

and improve morale throughout the entire civil service.

During today's tough budget climate I fear that federal agencies will cut supervisor training in order to reduce costs. I believe that would be a mistake. This bill would ensure that even through difficult economic times supervisors receive the training they need so that they can best serve our constituents.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2010*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor the legislative week of Monday, May 24, 2010.

For Monday, May 24, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 291 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 278), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 292 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 1017), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 293 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 1330).

For Tuesday, May 25, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 294 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 5145), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 295 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1258), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 296 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1382), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 297 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 584), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 298 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3885), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 299 (on motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 2711), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 300 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1189), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 301 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1172).

For Wednesday, May 26, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 302 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1347), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 303 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1385), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 304 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1316), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 305 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1169).

For Thursday, May 27, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 306 (on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 282, providing for an adjournment or recess of the two Houses), "no" on rollcall vote No. 307 (on agreeing to H. Res. 1404, providing for consideration of H.R. 5136), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 308 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1161), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 309 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1372).

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2010*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,046,148,615,770.79.

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

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,402,782,774,403.30 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

#### CONGRATULATING CATHERINE ROBERTS ON HER RETIREMENT AFTER 60 YEARS OF NURSING

### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2010*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I would like to recognize an outstanding constituent from South Florida:

Catherine Roberts has been a practicing nurse for over 60 years. This month Catherine will be retiring from the Lower Keys Medical Center. Catherine has devoted her life to ensuring the health and comfort of others. For over 30 years, Catherine has been a nurse at the Lower Keys Medical Center where she has had a positive impact on countless individuals.

Due to her generosity and commitment, the Lower Keys Medical Center has been able to continue to serve the people of the Lower Keys. Catherine, I would like to commend you for your service and support to our community. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to improving the lives of South Floridians and enjoy your well deserved retirement.

#### HONORING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE SECOND SAINT SILOAM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, BREWTON, ALABAMA

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2010*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the congregation of the Second Saint Siloam Missionary Baptist Church of Brewton, Alabama which celebrated its centennial on June 13, 2010.

I the same year that the citizens of Brewton mark the 125th anniversary of the founding of their town, the worshipers of Second Saint Siloam Missionary Baptist Church point to their historic sanctuary which has provided inspiration and spiritual direction for many in that community for a century.

Founded on June 10, 1910 by its first congregation of approximately 150 people, the membership of Second Saint Siloam Mis-

sionary Baptist Church has grown to over 550 today.

The impressive brick structure, which is based on a two-story, cross design with a three-sided colonial balcony, is listed in the Alabama Registry of Historic Places.

On Sunday, the church centennial celebration included the dedication of a historic marker in commemoration of the event.

The church's first pastor, the Reverend William Franklin, led his new congregation into their beautiful house of worship where succeeding generations have reflected under the guiding hand of God.

I wish to extend my personal congratulations to Reverend Willie J. Blue and the congregation of Second Saint Siloam Missionary Baptist on this most special and historic occasion. May they continue to serve their community as they honor our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### SALUTING OUR WARRIORS OF TOMORROW

### HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2010*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute our warriors of tomorrow, the service academy-bound students of the Third District of Texas. This area is home to some of the best and brightest young people, and I always consider it an honor to recommend such fine students to our Nation's service academies.

Over the next four years, these men will study hard and excel in training. Upon graduation, each will join the premier military in the world, fighting to defend and uphold our Nation's belief in liberty. I am proud of each student's accomplishments and preserve this tremendous achievement for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Texas' Third Congressional District's 13 appointees, their hometowns and schools are as follows:

#### UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

Michael Carr—Plano, Texas—Plano West Senior High School

Jarvis Coburn—Dallas, Texas—Plano West Senior High School

Steven Grim—McKinney, Texas—McKinney Boyd High School

Michael Janowski—Murphy, Texas—Plano East Senior High School

#### UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

Aaron Dougherty—Garland, Texas—Garland High School

Lyndon Moorehead—Murphy, Texas—Naval Academy Preparatory School

#### UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Hunter Birdsong—Sachse, Texas—Sachse High School

Austin Hayes—Garland, Texas—Sachse High School

Brandon Ostert—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School

Daniel Simpson—Plano, Texas—Liberty High School

#### UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Trevor Ball—Plano, Texas—Plano East Senior High School

Matthew Craft—Murphy, Texas—Plano East Senior High School

Nathan Ley—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School

Congratulations are in order for these 13 appointees. God bless you, God bless America, and I salute you.

# THE ISRAELI BLOCKADE AND THE FLOTILLA

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 2010*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the State of Israel and all peace-loving nations who seek to defend their citizens and put an end to terrorism. Unfortunately, we live in an age when those simple goals are under threat and we face enemies who will use any means at their disposal to indiscriminately kill men, women and children who stand in their way.

As the world knows, on May 31, the Israeli navy stopped a flotilla of six ships headed toward the Gaza Strip. These ships were flying under Turkish flags and claimed to be carrying tons of humanitarian aid for the people of Gaza. However, the real goal of these so-called “peace activists” was—in their own words—to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza and allow Hamas to import whatever they want to Gaza, including weapons. But these activists should remember that Hamas can end the blockade at any moment by recognizing Israel's right to exist, ending the violence and releasing Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, who has been held by Hamas without access to the Red Cross for four years.

When the Israeli navy attempted to commandeer the boats and bring them to Israeli ports for inspection, most of the passengers aboard the boats cooperated and used only non-violent, passive resistance to impede the Israeli efforts. However, one of the boats was filled with members of an Islamist group with connections to Hamas and Hezbollah, called IHH (Insani Yardim Vakfi). These “peace activists” immediately attacked the Israeli soldiers with knives, metal bars, wrenches, clubs and rocks. The soldiers' lives were clearly at risk and they fired back to quell the fighting, killing nine.

It is important to point out that these IHH members were not serving a humanitarian mission. If that were the case, they would have cooperated with the Israelis and the Egyptians in order to expedite the arrival of their cargo. Prior to the incident, Israel offered to have the aid delivered to an Israeli port for inspection and delivery to Gaza. There was even a similar Egyptian offer, but the activists rejected both of those offers. As the organizers themselves said, this operation was about more than just delivering aid, but rather about ending the Israeli blockade of Gaza.

I also reject the entire premise that there is any need for humanitarian supplies in Gaza. In 2009, more than 738,000 tons of food and supplies entered Gaza. The total amount of aid transferred from Israel to Gaza in 2009 increased by 180 percent, compared to the amount transferred in 2008. From January 1, 2010 through May 8, 2010, 230,690 tons of humanitarian aid was transferred from Israel into Gaza through the Israel-Gaza goods

crossings. This included medical supplies, milk powder and baby food, meat, chicken, fish, grains, legumes, oil, flour, salt, sugar, fresh vegetables and dairy products as well as animal feed, hygiene products and clothes. That does not sound like a humanitarian crisis to me.

Hamas and its allies are simply using Israel's legal blockade of Gaza as a propaganda tool to undermine international support for the State of Israel. But if it weren't for this blockade, Hamas could import unlimited amounts of weaponry and rockets, which they would turn against Israeli civilians, as they have done in the past. If the naval blockade were broken, as the activists seek, every man, woman and child in Israel would be at risk from Iranian and Syrian missiles.

Unfortunately, efforts are now underway to unfairly paint Israel as the aggressor in this incident, when they were simply acting to defend their citizens. Calls are mounting for an international investigation like the biased and deeply-flawed Goldstone Report, which accused Israel of war crimes in its self-defensive Operation Cast Lead. I join Israel in rejecting these calls. Israel, a strong democracy and America's close ally, is perfectly capable of conducting a fair, credible investigation that meets international standards.

I find it even more galling that such calls are now being made, given the silence following North Korea's horrific attack on a South Korean ship that killed 46 sailors. It is time the world focused on such real threats to peace, while recognizing Israel's right to defend its civilian population against persistent terrorist threats.

I am also deeply disturbed by Turkey's recent actions and statements regarding Israel and the Palestinians. Their irresponsible support for this so-called “aid” flotilla actually sought to bolster the Hamas terrorists in Gaza who have pledged to destroy Israel at any cost. By seeking an end to the blockade, Turkey is trying to legitimize a terrorist group that targets civilians and harms any chance for peace. As I've said, Turkey—and the world—should remember that Hamas can end the blockade at any moment by recognizing Israel's right to exist, ending the violence and releasing Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, who has been held by Hamas without access to the Red Cross for 4 years.

Meanwhile, Turkey's actions have undermined the moderate Palestinians who have been building institutions, ending corruption and cracking down on violent extremists. If there is a chance for peace in the region, it does not come from the extremist elements Turkey is supporting.

And Turkey is hardly in a position to criticize Israel. The world community should remember that Turkey has been illegally occupying the northern part of Cyprus—a sovereign nation—for over three decades, despite international calls to remove its troops. They have also steadfastly refused to recognize the Armenian Genocide and have systematically denied basic religious rights to the Greek Orthodox Patriarch in Istanbul. With their recent actions, Turkey is once again showing its true colors, as a supporter of terrorists, and not a champion of peacemaking.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disturbed by the recent events and fear that the world is once again blaming the victim. Israel must be allowed to defend itself—for its own sake, for

ours, and for the sake of all people around the world who are under threat of terror. We must not be duped into believing that these Hamas-sympathizers are somehow acting in the name of peace. Nothing could be further from the truth. We must take a united stand for democracy, for the rule of law, and for peace.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2010*

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall 354 my vote in support of S. 3474—To amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to authorize advances from Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund—was not recorded by the House voting system. I fully supported this bill and should have been recorded as “yea.”

IN RECOGNITION OF EDWARD GEFNER, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF PROJECT RENEWAL, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2010*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Mr. Edward Geffner on the occasion of his retirement as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Project Renewal, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to serving the needs of homeless persons in New York City.

Edward Geffner began his work with Project Renewal in 1976. For the past third of a century, he has served the organization as its Executive Director, leading it with extraordinary compassion and commitment. Under his able management, Project Renewal has reached out to countless homeless men and women in need of support.

Under Mr. Geffner's leadership, Project Renewal has taken a comprehensive approach in providing critical assistance to its clients. The organization reaches out to homeless men and women on the streets of our nation's greatest city through mobile medical and psychiatric teams. Project Renewal helps provides essential services to those who are also coping with mental illness or drug addiction by linking residents to treatment programs that help them combat addiction or learn to manage their mental illness. Edward Geffner and the Project Renewal staff recognize that a good job is critical to independent living, and they have created a wide range of employment initiatives, including a culinary arts program that has successfully placed 85 percent of its graduates in jobs. I have seen the effectiveness of the programs that Project Renewal operates in the district that I represent.

Supported largely by private philanthropy and corporate sponsors, Edward Geffner and Project Renewal have worked in collaboration with numerous public, private, and not-for-profit organizations and social service providers to help homeless and formerly homeless individuals and families find employment and housing. Trained social workers and staff members, many of whom were formerly homeless,