

In November 1944 he was taken prisoner and held in Cologne, Germany. He was later sent to Stallag 3G, near Berlin. After his release he returned home to the United States and was eventually discharged.

I am pleased to honor Mr. Daniels and all of our brave veterans for their service to our great nation. May God continue to bless him and may God bless America.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL
RESPONSIBILITY ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (H.R. 3221), which will end the giveaway of \$87 billion in corporate welfare to financial institutions for processing paperwork. Those funds instead will be reinvested to expand the Pell Grant program, increase assistance to community colleges, and support early learning to ensure more low-income children are prepared to start kindergarten. A savings of \$10 billion will also be used for deficit reduction.

H.R. 3221 terminates the Family Federal Education Loan (FFEL) program. Instead, all new federal student lending will originate through the existing Federal Direct Loan Program. This change will result in a more reliable system for students and their families by avoiding risks in the private lending market, which were exposed in the recent financial crisis. Taxpayers will benefit from a more efficient student loan system because eliminating the unnecessary middleman will produce \$87 billion in savings for taxpayers over the next 10 years.

The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act also makes strategic investments to allow more students to attend college and graduate with less debt. The Pell Grant Scholarship program is increased by \$40 billion. As a result, more than \$75.5 million in additional funding will be provided to students in Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District over the next decade. Additionally, this legislation strengthens and expands the Perkins Loan Program, and it helps families by simplifying the complicated and time-consuming Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)—the bill enables families to apply for federal student aid using their tax form.

America's community colleges are another priority investment in H.R. 3221. At a time when millions of Americans are seeking new employment opportunities, this bill makes significant new funding available to retrain workers, prepare students for 21st century jobs and introduce students to post-secondary education. These investments will improve the quality of education for over 100,000 students that are enrolled in Minnesota community colleges.

This legislation is a historic opportunity to invest in education while, at the same time, reducing the federal deficit. Unfortunately, the Republican minority is trying to distract attention from the bill by offering a motion to recommit that prohibits Federal funding to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). ACORN, a nonprofit

organization that works to empower low-income Americans, does not receive \$1 of Federal funding in H.R. 3221. ACORN is currently under investigation for possible wrong-doing—these inquiries should proceed and final judgments should be made. No organization found guilty of criminal conduct should continue to receive taxpayer support. However, it is inappropriate and likely unconstitutional for the House of Representatives to pre-judge the outcome of a formal investigation by prohibiting Federal funding. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this political ploy and in supporting passage of H.R. 3221.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF DALLAS' POLITICAL CONGRESS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the achievements and celebrate the anniversary of Dallas' Political Congress of African-American Women. This organization has been an integral part of the Dallas community for 25 years, and I am proud of the work its members have done in the group's quarter-century of existence. In addition to keeping the community informed about candidates running for elected office, the Congress registers voters and hosts forums for candidates so that they are accessible to citizens.

The Political Congress of African-American Women and organizations like it are incredibly important for the well-being of our communities. These groups offer opportunities for civic and political leadership to people who traditionally would not have been able to serve in such capacities. By engaging their communities, these organizations reflect our democratic values and encourage everyone to be engaged in the political process.

I commend Dallas' Political Congress of African-American Women for their civic leadership and encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing this organization's 25th anniversary. Truly, the Dallas community has benefited greatly from the Congress' efforts, and I commend all of its members on their hard work.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Bethel Baptist Church in Caseyville, Illinois.

Bethel Baptist Church was founded in 1809 and immediately became a leading institution on the Illinois frontier. Bethel has been an active force for positive change since its inception, advocating abolition nearly 60 years before the ratification of the 13th Amendment. The first pastor at Bethel, James Lemen, Sr.,

was such a strong abolitionist that the church's original constitution prohibited any member from owning slaves or promoting slavery. As the abolition movement grew, the church became an important part of the Underground Railroad.

As Bethel Baptist Church celebrates its proud history, it can look to a bright future. While the congregation has grown and changed over the past two centuries, it has never forgotten its mission in the community and continues to work for a better tomorrow.

I would like to congratulate Reverend Michael D. Evans and the entire Bethel Baptist Church family on their 200th anniversary. I wish them the best as they continue to build on their rich history.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE ROSEMARY STASEK

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and work of my friend and fellow public servant Rosemary Stasek who passed away at the age of 46 on September 24, 2009, in Afghanistan. Rosemary is survived by her beloved husband, Morné Du Preez of South Africa, her parents Patricia and Andrew Stasek of McAdoo, Pennsylvania and many other loved ones.

Rosemary was born in 1963 and raised in northeast Pennsylvania. She graduated from Cornell University with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics, the first person in her family to graduate from college. She was a Dean's List student and manager of the football and wrestling teams.

Rosemary served two terms on the City Council in Mountain View, California, located in the 14th Congressional District. She was elected to her first term in 1996, re-elected in 2000, served as Vice Mayor in 1999 and as Mayor for the year 2000. She represented the City in many regional, statewide and national forums, specializing in issues pertaining to housing and homeland security. She was committed to many City initiatives and fought to protect the environment, youth programs and services, diversity, parks and trails and the public open space. She served on the City Council at a time when they took critical steps to meet the need for affordable housing in the community, downtown revitalization, increased transportation options, and new business developments. Current Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga notes, "Our City was blessed to have known such a dedicated and talented person. Our community has benefitted from her tireless efforts and leadership on behalf of everyone, but especially those who are most in need. This is a loss that is felt throughout Mountain View and countless parts of the world she has touched . . ."

In addition to serving on the Mountain View City Council, Rosemary had a broad history of political involvement, especially women's issues. She served on the Board of Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte and the Santa Clara County Commission on the Status of Women. Her honors included being named a Distinguished Woman of the 14th Congressional District, the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Rights Freedom of Religion Award,

and the Alameda National Women's Political Caucus Pro-Choice Champion Award. She was also a nominee for the Silicon Valley Women of Achievement Award and was a candidate for the California State Assembly in March 2002.

In 1999 she was selected by the Secretary of Defense to participate in the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference, which took her to military installations across the country and aboard an aircraft carrier in the Pacific Ocean. She broadened her knowledge of military affairs, especially issues involving women serving in the Armed Forces. She served as a member of the U.S. Air Force Space Commanders Group.

Rosemary also worked for over a decade in the computer industry as a web developer and system administrator for prominent high tech firms in Silicon Valley. As always, she was dedicated to making a difference for the next generation and spent six years as an instructor at De Anza Community College teaching Introduction to Microcomputer Networks. She was also a certified substitute high school teacher for social sciences, English and special education classes, and taught in the Palo Alto Unified School District.

Rosemary's interest in international issues took her to Nepal, Ecuador, France, Britain, Holland, Germany, Italy, The United Arab Emirates, The Czech and Slovak Republics, Canada, Mexico, Thailand, Azerbaijan, South Africa, Venezuela, Tanzania and Vietnam. In 1998 she traveled to Cuba as a member of a special women's delegation.

Rosemary lived in Kabul, Afghanistan working on reconstruction and development projects. She first traveled to Afghanistan in May of 2002 as a member of a delegation of young Afghan-Americans working on reconstruction. She returned home after 2 weeks, but decided to return in June 2003 to work on a project to improve conditions for women in the Kabul prison, and in March 2004 she worked in maternity hospitals. In June 2004 she taught preservation, and in 2005 she spent most of the year living and working there as the logistics manager for the Kabul Beauty School. She returned again in February 2006 and had since resided in Kabul full time working on women's projects. Rosemary was also the Founder and Executive Director of A Little Help, a nonprofit that she began in 2002 which provides humanitarian aid in Afghanistan with a focus on women.

Ever the fighter, she remained in Kabul to continue her work even after she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. It was there that she met Morné du Preez, a South African who works as a private contractor protecting diplomats. They fell in love and were married two years ago. She was an extraordinary leader, teacher, advocate and mentor with a heart of gold who inspired passion in those around her to think and see beyond themselves and make a difference in the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Rosemary Stasek. Through her countless contributions to her family, friends, colleagues, local community and the international community, she has left a lasting legacy of compassion, empowerment and excellence. She represented the best of America, strengthened our country and made the world a better place.

HONORING RONALD BOEHM ON HIS INSTALLATION AS COMMANDER OF THE FOURTH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS AMERICAN LEGION

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander Ronald Boehm on the occasion of his installation as Commander of the Fourth District of Illinois American Legion.

Ronald Boehm served as Commander of American Legion McKinley Post 231 eight times and his exemplary service is a model of leadership and devotion. In the summer of 2007, Commander Boehm conceptualized and aided in the construction of a beautiful and moving monument to all war veterans, especially those from Post 231 who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. This monument sits outside the McKinley Post and is visible to all who pass by on 35th Street.

In 2001, as Commander, Ronald Boehm led a fundraising effort for the widows and orphans of policemen and firefighters. The fundraiser was a great success and amassed over \$10,000 for the cause.

Even outside of his work with the American Legion, Ronald Boehm has dedicated his life to the service of others, and recently retired after 40 years as a Chicago firefighter. His outstanding civic service was recognized this year by the McKinley Park Civic Association, which named Ronald Boehm "Man of the Year."

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the years of exceptional service and dedication of Commander Ronald Boehm. We acknowledge his service to our nation and to his community, and we congratulate his well-deserved installation as Fourth District Commander.

RIPPLE EFFECT MAKES FUND FOR NASA A WISE DECISION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following column which appeared in the Houston Chronicle on September 17, 2009 from the Bay Area Houston Partnership.

[From the Houston Chronicle, Sept. 17, 2009]

RIPPLE EFFECT MAKES FUND FOR NASA A WISE DECISION

(By Bob Mitchell)

The highly anticipated report from the Augustine Committee has been released. The panel is to be commended on writing such a thorough review of U.S. human space flight options in a short period of time. The report identified various alternatives for NASA's human space flight program. While each offers a varying degree of human space flight options, they all rely on humans as an integral part of space exploration. Why is this significant for the Johnson Space Center and its many contractors? We are home to human space flight.

Within the next few months, decisions will be made by the White House and Congress on

which alternative is best for the future of NASA. Regardless of the decisions made, if adequate funding is not provided, we will continue to see erosion in the U.S. space program, and it won't be long before we relinquish our position as the world's number one space-faring country to a more ambitious and forward-looking nation.

The alternatives present unparalleled opportunities for the United States to continue to expand its leadership role in the international space community. The International Space Station is an excellent example of how much can be accomplished when multinational resources are engaged toward a common goal. We, as a nation, can choose to continue our investment in scientific discovery and international relations or we can choose to lose our leadership position to Russia, China, India or Japan. Insufficient funding for the world's premier space program will undoubtedly erode our leadership role with significant consequences for our security and our competitive position in the world. With our loss of leadership in other high-tech industries, do we want to give up this one as well? Do we want to have to buy our rides to space from a foreign government? This should be unacceptable to us as a nation.

What will it take to keep America first in flight? The Augustine report states, "Meaningful human exploration is possible under a less constrained budget, ramping to approximately \$3 billion per year above the FY 2010 guidance in total resources." Compared to recent government expenditures, this is not that much to invest, especially considering the return to the American taxpayers on this investment. According to a recent congressional oversight report, we have spent \$74 billion to help the nation's auto industry, an industry that has relied on the technology developed in space to enhance its product. Investing the same amount in NASA would ensure America's pre-eminent position in human space flight for the next 25 years.

Why do this? Why fund NASA to the tune of an additional \$3 billion or more per year? Go beyond the obvious and consider the ripple effect. Arguably, perhaps, the space industry is the only industry in the world that consistently creates new technology. Our cars and trucks are lighter, stronger and safer due to NASA technology. Computers, cell phones, GPS and many life-saving medical advancements all have roots in the space industry.

The human factor is equally important. Generations of our young people have been inspired by NASA. The promise of working in America's space program has, for the past 50 years, influenced students to go into science, technology, engineering and math careers. For example, 35 percent of the Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle program is composed of young professionals.

Consider this. We will have a seven-year gap where no Americans are launched into space on American rockets. At no time in our history of space flight have we experienced a gap of this magnitude. Think for a moment of the loss of inspiration to millions of our young people that can never be recovered. Think of the lost opportunities to the U.S. in terms of high-technology innovations and breakthroughs that will not occur when students choose non-technical careers. Do we break our promises to our nation's children and young professionals by opting to take the easy route and not provide much-needed funding to NASA's human space flight program? This, too, should be unacceptable to us as a nation.

The U.S. is unquestionably the world's leader in space exploration, something that can no longer be said about many industries we led at one time. The question remains,