

abdomen. More than a million Americans are exposed to dangerous levels of asbestos while on the job, including military personnel, firefighters, and construction workers. In fact, workers in our own Capitol complex are suffering from asbestos exposure. Many of these individuals are unaware of the risk at the time of exposure.

Despite decades of warnings about the dangers of asbestos, too many Americans are still unaware of the devastating nature of this disease. Although over 50 countries have banned asbestos, the United States has not. It is found in millions of products sold in this country, including brake pads, roofing materials, and gaskets.

The fight against Mesothelioma is a personal issue for me. In 2000, my friend and predecessor Congressman Bruce Vento was diagnosed with Pleural Mesothelioma. The news was devastating for his family, friends, and all of us in Minnesota that knew him. Bruce represented Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District from 1977–2000. During his service in Congress, he was tireless advocate on behalf of his constituents and a national champion for environmental protection and the rights of the homeless.

Awareness is critical for early diagnosis and treatment. "National Mesothelioma Awareness Day" honors those living with Mesothelioma, those that have died from the disease, and their families. House Resolution 771 is an important step toward educating the nation about the causes of this deadly disease and the need for better treatments and additional research.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support passage of this bipartisan resolution.

TRIBUTE TO ALEXA LINGREN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievement of Alexa Lingren, a 4-H member from Pilot Mound, Iowa, who recently received a leadership project award from the Mary Jo and Glen Mente Endowment and the 4-H Foundation. This award is given only to those who demonstrate leadership in 4-H and in their local communities. I would like to express my congratulations to Alexa for receiving this award and my appreciation to her for her leadership.

For the last eight years, Alexa has been an active leader in 4-H. She served on the 4-H council in Boone County, served as club president, and received many state awards in citizenship. She also participated in the safety, swine, sheep, and self-determined 4-H project areas, and she was named the runner-up fair queen at the Boone County Fair.

4-H has enabled Alexa to be an active leader within her community. Alexa co-chaired six community improvement grants that benefited both the local youth shelter and area farmers. She believes that 4-H has given her the talent and the skills to help others, which she finds to be enriching.

I commend Alexa Lingren for her service to 4-H and her community, and I know my colleagues in Congress will join me in congratulating Alexa for her achievement. It is an

honor to represent Alexa in Congress, and I wish her the best of luck in the future.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF MR. RAYMOND MATJASIC

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Raymond Matjasic, a nationally honored photographer. His passionately accumulated expertise covered events such as the Marine Corps during World War II, Major League Baseball's 1948 and 1954 World Series, and the Presidential Inaugurations of Presidents Nixon and Carter.

Mr. Matjasic was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1920 and remained a lifelong resident of the area. Ray began his career with the Cleveland Plain Dealer at the age of nine as a paper delivery boy. After graduating from John Hay High School, he began working in the Plain Dealer's circulation department. It was during this time that his interest for photography was peaked. As a Marine, Matjasic photographed his colleagues during World War II in the South Pacific. Upon his return to Cleveland in 1945 he joined the Plain Dealer's photo department. Mr. Matjasic was the Plain Dealer's chief photographer from 1964 until his retirement in 1983. Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Matjasic won dozens of awards, and was named to the Cleveland Press Club Hall of Fame.

Photography was more than just a job for Mr. Matjasic, it was a passion that he loved to share with others. He traveled and lectured at many colleges and universities including Ohio State University, Bowling Green State University, and Kent State University. He also helped establish and served as vice president of the Cleveland Chapter of the Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. Raymond Matjasic. I offer my condolences to his daughter Judith and three grandchildren. Mr. Matjasic will always be remembered for his brave service to our country and as an iconic photographer.

MEDIA COVERAGE OF DREAM ACT ONE-SIDED

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, during the lame duck session, Democrats in Congress want to pass the DREAM Act, which uses taxpayer dollars to give illegal immigrants amnesty and in-state tuition at public universities.

The national media are doing their best to help.

For example, out of 13 recent articles regarding the DREAM Act in The Washington Post, The New York Times, and The Los Angeles Times, 11 were overwhelmingly one-sided and sympathetic to illegal immigrants.

That means 85% were biased.

In one such article, the term "conservative" was used to describe opponents of the legislation, but not one of the left-wing amnesty groups or activists mentioned in the article was described as "liberal."

The national media should give Americans all the facts about immigration, not just one side.

CONDEMNING NORTH KOREA FOR ATTACK AGAINST SOUTH KOREA

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this saber-rattling resolution that unnecessarily escalates tensions between North and South Korea and may in fact put U.S. troops stationed in the area at risk. This resolution portrays the recent hostilities between the two Koreas as "an unprovoked military attack" by North Korea, which is untrue. We know that South Korea was conducting live fire military exercises in the vicinity of disputed territory and that this action, taken with U.S. military support and participation, likely led to the exchange of gunfire between the two sides.

As the resolution states, the "USS George Washington Carrier Strike Group is conducting exercises with Republic of Korea naval forces in the waters west of the Korean Peninsula." Let us for a moment imagine the Chinese military holding joint exercises with Venezuela off the Texas coast. Might that be viewed as provocative by the United States? This is not to excuse or endorse the actions of the North Korean military, which are certainly regrettable, but it is important to accurately portray the events.

This resolution is long on inaccuracies and hyperbole but it avoids the real issue, which is why, more than fifty years after the end of the Korean war, the American taxpayer is still forced to pay for the U.S. military to defend a modern and wealthy South Korea. The continued presence of the U.S. military as a "tripwire" to deter North Korea is ineffective and dangerous. It is designed to deter renewed hostilities by placing American lives between the two factions. As we have seen recently, South Korean leaders, emboldened by the U.S. protection, seek to provoke North Korean reaction rather than to work for a way to finally end the conflict. The U.S. presence only serves to prolong the conflict, further drain our empty treasury, and place our military at risk. I encourage my colleagues to reject this jingoistic resolution and instead use our Constitutionally-granted authority to finally end the U.S. military presence in and defense of South Korea.

CLAIMS RESOLUTION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Senate Amendments to H.R.

4783, the Claims Resolution Act, and Cobell and Pigford II settlements now included.

In 1996, Indian plaintiffs, including Eloise Cobell, filed a class action suit against the federal government for mismanagement of Indian trust land and other assets. During the 13 years that followed, courts repeatedly ruled in favor of the plaintiffs assertions that the government violated its trust responsibility, did not provide accurate accounting, and did not provide Indians with their share of the revenue from the Individual Indian Money (IIM) accounts. One year ago, on December 8, 2009, the plaintiffs and the U.S. Interior and Justice Departments announced a \$3.4 billion settlement for this long-running suit.

This settlement should have been approved by Congress in a timely manner. Too many deadlines for Congressional action have passed this year, requiring the settlement parties to keep extending the approval deadline. Tribal members whose trust accounts were mismanaged have waited too long for compensation. Already this year, I have voted for funding the settlement twice. Both times the funding passed the House only to have the funds stripped by Republican obstruction in the Senate. Finally, on November 19, the Senate passed the approval for the settlement in the Senate Amendments to H.R. 4783, the Claims Resolution Act, and sent it back to us.

In addition, I applaud the \$1.15 billion settlement of the Pigford II class action lawsuit for finally rectifying an injustice that is an inexcusable stain on our Nation's history. In 1910, African American farmers owned 15 million acres of land. Now, that number has dwindled to two million acres. This settlement represents an important step forward towards ensuring the fair and equal treatment of all farmers, regardless of their race.

These injustices have been perpetrated for decades, and today the House has the opportunity to vote again to uphold our end of the trust relationship with all American Indians and Alaska Natives and settle discrimination claims made by African American farmers.

Though these funds come decades too late for many of the people affected, it is important for the U.S. Government to recognize the many past wrongs inflicted on the indigenous people of this country and black farmers who have been discriminated against. This is a vote that will make a difference in hundreds of thousands of lives, finally beginning to right some wrongs.

For far too long, American Indian trust account holders and African American farmers have had to wait for justice. Today there will be justice, but it will not come without a fight against bigotry, intolerance, and the champions of inequality. The fact that some Republican voices, including a Member from Minnesota, are calling the settlement with African American farmers a fraud and a scam reflects the very racial intolerance and discrimination that are at the root of this settlement.

With this legislation, the Federal Government can honor its commitment in a fiscally responsible manner. The funding is completely offset. The Senate passed it by unanimous consent. If it passes the House today, it will go directly to the President for his signature. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the Senate Amendments to H.R. 4783 because American Indians and African American farmers have waited long enough.

IN HONOR OF ALBANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Albanian Independence Day. As the Albanian community in Greater Cleveland gathers to celebrate, I join them in appreciation of their rich history and culture.

Known as Day of the Flag among Albanians, November 28, 1912 marks the day that the Republic of Albania became a sovereign nation after approximately 500 years of occupation by the Ottoman Empire. After this liberation, the country still faced 51 years of occupation under fascist Italy and the Soviet Union, emerging again in 1991. In part because they spent so many years under foreign rule, the Albanian people take deep pleasure in their independence.

This pleasure manifests each year on the Day of the Flag, marked by concerts, banquets, and celebrations. In Tirana, the nation's capitol, the President, Prime Minister, and Mayor appear at a flag raising ceremony and visit the graves of soldiers who fell in battle. Despite the cold, enthusiastic citizens attend the ceremony, waving the national colors.

Cleveland is home to a strong Albanian community, descendants of late nineteenth century immigrants and people seeking freedom and opportunity after World War II. This community has succeeded in preserving their heritage while wholeheartedly supporting American society, thereby contributing to the unique richness and diversity of our national culture.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of the Albanian Day of the Flag. May every American of Albanian heritage hold memories of their past forever in their hearts, remembering the day that their forbears gained their freedom.

HONORING CHARLIE KRUSE

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charlie Kruse, President of the Missouri Farm Bureau, who is retiring after 18 years of service.

Charlie is a proud native of Stoddard County where he and his wife own and operate a grain farm. He is a graduate of Arkansas State University and the University of Missouri, where he earned his master of science in agronomy in 1973.

Recognizing Charlie's exceptional talent and commitment to agriculture, Missouri Governor John Ashcroft appointed him director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture in 1985. In 1990, Kruse served on President George Bush's Council on Rural America, the only Missourian named to the Council. He also served on U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills' Intergovernmental Advisory Committee and on USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service Advisory Committee. In 1991, Kruse accepted the position of executive vice presi-

dent of the North American Equipment Dealers Association, and resigned that position in August 1992 to seek the presidency of Missouri Farm Bureau.

In his 18 years as president of the Missouri Farm Bureau, Kruse has helped countless Missouri farmers who have reaped the benefits of his advocacy. The Missouri Farm Bureau is losing a capable and experienced leader whose tireless efforts have served to benefit all of our State's citizens, including me. During his tenure, Missouri Farm Bureau has seen tremendous growth in membership from 77,000 to over 108,000 farm families.

The accomplishments during Charlie Kruse's career are far too numerous to list. We are thankful for his efforts not only at the local and State levels but also the Federal level. From his testimony before Congress to his many advisory positions at USDA and involvement with the most recent farm bill, Charlie's unwavering support for sound and responsible agricultural policy serves as a model to everyone in the industry.

Charlie has so much to be proud of beyond his accomplishments in the policy arena. Missouri cannot thank him enough for his service in the Missouri National Guard and to the University of Missouri. I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude for all that he has given.

As he returns home to Stoddard County, Charlie can do so with great pride, knowing that in the span of his career he has accomplished so much and helped so many. While he will be missed, I wish him the very best that retirement has to offer.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Charlie Kruse for his service to the State of Missouri and to American agriculture.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN H. WEED

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John H. Weed upon his retirement from the Ohlone College Board of Trustees in Fremont, California. Mr. Weed attended his final board meeting on November 10, 2010. First elected in 1977, he served on the Board of Trustees for 33 years.

Mr. Weed holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and Juris Doctor of Law degree from the University of Santa Clara. He received a Master of Business Administration in Finance from Eastern New Mexico University. He was a Graduate Research Associate in Agricultural Economics and a graduate student with the Department of Hydrology and Water Resources at the University of Arizona.

He has been an elected director of the Alameda County Water District since November 1995. Since 1990, Mr. Weed has served as a Director of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency and Regional Financial Authority, representing customers of the Hetch Hetchy Water System.

Mr. Weed is a member of Rotary International, and he has been or is currently involved in myriad civic activities, which include