.

FREE MEDIA UNDER PRESSURE IN THE OSCE REGION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission I can attest to the fact that freedom of the press is only a cherished dream for many today in

the OSCE region. Vibrant independent media are an essential element of any democracy. Leaders the world over who are determined to remain in office by any means necessary understand perfectly the power of the press. That is precisely why they and their associates strive so vigorously to control the media. Indeed, there are a variety of means commonly used by those attempting to harass or intimidate journalists.

Physical attacks on journalists have become commonplace in many part of the OSCE region along with police raids, spurious court cases, arrests, and forcible psychiatric hospitalization. In recent days those attacked included Argishti Kivirian, editor of the independent news Web site Armenia Today, Vyacheslav Yaroshenko, editor of Corruption and Crime, a weekly in the southwestern Russian city of Rostov-na-Donu, and Anastasia Akopyan, a young journalist assaulted following circulation of an interview she did with an opposition mayoral candidate in the Russian city of Sochi.

The situation in several other OSCE countries remains mixed. While the Belarusian regime allowed two independent newspapers to distribute through state-controlled outlets, the overall media environment remains repressive. Independent journalists continue to be harassed. A new media law entered into force in February contains provisions that toughen state control over the media as the Belarusian government seeks to maintain a virtual monopoly over the country's information space, especially television. In Armenia, the independent A1+ television station, forced off the air by the authorities, remains silent despite a ruling on the case by the European Court of Human Rights nearly a year ago. While the release of some imprisoned journalists in Azerbaijan is a positive development, the authorities have yet to repeal criminal defamation provisions. In Georgia, the government should take decisive action on promised reforms on media liberalization.

In the Balkans, media outlets are commonly targeted for harassment and occasional violence. In Serbia, several journalists were reportedly attacked earlier this year by a radical group organizing a commemoration of the 10-year anniversary of NATO bombing. Investigative media in Kosovo have come under pressure for their attempts to expose corruption. Independent media in Montenegro are frequently the target of trumped-up defamation and libel charges. In Albania, the magazine Tema was reportedly forced to cease operations under government pressure, while TV News 24 was apparently assessed a large fine for ridiculing another station's promotion of the country's prime minister. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the murder of Serbian journalist and editor, Slavko Curuvija, who testified before the Helsinki Commission shortly before his death, a case which authorities have yet to resolve.

Meanwhile, in Kazakhstan, the opposition weekly Taszharghan has reportedly been forced to cease publication following the imposition of a \$200,000 fine for damaging the honor and dignity of a member of the Kazakh parliament. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least half a dozen independent outlets and their staffers faced more than 60 such defamation lawsuits in 2008 alone, with many involving claims by senior government officials.