

Like his father, Eric is a man of his word, a rare commodity today, and a devoted servant of the people whom I represent, as well as this great Nation. As with all great champions, the torch must eventually be passed. I can assure Eric's father, my friend, that his torch shall be strongly, honorably and steadfastly carried forward into the future by Eric and his family.

There is a time in each man's life when the sun must set, and when his Creator calls, once again, Wayne has answered that final call, with great distinction, honor, and love as his foundation.

May God bless you, Wayne Clair Dell, and this great Nation which you have helped create.

Semper Fi.

Always faithful.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, due to a death in the family, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, February 22, 2010.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 4425—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2-116th Street in North Troy, New York, as the Martin G. "Marty" Mahar Post Office, and "yea" on H.R. 4238—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 930 39th Avenue in Greeley, Colorado, as the W.D. Farr Post Office Building.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from votes on February 22, 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 49 and "yea" on rollcall 50.

IN RECOGNITION OF CONGRESSMAN KILDEE'S 20,000TH VOTE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my thanks to Congressman DALE KILDEE for his honorable service to the State of Michigan over the last 33 years. It has been a privilege to serve with him for half of that time.

Congressman KILDEE'S diligence and commitment to voting is unrivaled, having missed only 27 votes in his entire career.

His consecutive vote streak of 8,141 votes is admirable, not only for its unprecedented nature, but because it shows his commitment to taking a stand on the issues.

Of the votes that Congressman KILDEE has cast, many have been in support of important

education reforms and our auto and manufacturing industries. I have enjoyed working with him on the Education and Labor Committee and, as a fellow educator, I have always appreciated his approach and commitment to improving our nation's schools.

On a personal note, Congressman KILDEE has been a great friend and a good example to me and every Member of Congress.

The State of Michigan has been well represented by Congressman KILDEE, and I hope he will be able to cast another 20,000 votes!

IN MEMORY OF SGT. JEREMY MCQUEARY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of a fallen American hero, Marine Sergeant Jeremy McQueary of Columbus, Indiana.

Sgt. McQueary served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, and he gave his life in service to a grateful nation on Thursday, February 18th while serving with the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Sgt. McQueary enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in January 2002 after graduating from Columbus East High School. According to his mother, Jeremy always had an interest in becoming a Marine and continuing the proud tradition of service in his family by donning the uniform of our nation.

Though Sgt. McQueary did not speak often of his experiences overseas, his dedication and bravery were quite evident by his actions and decorations. In June of 2008, he survived a roadside bombing attack and volunteered to continue serving in Iraq. His awards include a Combat Action Ribbon and Purple Heart, among others.

Sgt. McQueary was a compassionate man who cared especially for children. A father himself, Sgt. McQueary expressed a desire to work with children in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our condolences go out to Jeremy's wife Rae and young son Hadley, as well as his mother and stepfather, Deborah and David Kleinschmidt, and sister Rebecca.

We will never be able to pay the debt of honor owed to Sergeant Jeremy McQueary and his family. Heroes like him are our nation's most cherished citizens without whom freedom and democracy would not be possible. His passing is a profound loss for his family, this community and this nation.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,403,027,179,655.21.

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 \$1,764,601,433,361.41 so far this Congress. The debt has increased \$972,344,066.53 since just yesterday.

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

HONORING DR. JOHN R. GRAY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. John R. Gray, Deputy Commander of Letterkenny Army Depot, on his commendable career upon his retirement after thirty-two years of distinguished service.

Dr. Gray joined Letterkenny Army Depot in 1985 and founded a branch for the U.S. Army Materiel Command Management Engineering Activity. Since 1988, he has held a number of positions at the depot working his way up to Deputy Commander. After two years of service as the Supervisory Budget Analyst with the Defense Information Systems Agency, the Army Depot appointed Dr. Gray as Deputy Commander at Letterkenny. As the senior civilian at the depot, Dr. Gray managed a \$500 million operation and an 18,000 acre installation, that employs many of my constituents in Franklin County.

Deputy Commander Gray began his federal career in 1978 in Rock Island, Illinois, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. During his time there, he was an instructor with the Army Management Engineering College providing training to students on financial management and productivity measurement. In addition, Dr. Gray performed cost analyses on hydropower, flood control, and water supply projects.

Dr. Gray graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1975 and Master of Business Administration in 1978. Twenty years later, he earned his Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California where he later received his Doctorate in Public Administration. In 1990, Dr. Gray became a graduate of the Secretary of Defense Executive Leadership Development program.

Dr. John Gray's service is a brilliant example of how dedication to personal and professional development in life can lead to success. He has been a leader throughout his entire career and a valuable resource to all whom have had the pleasure of knowing him. He is a man of outstanding character and we will remain grateful for his unwavering dedication and service to our community and our nation. I wish Dr. Gray and his family continued success and my best wishes upon his retirement.

HONORING WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY TEAM ON WINNING: IOME CHALLENGE

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the student team at Western

Michigan University on winning the national iOMe Challenge competition, which focused on solutions to make the U.S. retirement system solvent for future generations.

WMU's proposal was the collaborative effort of four students from the University's Lee Honors College—Sam Demorest, Lauren Hearit, Ashley Horvat, and Brad Kent—with the guidance and encouragement of WMU Professor Susan Hoffmann. The proposal submitted by the WMU team was one of 41 entries submitted by schools in 17 states for the opportunity to travel to Washington and present their ideas before Members of Congress. The iOMe Challenge asked college students across the country to think, analyze, and propose a solution addressing the issue of retirement for future generations. The WMU team analyzed every potential aspect of what life in retirement could be four decades from now and collaboratively put together a proposal that directly meets the challenges that lie ahead. The Western Michigan University team's project was selected by an independent blue-ribbon panel who judged based on content, style, economic soundness, and accessibility to young Americans.

Certainly there are a number of proposals for going about preserving the retirement system, and I have been deeply impressed by the recommendations of the team at Western Michigan. Their objective analysis of our current system and common retirement preparation practices, including each aspect's strengths and weaknesses, is sound and pragmatic. The adaptability within our current system allowed these students to provide cost cutting solutions that actually raised benefits for all Americans, while ensuring the system's long-term viability.

With a steadily aging population, significant reforms will need to be made to ensure the retirement system remains viable not only for today's retirees but generations to follow. To simply continue to kick this issue further down the road will only compound the problem for future American retirees. That is why this issue deserves constant attention from all Americans, especially younger generations who will be most greatly impacted. I commend these four students at Western Michigan University for their leadership in taking up this difficult issue, in order to show that our nation's future leaders will not be ignored when we discuss possible solutions regarding our future retirement problems.

Once again, congratulations to the team at Western Michigan University. You make your university, state, and nation very proud.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ANH "JOSEPH" CAO

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3326—the Defense Appropriations Act, 2010:

As requested by me, Rep. ANH "JOSEPH" CAO, H.R. 3326—the Defense Appropriations Act, 2010, provides for funding for the National World War II Museum Expansion in the

amount of \$10,000,000. This funding would be used to design and construct the U.S. Freedom Pavilion and its exhibitions which teach the importance of service to the nation, including the importance of service in the United States Armed Forces.

As requested by me, Rep. ANH "JOSEPH" CAO, H.R. 3326—the Defense Appropriations Act, 2010, for Tulane University for Biosensors for Defense Application in the amount of \$2,500,000. This funding will leverage Tulane and Xavier Universities biosensor and risk assessment technologies (which provide real-time information about threats from bioterrorism and environmental polluters) program to develop biologically derived sensors for detecting pollutants and contaminants.

INTRODUCTION OF COLUMBIA RIVER RESTORATION ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Columbia River Restoration Act. The Columbia River is the largest river in the Pacific Northwest, supplying fishermen with jobs, serving as a recreational resource, and providing power to the Northwest. The river and its tributaries provide significant ecological and economic benefits to the Pacific Northwest and the entire country. Approximately 8 million people, including my constituents, inhabit the basin and depend on its resources for their health and survival. The 14 hydropower dams in the Columbia Basin provide over 75% of the power for the Northwest. Half of the 7.3 million acres of income producing farm and ranch land in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington are irrigated with the Columbia River; sales from these exceed \$10 billion annually. Traditionally, the Columbia and its tributaries have been the largest salmon producing river system in the world, with annual returns peaking at up to 30 million fish. Recognizing the river's importance, the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, designated the Columbia River as an Estuary of National Significance in 1995 and a Large Aquatic Ecosystem in 2006.

Sadly, after years of treating this great river like a machine, we know that the Columbia River is plagued by habitat loss and degraded with dangerous PCBs and other chemical pollutants that are detrimental to fish and wildlife, including thirteen species of salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act as threatened or endangered. Legacy contaminants such as DDT that were banned in the 1970s are still detected in juvenile Chinook salmon. According to EPA and tribal surveys, these contaminated fish are consumed in large quantities by tribal populations, putting them at risk. Other pesticides and contaminants, such as hormone disruptors from pharmaceutical and personal care products, have been found in the river and salmon and may impair salmon growth, health, and reproduction. These contaminants threaten not only the health of fish and wildlife, but the humans who depend on them.

I am proud that stakeholders in the Columbia Basin have come together in a partnership including states, tribal governments, public

and private entities, and key federal partners to look with a hundred-year vision toward the future of the river, and to clean it up and make it a sustainable resource for generations. The Lower Columbia River Partnership (LCREP), for example, works to protect the estuary's ecosystem and its species, reduce pollution, and provide information about the river to the public. The partnership has restored 2,600 acres of habitat, opened 41.7 miles of stream habitat, completed toxic and conventional pollutant water quality monitoring, and engaged in innovative public involvement and restoration efforts in the region. LCREP has worked with the EPA to complete a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan to guide recovery efforts in the lower basin. EPA has also worked with stakeholders to develop a Toxics Reduction Action Plan to reduce toxics throughout the Basin. While there have been numerous studies and projects for toxics reduction and habitat restoration on the river, it is time for a broader, more comprehensive, and better funded effort.

The bill I am introducing today would authorize the EPA to work with LCREP, the States of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, Columbia Basin tribal governments, local governments, citizen groups, industry, and other Federal agencies to develop and implement a collaborative and comprehensive strategy to increase monitoring and reduce pollution in the basin. Through a new Columbia River Program Team located in EPA's Region 10 Oregon Operations Office, EPA will assist and support the implementation of the Toxics Action and Comprehensive Plans to reduce toxics, coordinate the major functions of the Federal government related to the plans, track progress toward meeting the goals and objectives of the plans, and share this information with the public. The legislation authorizes \$40 million a year for this effort.

Restoration projects, toxic monitoring and other activities associated with the restoration effort will create between 700 and 900 jobs a year in the region for biologists, construction workers, and others. It will also enable the river to continue supporting jobs in the farming, hydropower, recreation and transportation industries.

I am pleased to be joined by some of my colleagues in Oregon and Washington in introducing this legislation. I look forward to working with stakeholders in the Pacific Northwest to move it quickly.

A TRIBUTE TO CLAUDIE C. ROYAL

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I want to recognize Claudie C. Royal for his dedication to the 19th Congressional District of Texas, as well as his leadership in honoring Black History Month in Abilene, Texas. Although Claudie passed away in 2008, the Abilene community continues to carry on his memory and the initiatives he started.

Claudie was born on February 15, 1945 in Marlin, Texas, and raised in Abilene where he graduated from Woodson High School. After high school, Claudie married his high school