

Coast Guard's current ability to respond and operate effectively in a hazardous threat environment.

The bill also directs the Coast Guard to lead the effort to enforce security zones around vessels carrying certain hazardous cargos, such as liquefied natural gas, as well as to increase the number of detection canine teams responsible for maritime-related security.

As the Chair of the Subcommittee on Border, Maritime, and Global Counterterrorism, I am particularly pleased that this legislation includes strong provisions to protect our nation's maritime border.

The bill authorizes the America's Waterway Watch Program—a "see it, say it" maritime domain awareness program that encourages the reporting of suspicious activities on and around our waterways to the Coast Guard.

Additionally, it authorizes the Mobile Biometric Identification Program, a program that will enhance border security by providing the Coast Guard with state-of-the-art biometric technology to help identify individuals interdicted at sea.

The bill will require the Coast Guard to develop a comprehensive strategy to combat the illicit flow of narcotics, weapons, bulk cash and other contraband through the use of submersible and semi-submersible vessels.

Drug trafficking organizations are constructing these vessels for the purpose of bringing narcotics from South America to the United States, and their efforts are becoming increasingly sophisticated.

Even more troubling is the thought that such vessels could be used to smuggle terrorists or their weapons into our country.

The Coast Guard's development of a comprehensive strategy to detect and interdict these vessels will be a key component of our effort to defeat these drug trafficking organizations.

Our Nation demands more from the Coast Guard now than at any other time in the Service's over 200-year history.

During these challenging times, it is critical that we ensure that the Coast Guard has the resources necessary to fulfill its homeland security mission requirements.

Passage of H.R. 3619 will provide the Coast Guard with the long-term tools that are needed in this post-9/11 world. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to join me in giving this important resolution their full support.

HONORING MONTVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Montville Fire Department located in the Township of Morris, Morris County, New Jersey as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary this year.

Established in 1910 as the Excelsior Fire Company by Mr. John Capstick, the Montville Fire Department has long been representative of bravery and generosity. In just their first year, the fire department boasted an impressive 29 volunteers. Their first drill was performed on September 24, 1910 with Horace Eagan as their chief. On October 1, 1910,

thanks to the efforts of Mr. Capstick, the department was able to purchase their first vehicle: a horse-drawn hook and ladder truck. A few months later, on February 6, 1911, the volunteer firemen constructed their first firehouse with materials donated by Mr. Capstick. On November 6, 1911 the Township Committee took control of the fire department.

When John Capstick passed away in 1918, the department went through a period of financial instability. After reorganizing into different zones the fire department elected five fire commissioners on August 27, 1921. The fire department sold bonds in order to raise money to purchase its first motorized vehicle in 1922. The fire department participated in their first parade on June 3, 1931 as a part of the North Jersey Volunteer Firemen's Association Parade. The fire department upgraded in 1932 to the Buffalo fire truck which provided them with state of the art equipment, for that time period. Then, due to a generous donation by the Ladies Auxiliary, the Montville Fire Department was able to construct a new firehouse.

The 1950s saw two big expansions for the Montville Fire Department. First, in 1952 came the addition of two International 500 GPM high pressure pump trucks to their fleet. Three years later they established the Excelsior Fire Company No. 2 to better cover the hills of the Taylortown district. The Montville Fire Department eventually sold their famed Buffalo fire truck to a private company; however in 1976, the fire department repurchased and restored the vehicle. The Buffalo fire truck is still owned by the department and since the restoration project has received hundreds of trophies.

The Montville Fire Department has always been a leader in innovation. They were the first department in Northern New Jersey to win the National Fire Prevention Award. In 1957 the department was awarded for organizing one of the first Junior Fire Marshal programs in the Nation. They also were the first department to distribute reflectors to invalids and to spray Christmas trees with fire retardant.

Today, the Montville Fire Department boasts an impressive five fire trucks and responds to a wide array of emergencies. The success of volunteer fire departments such as this one is vital to the security of millions of Americans.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Montville Fire Department as they celebrate 100 years of committed service.

HONORING THE REOPENING OF THE YANKEE AIR MUSEUM

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Yankee Air Museum, a marvelous museum located in the 15th Congressional District, in celebration of its reopening. Originally created in 1981 for the purpose of preserving Willow Run's aviation history, Yankee Air Museum has acquired and restored an original U.S. Army Air Force hangar, as well as a B-24 Privateer. Over the years the Yankee Air Museum has come to serve as a reminder of our country's manufacturing might.

Since obtaining the B-24 in 1987, the Yankee Air Museum has acquired five planes from

the World War II era that have since been restored to flying status, including a Douglas C-47, B-17 Flying Fortress, B-25 Mitchell, and two Taylorcraft L-2 Liaisons. The museum has also collected various retired aircraft, including a B-52 Stratofortress, in addition to various artifacts, including photographs, books and uniforms that preserve and display the aviation history of the State of Michigan.

Sadly, on October 9, 2004, the Yankee Air Museum suffered a fire that destroyed much of the history that the museum had sought to preserve. Historic artifacts, photos, books, as well as retired aircraft, were lost in the blaze. After 6 years of hard work by the Yankee Air Museum members, the museum is set to reopen on October 9, 2010, with three of their operational aircraft—the B-17, C-47 and B-25—in working condition. The reopening of the Museum will be followed by an Inaugural Gala and a public grand opening celebration.

I am proud of the Yankee Air Museum's many contributions to Michigan's 15th Congressional District and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Museum on its inspirational reopening Celebration.

HONORING DR. THOMAS SVITKOVICH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Thomas Svitkovich on his retirement as Superintendent of the Genesee Intermediate School District. A reception in his honor will be held tonight in Flint Michigan.

Dr. Thomas Svitkovich has been an educator for 46 years, starting in 1964. He started as a mathematics teacher, and has served as a junior high principal, a high school assistant principal, a high school principal, an associate superintendent, a deputy superintendent, and as a superintendent. In his capacity as the GSD Superintendent, he led the development of the Genesee Early College, GSD's Transition Center for adult students with disabilities, the Genesee County Great Start Collaborative, the statewide Seat-Time Waiver, and implementation of shared-services programs with local school districts. Under his leadership, Genesee Intermediate School District has gained a reputation for excellence and has received numerous state and national awards, including in the areas of overall administration, technology, and distance learning. Dr. Svitkovich has shared his knowledge of the education field by writing articles, making presentations and advocating on both the state and national level.

An active member of the community, Dr. Svitkovich has strengthened the bonds between education and the community to better prepare students for their future role in our society. He has established strong relationships with non-profits, health and human services agencies and the business community.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dr. Thomas Svitkovich on his retirement from the Genesee intermediate School District. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

TO COMMEND DAVID PRATTIS BREWINGTON ON BEING AWARDED THE 2010 VETERAN'S AWARD BY THE NAACP-TALBOT COUNTY BRANCH

HON. FRANK KRATOVIL, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. KRATOVIL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate David Prattis Brewington, of Federalsburg, MD, on being awarded the 2010 Veteran's Award by the NAACP-Talbot County Branch. The presentation will be made on October 9, 2010, in Easton, MD, at the Freedom Fund Banquet.

Mr. Brewington was born May 25, 1925, in Federalsburg, MD, and has been a lifelong resident. He entered the United States Army in 1944 during World War II, after receiving an education in Caroline County public schools. As a member of the 3716 Quartermaster Truck Company in the 2nd Army, Mr. Brewington drove supplies and gasoline to the front lines via tractor trailers and tankers. He served in New Guinea, the Philippines and Japan.

After receiving an honorable discharge in 1946, Mr. Brewington returned to Federalsburg, MD, and became a long-distance truck driver for Service Trucking Co., where he worked for 22 years, as well as being elected as shop steward by his fellow Teamster Union members. He then started a small business as an owner-operator of dump trucks. After retiring from trucking, he started a second career for U-Star and Delmarva Community Transit in Easton, MD, as a van driver for senior citizens and the disabled. He celebrated his second retirement at the age of 82. He and his wife, Mary Henson Brewington, enjoy visiting their two daughters and grandchildren.

Mr. Brewington celebrated his 85th birthday this year. Throughout the past 47 years, he has served as an active and avid member of the Blake-Blackston American Legion Post 77. Having served as Commander, 1st Vice Commander and currently as Chaplain, Mr. Brewington exemplifies the drive and commitment our World War II veterans have exhibited in serving this great country.

I commend my constituent, David Prattis Brewington, on his many years of service and on his achievement of being named the recipient of the 2010 Veteran's Award by the NAACP-Talbot County Branch.

MEDICAL DEBT RELIEF ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3421, the "Medical Debt Relief Act of 2010," which would address the issue of medical debt and the crippling effect that such debt can have on an individual's credit report, even long after it has been paid off. This bill will right an injustice in the credit scoring industry that unfairly penalizes thousands of families across the country.

I thank Chairman FRANK for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank the sponsor of this legislation, Congresswoman KILROY, for her attention to this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, in 2007, over 28 million Americans were contacted by debt collections agencies regarding medical debt. Unlike other forms of debt, however, individuals do not choose when to take on medical debt. The nature of serious illness is such that it often comes when we least expect it. Many people develop from low credit scores simply because they were forced to assume large amounts of medical debt when they did not expect it and were, thus, financially unprepared to do so. Unfortunately, these individuals' credit scores often remain low long after their debt has been paid off, and in some cases for the rest of their lives. This is an unfair penalty for individuals who have done nothing wrong.

H.R. 3421 will correct this problem by inserting a clause into the Fair Credit Reporting Act that to eliminate medical debt from credit reporting within 30 days of the debt being fully paid off. Credit reports are an important tool for lenders, and many other industries. This bill will ensure that credit reports reflect individuals' actual credit-worthiness, rather than providing an artificially low-score that is dragged down by medical debt from the past.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this H.R. 3421.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF WILLIAM "BILL" MCFARLING OF LEWISVILLE, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mr. William "Bill" McFarling of Lewisville, Texas, who passed away on September 15, 2010.

Bill was an active member of the Lewisville Bible Church, and his dedication to his community led him to co-found the Lewisville Football Association, helping to promote fellowship and sportsmanship to the area's youth. A respected member of the north Texas community, Bill also served as an active member of the Denton County Republican Party for over 35 years, receiving the organization's Volunteer of the Year Award.

Bill served as an advisor and mentor as I made the transition to public service late in my career, and I am thankful for his wise counsel and leadership.

As a member of the United States Army, Bill honorably served his country during the Korean conflict. His commitment to freedom and dedication to protecting his fellow citizens is honorable, and I am grateful for Bill's service to our country.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I proudly rise to remember Bill McFarling, a model citizen and outstanding American. His legacy of service to the north Texas area and this great Nation is one of honor, and my thoughts and prayers go out to his friends and family. It is an honor to have represented such an exceptional individual from the 26th District of Texas in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING MICHAEL JONES FOR HIS WORK TO COMPLETE THE YUMA ARMED FORCES PARK

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Jones of Yuma, Arizona.

Mr. Jones served his country in Vietnam, receiving two Purple Hearts as well as many other citations for his service. He is the Past Commander of the Yuma Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH). He was past National Vice President of the 173d Airborne Brigade as well as a committee member of the 173d Airborne Memorial Foundation serving in an advisory capacity for the construction of their memorial currently under construction in Ft. Benning, Georgia. He was also nominated for National Patriot of the Year for the MOPH.

In 2005, Mr. Jones responded to a plea for help from the Arizona Department of Veterans Services, the Military Affairs Committee and the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce in an effort to complete the Yuma Armed Forces Park. The construction of the park had been stopped for some time after completion of Phase I due to lack of funds, all of which were donated by the community through various fundraising events.

Mr. Jones had a lifetime of experience in all phases of construction. After learning of their dilemma and meeting with the different entities, it was determined that not only was there a lack of funds to complete the park, but the park could not be completed as planned. Mr. Jones took it upon himself to lead the community through this crisis by scheduling various fundraisers, stimulating plaque sales and donations and becoming the supervisor for the construction of the remainder of the park. This included supervision of volunteer workers, all of which were active duty or disabled veterans who were members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Yuma Chapter 433.

Phase II of the park consisted of the construction of the amphitheater, and was the most difficult portion of the project. This phase involved a daily presence by Mr. Jones and members of the MOPH as well as the Ladies Auxiliary. These men and women, most of whom were 50–60 years of age, worked six and sometimes seven days a week to meet any deadline presented to them.

The project continued over 3½ years as funds became available through the various fundraisers, donations and plaque sales. Mr. Jones was a key player in these activities. Not only did Mr. Jones donate his time, he also donated thousands of dollars worth of tools and equipment to complete the park. He worked non-stop, making the park the most important task in his life, knowing that his fellow veterans needed to be recognized. During this time he put the completion of the park ahead of family health issues that in most cases would have been a priority.

Madam Speaker, Michael Jones was a leader when serving in Vietnam, and he continues to be in his civilian life. I want to thank him for his service to this country and to his community.