

supporters for the project 33 years ago. The reunion laid the groundwork for an upcoming Smithsonian exhibition on The Running Fence that will serve as a tribute to her partnership with Christo on this remarkable collaboration.

Born in Morocco, Jeanne-Claude met Christo, a Bulgarian refugee who shared her birth date, in Paris in 1958. At that time, Christo was wrapping small objects, and they soon began collaborating on wrapping larger outdoor installations which led to the most famous—Paris's Pont Neuf (1975–1985) and Berlin's Reichstag (1971–1995). Many other projects included natural settings such as a Surrounded Islands in Biscayne Bay, Florida; Valley Curtain in Rifle, Colorado; The Umbrellas on hillsides in both California and Japan; and The Gates in Central Park, New York.

Sponsorships were never accepted for these and other installations which were financed through sales of plans, models, drawings, photos, and other documents. The works were always a team effort, with the resulting objects signed with the joint name, "Christo and Jeanne-Claude."

In addition to her husband, Jeanne-Claude is survived by their son, poet Cyril Christo, and a grandson.

Madam Speaker, Christo will be carrying on the couple's work, and I am sure that memories of Jeanne-Claude's vibrancy and love will be a comfort to him during this time. Marin and Sonoma residents will remember her glitzy red hair and her wit and charm, but it is her friendship that we will cherish the most.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, December 1, I was unable to cast my vote on three suspension bills due to my attendance of the President's address to the Nation from the United States Military Academy.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "yes" on rollcall vote 911, "yes" on rollcall vote 912, and "yes" rollcall vote 913.

COLONEL HAL HOXIE RETIRES AFTER 27 YEARS SERVICE WITH THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize COL Hal Hoxie on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force.

Colonel Hoxie was born November 6, 1958 in Chewelah, Washington, and went to college at Eastern Oregon State University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in business in 1983. He received his commission through Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1983 and was selected to attend pilot training at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. During pilot training at Vance Air Force Base, Colonel Hoxie's professionalism and attention to detail marked him

as a natural leader and upon graduation he was selected to remain a T-38 instructor and chief flight examiner. Subsequently, Colonel Hoxie was recognized as the distinguished graduate from his pilot instructor training course. In May 1988, Colonel Hoxie converted to the F-15C at the 60th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, and was immediately called upon to fly in support of Operation JUST CAUSE in Panama. During his time at Eglin Air Force Base, Colonel Hoxie attended Squadron Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, where he was recognized as a top graduate for his academic and military achievement. Also during this tour, Colonel Hoxie deployed in direct support of Operation DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM and flew 66 missions helping to consolidate a swift and complete victory for the allied forces.

Colonel Hoxie went on to work in various staff positions including executive officer to the Athletic Department Director at the United States Air Force Academy, executive officer to the Vice Commander Headquarters, Air Combat Command, and Senior Operations Duty Officer at Osan Air Base, Korea. He also commanded the 94th Flying Training Squadron at the Air Force Academy, led as the Deputy Operations Group Commander at the 34th Operations Group, United States Air Force Academy, utilizing his skill as a trainer and mentor, and was the Chief of Homeland Defense and Security at Headquarters, Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. Following this assignment, Colonel Hoxie went on to command the 355th Mission Support Group at Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

For the past 2 years, Colonel Hoxie has performed with distinction in the Legislative Liaison Directorate. From May 2008 to March 2009, he led the Programs and Legislative Division, ensuring prompt and thorough response to the Congress on policy and personnel issues concerning the United States Air Force. From March 2009 to the present, Colonel Hoxie led the Congressional Inquiry division, providing efficient and thorough response to over 5,000 congressional inquiries.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank COL Hal Hoxie, his wife Kathy, to whom he's been married for 31 years, and their four sons: Aaron, Allen, Austin, and Andrew. The Hoxies have been a proud Air Force family for the duration of Colonel Hoxie's career and I salute the entire family for their continued commitment, sacrifice, and contribution to this great Nation. Again, I congratulate Colonel Hoxie on his retirement and wish him Godspeed as he transitions into his new job as president of Central Christian College in McPherson, Kansas.

SUPPORTING CJ'S HOME PROTECTION ACT

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, as the House considers H.R. 320, "CJ's Home Protection Act," I encourage my colleagues to support its passage. As a cosponsor of this bill, I believe it is important to reflect back on why this legislation is crucial to saving lives in our communities.

In June 2007, devastating storms, tornadoes and flooding hit my district over a few days' time and left large amounts of property damaged and displaced thousands of families. Tragically, the flooding also took the lives of 11 individuals and injured others.

At Skyline Mobile Home Estates in Haltom City, I met with Haltom City Mayor Bill Lanford after the floods to see the damage and to also meet with local residents. About 100 mobile homes were impacted by the storms because there was not enough time for residents to know what was happening and to prepare for the coming disaster.

One of the most devastating impacts to this community was the death of 4-year-old Alexandria Collins. She was torn from her mother's grasp by the water's current as they fled to a neighbor's boat.

CJ's Home Protection bill requires that NOAA weather radios be installed in new mobile homes as they are being manufactured in order for residents to receive emergency broadcasting information and alerts. This bill will help save lives during emergency situations by providing people with the time and the information they need to take care of themselves and their families.

Thank you, and I urge the House to pass this legislation.

INTRODUCING THE HONEST AND OPEN TESTIMONY ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Honest and Open Testimony Act, a bill that helps provide for an honest and open discussion regarding Don't Ask, Don't Tell by allowing active-duty members of the Armed Forces, including gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) members, to openly testify in Congressional hearings without fear of retribution. The Honest and Open Testimony Act expands existing whistleblower protections between members of the Armed Forces and Members of Congress to include communications from active-duty service members who testify concerning Don't Ask, Don't Tell in a Congressional hearing, as well as those who do so and disclose their sexual orientation.

The United States of America prides itself on having the finest military in the world because of the hard work, dedication, and sacrifices of its brave men and women in uniform. And yet, under the discriminatory law known as Don't Ask, Don't Tell, the talents and contributions of our GLBT service members continue to be ignored simply because of who they are. As you know, Don't Ask, Don't Tell was signed into law in 1993 by former President Bill Clinton as a compromise to allow gay and lesbian service members to serve in the military. To the contrary, Don't Ask, Don't Tell compromises the integrity of our troops and kicks them out to boot. For more than fifteen years, Don't Ask, Don't Tell has negatively impacted the lives and livelihoods of these military professionals and deprived our Armed Forces of their honorable service. This is not only a disservice to them, but to our country as a whole.

Don't Ask, Don't Tell hurts our troops, runs counter to the values of our Armed Forces, and threatens our national security. Since the law was implemented in 1994, over 13,500 qualified service members have been lost to Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and counting. With each passing day, we lose approximately two service members to this misguided, unjust, and debilitating policy. Furthermore, Don't Ask, Don't Tell continues to undermine and demoralize the more than 65,000 GLBT Americans currently serving on active duty.

Keeping good troops is good policy, and our GLBT troops are among our most talented and dedicated. As the United States continues to work toward responsibly ending the war in Iraq and reengages the threat from al Qaeda in Afghanistan, our GLBT service members offer invaluable skills that enhance our military's potency and readiness. They are linguists, aviators, medics, and highly trained soldiers who are involved in valuable operations that have nothing to do with their sexual orientation and everything to do with protecting our freedom and advancing our national security interests. Above all, however, they offer their lives to serve their country.

I am extremely proud of the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces and truly appreciate the countless sacrifices they continue to make every single day to protect this nation and the American people. They deserve better than Don't Ask, Don't Tell. In order for Congress to have an honest and open discussion about the relevance of the current law, as well as on how to best implement its repeal, its members must hear from those about whom Don't Ask, Don't Tell was written—active-duty GLBT troops. Now is the time to take action.

Madam Speaker, I realize that this issue is considered controversial, but it should not be. As Congress prepares to debate the future of Don't Ask, Don't Tell with hearings in the Senate and in the House of Representatives, we must ensure that we hear all sides of the issue and especially from active-duty GLBT service members. The Honest and Open Testimony Act helps achieve this by addressing a major barrier to an inclusive, transparent, and complete hearing process—fear of retribution for testifying honestly and openly about the consequences of Don't Ask, Don't Tell in the Armed Forces. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill, which would bring us one step closer to repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell once and for all and replacing it with a policy of inclusion and non-discrimination.

INTRODUCING THE END DISCRIMINATORY STATE TAXES FOR AUTOMOBILE RENTERS ACT OF 2009

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the End Discriminatory State Taxes for Automobile Renters Act. I am pleased to be joined by my colleague from Missouri TODD AKIN as the lead Republican cosponsor of the legislation.

Our legislation addresses a situation that most of our constituents have faced at least

once and perhaps several times. An individual rents a car from a car rental company and is told the daily rate will be about \$25.00. At the end of the rental, the charges from the car rental company are closer to \$35.00 or \$40.00 per day. Questions inevitably arise about the source of these additional charges.

A small portion of the difference between the car rental company's daily rate and the amount charged is state or local sales taxes, which consumers pay on most goods and services they purchase. Increasingly, however, the bulk of these additional charges are state and local discriminatory excise taxes on car rental consumers—local taxes imposed to build sport stadiums, convention centers, etc. No matter what the size or scope of a local project, states or localities have sought to "export" the burden of funding these local initiatives by taxing "out-of-town" visitors renting cars in their state, city, or county.

These discriminatory excise taxes on travelers have become increasingly popular in recent years. In 1976, there was one such tax. Since 1990, more than 115 special rental car taxes have been enacted in 43 states and the District of Columbia. As a result, car rental customers have paid more than \$7.5 billion in special taxes to fund projects with no direct connection to renting a car. In addition to stadiums, car rental customers are also footing the bill for performing arts centers and a culinary institute. A recent study found that the taxes fall disproportionately on minority households; the taxes raise auto insurance costs; and these taxes reduce purchases of cars by rental companies—an increase of 10% in tax relative to the base rental rate reduces rental demand, and, therefore, purchases of new cars by rental car companies, by approximately 12%.

The End Discriminatory State Taxes for Automobile Renters Act would impose a permanent moratorium on discriminatory excise taxes on car rental customers by declaring these taxes an undue burden on interstate commerce. In the past, Congress has enacted similar protections from discriminatory state and local excise taxes for other interstate travelers such as airline, train, and bus passengers, and for the property of interstate transportation industries such as the airlines, buses, trains, and motor freight. Our measure would extend this protection to car rental consumers.

The legislation's moratorium is prospective only. The bill "grandfathers" existing car rental excise taxes to prevent a cut-off of funding for projects financed through these taxes that are already underway, as long as the state or local authorization for the existing taxes does not expire or governments do not try to increase the rate of the tax. And the bill would not in any way restrict the ability of local governments to enact non-discriminatory, general taxes such as sales and income taxes.

Our legislation has been endorsed by a wide range of stakeholders, including the National Consumers League, UAW, and the Big Three automobile manufacturers.

I hope my colleagues will join with us in enacting into law the End Discriminatory State Taxes for Automobile Renters Act of 2009.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF NATIVE ELDER AND LEADER PHILIP D. HUNTER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today during Native American Heritage Month, to honor and remember the life of Native Elder and Leader Philip D. Hunter.

Mr. Philip Daryl Hunter was a citizen of the Tule River Tribe. He was an exemplary leader and a powerful advocate for the needs and rights of Native people; especially those throughout the great state of California and the San Joaquin Valley. Mr. Hunter was a strong spiritual and political leader for his tribe.

Philip Hunter graduated from Porterville Union High School in 1966 and attended Porterville College, where he excelled not only in academics, but also in baseball. During breaks from school he would work for the Tribe as a fire fighter. He went on to serve our nation in the United States Army as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division.

Following his military service, Mr. Hunter graduated from Columbia College with an Associate of Arts Degree, focusing his interests on helping others. He spent fourteen years as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor, consistently placing the needs of others above his own. Demonstrating a strong dedication to his tribe, Mr. Hunter served on the Tule River Tribal Council for over twelve years, with five years in the position of Tribal Chairman. He was the longest-serving member on the Tule River Tribal Council. During his time on the council, Mr. Hunter became a familiar and strong voice in our state's and nation's capitol as he worked to shape federal, state and international California Indian policy, including protections for Native Sacred Places. He represented the Tule River Tribe on the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Central California Agency Policy Committee, BIA/Pacific Regional Offices Fee to Trust Consortium, Council of Energy Resources Tribes and the National Congress of American Indians. He was a proud member of the Tule River AMVETS Post 1988 and respectfully honored veterans during times of remembrances.

Philip D. Hunter was acclaimed for being an effective and traditional cultural leader. His knowledge and dedication to tribal members ran deep throughout Indian Country. He was devoted to his wife, Beverly J. Hunter and loved his family, his tribe and his country. Mr. Hunter will always be remembered as a true champion for Native Americans.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF MRS. NETTIE DURANT DICKSON

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I would like to call the attention of the House to the death of a remarkable woman. On November 29, Mrs. Nettie DuRant Dickson of Darlington, South Carolina, died at the age of 106. Remarkable not only for her age, but for a life full