

programs the opportunity to seek court-ordered attorneys' fees, which they are currently prohibited from seeking.

Finally, this legislation codifies recent recommendations from the Government Accountability Office to improve LSC governance and accountability. These recommendations should lead to better management and oversight of LSC-funded programs.

I urge my colleagues to join me, Mr. SCOTT, Chairman CONYERS, and others, and cosponsor this important and timely legislation. I am optimistic that Congress can send a bill to the President for his signature so that the doors of justice will always remain open to those in need.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT DANIEL CHOI FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER EQUALITY MOVEMENT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize LT Daniel Choi for his service to the United States of America and outstanding contributions to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender, LGBT, equality movement as an Army officer, Iraq War veteran, and now civil rights activist. In clear defiance of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the unjust law that prohibits LGBT service members from serving openly and honestly in the military, Lieutenant Choi courageously spoke three words on national television—"I am gay." In doing so, he knew that he was risking his military career, but was firm in the belief that he had chosen the harder right over the easier wrong. Lieutenant Choi was ultimately discharged, but has since devoted his life to activism in the hope that, one day soon, Don't Ask, Don't Tell will be repealed.

Lieutenant Choi's story is one of excellence and leadership. He was born in February 1981 in Orange County, California and attended Tustin High School, where he was student body president, participated in the American Legion Boys State program, and was involved in various extracurricular activities ranging from Christian Club and Model United Nations to varsity swimming and marching band. It comes as no surprise that Lieutenant Choi was admitted to the prestigious U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he continued to excel and learn the values that gave him purpose as an officer in the Army and activist for LGBT rights. It was at West Point that Lieutenant Choi first recited the Cadet Honor Code: "A cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do."

In 2003, Lieutenant Choi became one of only eight graduates in his class to earn a degree in Arabic Language, in addition to Environmental Engineering. During his 10 years of honorable service to this nation, Lieutenant Choi served as an Infantry Officer. Specifically, he was a Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, Battalion and Brigade Staff Officer, Iraqi Arabic language instructor, and

civil-military and reconstruction engineer in the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York. For 15 months from 2006 to 2007, Lieutenant Choi saw duty as an Infantry Platoon Leader and Arabic linguist in South Baghdad, Iraq, providing an invaluable service to his fellow soldiers and the United States' mission by communicating quickly and clearly with the Iraqi people. In 2008, Lieutenant Choi became an Infantry Platoon Leader in the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry in Manhattan, New York.

While an officer with the Army National Guard, Lieutenant Choi co-founded KNIGHTS OUT: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender West Point Graduates, an organization of West Point alumni, staff, and faculty who are united in supporting the rights of LGBT soldiers to openly serve their country. On March 19, 2009, Lieutenant Choi appeared on MSNBC's The Rachel Maddow Show to discuss the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. In a surprising announcement, Lieutenant Choi revealed that he was gay. Fully aware of the consequences, he refused to lie about who he is and accept a policy that compromises the integrity of the U.S. military and its service members. Despite testimony from his commanding officer, members of his unit, and fellow soldiers who served in Iraq, as well as 260,000 letters and signatures of support, a panel of New York National Guard officers recommended that Lieutenant Choi be discharged on June 30, 2009.

Guided by the same values he learned at West Point and in the Army, Lieutenant Choi now advocates for the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell and the reversal of Proposition 8 in California, an amendment to the state constitution that recognizes marriage as between only one man and one woman. He continues to raise public and political awareness of issues that affect LGBT service members and the LGBT community as a whole.

Madam Speaker, the West Point Cadet Prayer teaches cadets ". . . never to be content with a half-truth when the whole can be won." Don't Ask, Don't Tell is a no-truth policy and must be repealed. I am honored and humbled by Lieutenant Choi's selfless example and, although he is no longer in uniform, he continues to fight for the freedom of all Americans to be the best they can be, gay or straight.

PROVIDING FOR A TRANSITION PERIOD FOR THE GUAM-CNMI VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I introduced legislation to amend the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (CNRA), Public Law 110-229, for the purpose of providing for a transition period for the implementation of the new Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program. Section 702 of the CNRA extends the immigration laws of the United States to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). It also provides for a visa waiver program for travel to Guam and the CNMI consistent with the new arrangements for control of immigration in the CNMI and that

would be based on and succeed the highly successful Guam-only visa waiver program, which was authorized by the Omnibus Territories Act of 1986.

The Department of Homeland Security will commence control of six ports of entry in the CNMI on November 28, 2009, in accordance with the CNRA. The bill I have introduced today would make a technical correction to the CNRA, by delaying for one year the start of the authorized joint Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program. Its effect would be to allow for federal control of immigration to commence in the CNMI on November 28, 2009, but also for the existing CNMI visitor entry program under CNMI law to continue but be controlled and administered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) under the Department of Homeland Security. The current approved countries under the Guam-only visa waiver program and the CNMI visitor entry program would be maintained, respectively for each territory, for an additional year. Such a continuation of the visitor entry rules for both of these territories would afford the Department of Homeland Security additional time to devise rules and allocate the resources necessary in both the CNMI and Guam for the successful operation and administration of the new Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program consistent with Congressional intent. The additional time will also provide for an orderly transition to occur in both territories.

Most importantly, this bill would allow the Department of Homeland Security to focus its resources initially on the standing-up and control of six ports of entry in the CNMI and also protect the economic interests of the CNMI with the continuation of its visitor entry program. The CNMI economy is heavily reliant on tourism and its visitor sector is accustomed to operating under the territory's visitor entry program.

The bill also authorizes a study to be conducted by the Secretary of the Interior, analyzing the economic situation and forecast for the CNMI. This report will be provided to the committees with jurisdiction, the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, within 30 days of enactment. This report will help the Committees exercise oversight of the implementation of the CNRA and the transition by the Department of Homeland Security to the new joint, Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

I look forward to working with my colleagues as this bill moves forward in the legislative process.

IN HONOR OF DR. DANIEL SIMMONS AND THE MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Daniel Simmons and the Mount Zion Baptist Church of Albany, Ga. On Sunday, October 11, the Mount Zion Baptist Church will jointly celebrate Dr. Simmons' 18th year as the Senior Pastor and the church's 144th anniversary. I have known Pastor Simmons for many years

and feel honored to call him my pastor, a friend, a teacher, and an inspiration. Likewise, I have been a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church for 13 years and have found it to be a Christian fellowship of love in action through service to mankind.

Dr. Simmons is a great many things to a great many people. Since I joined Mount Zion in 1996, I have come to know him as a man of character, an humanitarian, a bridge builder, a shepherd, and a leader. Above all, "Pastor Simmons," as he is known, through his own humble and morally strong existence, helps us, as followers of the Word, to strive toward the Spiritual fulfillment graciously offered to us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As the Word says in Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Pastor Simmons has truly lived by this principle. Since his arrival at Mount Zion in 1991, he has sought to implement the church's mission to be a "vibrant church that reaches the world for Christ through evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, and missions."

Under his leadership, the church has grown to 2,700 members and counting. Financial stewardship has increased substantially. In July of 2008, the church broke ground on a new 67,000 square foot facility to provide the space necessary to continue building upon Pastor Simmons' vision and the church's mission. With all this growth and expansion, it is abundantly clear that God is doing great work at Mount Zion Baptist Church through the ministry of Pastor Simmons.

With ordained leadership and divine grace, Pastor Simmons has built a church that delivers God's message and works daily to implement God's vision. Pastor Simmons personifies the love of God through his teaching and his way of life. I thank him for his years of service to his parishioners, the Albany community, Georgia's Second Congressional District, and the Nation. Moreover, I wish him many more fruitful years to come.

I also recognize and celebrate the body of Christ which is the Mount Zion Baptist Church on the occasion of its 144th anniversary. May it forever utilize the blessings of great leadership and bountiful resources with which it has been provided to the Glory of Almighty God.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
PAUL BURGESS FAY, JR.

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and work of a distinguished American, a friend and an American hero, Paul Burgess "Red" Fay Jr., who passed away on September 23, 2009, at the age of 91. He leaves his beloved wife, Anita, to whom he was married for 62 years; his children Paul Fay III, Katherine Fay and Sally Fay Cottingham; and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Fay, a fourth-generation San Franciscan, was born in San Francisco in 1918 to a distinguished family. His father, Paul B. Fay Sr., was President of the Fay Improvement Company, a paving contracting firm founded in 1875, and gave young Paul the nickname "Red" as a child, which his friends called him

for the rest of his life. He graduated from Stanford University in 1941 with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and he enlisted in the Navy shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into World War II.

It was during his service in the Navy that Mr. Fay met and became friends with President John F. Kennedy. In 1942, after attending Officer Training School, Mr. Fay was assigned to PT boat training in Melville, Rhode Island, where the future President was his instructor. They met during a touch football game. They were later assigned to the same base in the South Pacific and became friends after both of their boats were damaged. President Kennedy's PT-109 was attacked in an event that made him a war hero, and Mr. Fay's boat was struck by a torpedo, after which he was awarded a Bronze Star. While their ships were temporarily out of action, they roomed together in a small Quonset hut and became fast and lasting friends.

After the war, Mr. Fay returned to San Francisco and joined the family business. In 1947, he married the love of his life, Anita Marquez of Mill Valley. He remained close with John F. Kennedy and became a political supporter and a trusted adviser in his inner circle, working on his election campaigns for the House of Representatives, Senate, and the Presidency. When John Kennedy was elected President in 1960, he appointed Mr. Fay Under Secretary of the Navy, an office he held until January 1965.

After leaving Washington, Mr. Fay returned to the Bay Area and the family business, which he sold and later resurrected as a financial consulting and business ventures firm. He wrote a best-selling book, "The Pleasure of His Company," a memoir of his close friendship with the late President Kennedy. He became a founding partner of William Hutchinson & Co., an investment research and brokerage firm, and he was for many years a director of First American Financial and Vestaur Securities. He retired from business in 2005.

Among Mr. Fay's many social and charitable activities was his work with Youth Tennis Advantage, a Bay Area organization that helps teach tennis to at-risk youth. He also contributed his time to such charitable causes as the Robert Odell Foundation, the Robert F. Kennedy Foundation, and the American Ireland Fund, whose San Francisco Chapter named him "Man of the Year" in 1995. He was a trustee of the Naval War College Foundation and of Mount St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth of San Francisco, and he was a member of the Pacific Union Club, Bohemian Club, Burlingame Country Club, Chevy Chase Club, California Tennis Club and the Vintage in Indian Wells, California.

Mr. Fay was an extraordinary host, an accomplished master of ceremonies and indefatigable organizer of everything from charities to family touch-football games. An accomplished athlete, he played baseball at Stanford and enjoyed tennis and golf well into his eighties. He was a central figure in Bay Area society whose warmth and charm never failed to draw others to him, and he had hundreds of friends from all walks of life. He was a man of great integrity and everyone who knew him came away a better person.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring a national treasure and an extraordinary American,

Paul Burgess "Red" Fay, and in extending my deepest sympathy to his entire family during this difficult time. He represented the best of America and his decades of contributions to his family and friends, his community and his country stand as lasting legacies of a life lived exceedingly well. How privileged I am to have known him, to represent him and to have had him as my friend. He loved his community and his country and he served both with distinction, making our Nation a better place for generations to come.

HONORING THE DANVILLE-ALAMO
BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF UNIVERSITY
WOMEN ON ITS FORTIETH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I am honored to congratulate the Danville-Alamo Branch of the American Association of University Women on its 40th Anniversary. The chapter has a proud history serving the community by supporting political, social, professional, and educational opportunities for women.

Through the chapter's work, Danville and Alamo benefit from stimulating speakers and programs, candidates' nights, and community service opportunities. The AAUW Danville-Alamo Branch has been active in local schools, enhancing educational opportunities in the arts, music, languages, science, and math. The branch also started a local Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics conference to expose middle school girls to careers in math and science. The Danville-Alamo Branch also helps girls achieve the dream of a college education through its scholarship programs.

Today, the Danville-Alamo Branch has more than 200 members. These members continue to serve the community and advance a wide range of issues that affect women and girls. I wish you a heartfelt congratulations on 40 years of changing lives and making a difference for women.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE BUDGET
REFORM AND TRANSPARENCY
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. R. 1016—To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide new discretionary budget authority for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This bill would ensure sufficient, timely, and predictable veterans funding so that the Department of Veterans Affairs would have the Federal funding to better serve veterans' medical needs and improve health care services. This is a very timely and important measure as many of our troops today are returning