

the casualty reduction targets and the road safety initiatives detailed in the Moscow Declaration are accomplished, both at home and abroad.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately earlier today I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 3288, H. Con. Res. 199, H. Con. Res. 206, and H. Res. 940 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Last night, as you are aware, there were no votes in the House of Representatives due to the White House Christmas Party. I took this opportunity to meet with some of my young constituents at the Farmhouse Fraternity on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to discuss agricultural issues and the implementation of the Farm Bill. Early this morning I boarded an airplane in Champaign, Illinois, and unfortunately due to weather, my plane was drastically delayed, I was unable to arrive in Washington, DC to cast my votes.

Had I been present on rollcall #931 on the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 3288, Making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, HUD, and related agencies for FY 2010, I would have voted "aye". This vote would have blocked any attempt by the Majority from using H.R. 3288 as the vehicle for an Omnibus Appropriations bill and require that the language for this bill be posted online for 72 hours prior to any vote. Madam Speaker, omnibus appropriations bills that are hundreds of pages long and have not been fully vetted is no way to fund our government and I urge you to refrain from using this bill for those purposes.

Had I been present on rollcall #932 on suspending the rules and passing H. Con. Res. 199, Recognizing the 10th Anniversary of the activation of Echo Company of the 100th Battalion of the 442d Infantry, and the sacrifice of the soldiers and families in support of the United States, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present on rollcall #933 on suspending the rules and passing H. Con. Res. 206, Commending the soldiers and civilian personnel stationed at Fort Gordon and their families for their service and dedication to the United States and recognizing the contributions of Fort Gordon to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and its role as a pivotal communications training installation, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present on rollcall #934 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 940, Recognizing and honoring the National Guard on the occasion of its 373rd anniversary, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRESS IS TAKING THE WRONG APPROACH ON ESTATE TAX REFORM

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, farmers, ranchers, and other small businesses are the backbone of the Kansas economy. The ability to pass a business from one generation to the next is critical to a business's ongoing success. Rural America has enough trouble retaining a youthful workforce. The estate or "death" tax does not aid our efforts in promoting long term growth and curbing depopulation.

A major obstacle to the continuity of a business is the estate tax. I have long sought a permanent repeal of the estate tax. This tax comprises less than one percent of U.S. revenues, but poses a substantial impediment to the growth of family farms and small businesses. H.R. 4154, Permanent Estate Tax Relief for Families, Farmers, and Small Businesses Act of 2009, does not provide the necessary reforms. While the certainty provided by H.R. 4154 would be welcome, passage of this legislation reduced the chances to next to none that any significant changes will occur to estate taxes in the future. I have sponsored an alternative that, for a while, was expected to be brought to the House floor. While it does not do all that I would like; it is reasonable and continues to have the chance for broad bipartisan support.

While I will continue to look for ways to achieve a full repeal, I believe the next best alternative, given today's political and economic climate, is H.R. 3905, the Estate Tax Relief Act of 2009. H.R. 3905 will exempt, from the estate tax, estates worth \$3.5 million in 2009, increase the exemption to \$5 million by the year 2019, and index the exemption to inflation to allow it to automatically increase in the years following 2019. Enacting exemptions at these levels should prevent a majority of Kansas' small businesses from being affected by the tax. H.R. 3905 will also reduce the maximum tax rate, for estates in excess of the exemption, to 35 percent by the year 2019.

While I am encouraged to see the House's willingness to address this issue, I feel Congress has missed an opportunity. I could not support H.R. 4154 because I believe it did not sufficiently address the damaging consequences of the estate tax while limiting the chances that Congress will ultimately do so. It is apparent that the House is currently unwilling to consider a full repeal. Until Congress is ready for that discussion, I will continue to work for initiatives that alleviate financial pressure from our farmers, ranchers, and small business owners.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,086,172,114,368.23.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

That means the national debt has increased by \$1,447,746,368,074.43 so far this year.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the forecast deficit for this year is \$1.6 trillion. That means that so far this year, we borrowed and spent an average \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

SATELLITE HOME VIEWER REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK KRATOVIL, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. KRATOVIL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3570, the Satellite Home Viewer Update and Reauthorization Act of 2009. This legislation reauthorizes the satellite compulsory license for carriage of distant network satellite affiliate TV station signals. If this bill does not become law before the end of the year, the distant network carriage license will expire and satellite subscribers would be left in the dark.

While I support the underlying legislation, I would like to draw attention to a provision that I believe could undermine our efforts to ensure rural residents have access to local programming. By redefining an "unserved household" to include those served by multicast networks, this legislation allows satellite broadcasters to continue to import distant, out-of-market signals into short markets when they are no longer necessary. I request that a letter signed by 18 bipartisan Members of the House of Representatives expressing concern over this definition of "unserved household," be inserted as an extraneous material.

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 2, 2009.

Hon. JOHN CONYERS, JR.,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CONYERS AND RANKING MEMBER SMITH: We write today to express our concerns regarding the manner in which H.R. 3570, the Satellite Home Viewer Update and Reauthorization Act of 2009, would diminish the availability of local programming available to satellite television subscribers.

Digital multicasting enables broadcasters to provide TV viewers with expanded options for free, local TV programming beyond the primary network affiliate channel. In pursuit of this promise, many broadcasters have already begun multicasting dedicated sports, ethnic, minority, weather, news, and hyper-local channels.

In various markets, including "short markets," i.e., television markets lacking a full complement of network affiliates, some stations have begun multicasting a local network affiliate other than the network affiliate carried on their primary channel. For example, television viewers in the Beaumont, TX market, which lacked a local NBC station, can now watch local NBC affiliate K-JAC as a multicast channel provided by a station that broadcasts the ABC affiliate

KBMT on its primary channel. It is important to note that this multicast channel, like numerous similar network affiliates that are broadcast on multicast channels across the country, is a full-fledged network station providing viewers with a full slate of a network's programming to the same geographic area as the station's other digital channel that broadcasts ABC programming. There is no rational public policy reason to treat the two network channels differently under copyright law.

Unfortunately, H.R. 3570, the Satellite Home Viewer Update and Reauthorization Act of 2009, enables DBS companies to impede and undermine multicast network affiliates. By re-defining a household capable of receiving a local network signal through the air as "unserved" if the signal is delivered via digital multicast technology, Sections 3(h)(1) and 3(h)(6) of H.R. 3570 together allow DBS companies to import distant network affiliates that duplicate the programming of the local, multicast network affiliate. This provision will not only undermine existing multicast stations, but it will also give local stations far less incentive to multicast an additional local network affiliate in the future if large numbers of potential viewers are already receiving an affiliate of that network through a DBS provider. Thus, these provisions may deprive viewers of locally-oriented programming by undermining existing multicast arrangements and removing the incentive for local stations to continue to offer or roll out new multicast network affiliated channels.

While H.R. 3570 only provides satellite companies this ability for 3 years following enactment, after the recent economic downturn, the next three years will be critical to the development of new, innovative, free, over-the-air digital network broadcast services, including networks that contain programming developed for ethnic minorities. Sections 3(h)(1) and 3(h)(6) of H.R. 3570 should be changed to ensure that DBS companies cannot import a distant network signal that duplicates a local network affiliated multicast station.

Additionally, as twelve members of the House Judiciary Committee stated in the additional views that were filed in the report language that accompanied H.R. 3570, "the preference in section three of the bill may result in discouraging free over-the-air local broadcasters from affiliating with more than one network and developing a market-based solution to the 'missing network affiliate' problem. This would limit the number of free network programming options available to consumers and, in effect, require consumers to subscribe to pay television to receive network they might otherwise have been able to view for free."

We appreciate your attention to this critically important issue. As you continue to work on the reauthorization of the Satellite Home Viewer Extension and Reauthorization Act during a House-Senate conference committee, we encourage you to support the approach to protecting multicast channels that was adopted by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Sincerely,

Frank Kratochvil; Roy Blunt; Tom Cole; Alan Mollohan; Rodney Alexander; Michael McMahon; Brett Guthrie; Bob Filner; Thomas Rooney; Nick J. Rahall; Christopher Lee; Gregory Meeks; Blaine Luetkemeyer; Raúl Grijalva; Shelley Capito; Sam Farr.

IN HONOR OF DECATUR TRADES & LABOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Decatur Trades and Labor Assembly on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. For over 5 decades, this Council of affiliated unions has improved the lives of working families in Decatur, Illinois and the regions that surround it.

From day one, Decatur Trades and Labor made a positive impact on local residents. Its Council fought hard to organize the unorganized, giving more workers the opportunity to bargain collectively and access the American Dream. For those already under union contract, the Council was a fierce advocate for better wages, benefits, and working conditions. Each victory it achieved helped all workers, union or nonunion, affiliated or non-affiliated. Decatur Trades and Labor recognized early on that a rising tide lifts all boats.

The great work of Decatur Trades and Labor went far beyond the union bargaining table. It worked with groups like the NAACP to achieve racial justice. It promoted blood drives for the American Red Cross and food drives for the hungry. It registered people to vote. And it encouraged members to give what they could to local charities.

Fifty years later, Decatur Trades and Labor remains a staple in the community. Everywhere you go, there are living testaments to the Council's great work. But it is a landmark downtown—the monument honoring fallen and injured workers—that sticks out most in my mind. Nearly every April, I travel to that monument for Workers Memorial Day. It is a towering reminder of our moral obligation to ensure workers return home safely to their families each and every night. We have Decatur Trades and Labor to thank for making it such a unique focal point of the city's downtown.

On this golden anniversary, I thank Decatur Trades and Labor for making the city it calls home a better place to live. I look forward to seeing what more it can accomplish in the next 50 years.

HONORING FREEMAN HRABOWSKI

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Freeman Hrabowski, President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, who has recently been honored as one of Time magazine's 10 Best College Presidents.

President Hrabowski's deep commitment to fostering talented students, especially in science and math, has helped increase UMBC's number of African-American science and engineering majors sevenfold. Today, UMBC is one of America's biggest producers of African-American science and engineering Ph.D.s. As a fellow college president put it, President Hrabowski "has taught all of higher education that minority and low-income students . . . can meet the highest standards and excel."

Those high standards are, importantly, a matter of national competitiveness—but they are also a measure of this nation's promise of equality. As a child in Alabama, Freeman Hrabowski remembers Martin Luther King, Jr. telling civil rights marchers: "What you do this day will have an impact on generations as yet unborn." Today, at places like UMBC, that promise is coming true in the lives of the young men and women who are making the most of what those marchers won for them.

I join the members of the Maryland House delegation in thanking President Hrabowski for his commitment to his students and his extraordinary contribution to higher education. We congratulate him for this much-deserved recognition of his achievements.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE NATIONAL GUARD ON ITS 373RD ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 940 recognizing and honoring the National Guard on the occasion of its 373rd anniversary.

The security and freedom we enjoy in the United States of America is due in great part to the sacrifices made by the oldest component of the Armed Forces, the National Guard. From the Revolutionary War to the latest military operations in the Middle East, the Citizen-Soldiers of the National Guard have competently responded to the call of duty. In addition to serving overseas, these men and women make up the forces in the state divisions, such as the Texas National Guard, and have been key in serving the local community during natural disasters and civil emergencies.

As we reflect on the 68th anniversary of Pearl Harbor this week, it reminds us of the ultimate sacrifice members of the National Guard have bravely made, and will continue to make, for our country. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 940 to recognize and honor the National Guard on the occasion of its 373rd anniversary.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN ARBORETUM

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the University of Wisconsin Arboretum, and to recognize the efforts of the community organization Friends of the Arboretum. Since June 17, 1934, Madison area citizens have worked with University of Wisconsin officials to develop and maintain an invaluable collection of restored ecosystems. Though thousands of committed people have contributed to the Arboretum in countless ways, one group in particular offers an ideal example of dedication to