

the provisions of the law will become effective next July without state action—as I mentioned, the rules of the insured's home state govern multi-state transactions and the insurer eligibility requirements and sophisticated commercial purchaser standards are set forth in the federal law.

Having said that, however, in order to truly realize the promise of the new law, the states need to take this opportunity to adopt a single set of uniform surplus lines regulatory requirements—requirements that are not just similar but the same in every state. I have no stake in how this is accomplished—by individual state laws based on NAIC or NCOIL models, through a standard-setting compact (which is authorized under the NRRRA), or in some other manner. But it can and should be done—and the states should realize that now is the time to do it.

I urge the Congress to continue closely monitoring the full implementation of these important provisions.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JOHN ARNOLD

### HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Arnold, the Executive Director of the Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank. After working tirelessly for 28 years to help feed the hungry, John is retiring due to his advanced, inoperable cancer. My prayers and heartfelt thanks go to John and his family.

As the Executive Director for the West Michigan Food Bank for the past 21 years, John has run one of the most innovative food banks in the entire country. During his career, John has helped secure and distribute more than 300 million pounds of food aid across Michigan.

In an ambitious effort to end hunger throughout Michigan, John's food bank took on the challenge of adding the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to their service area. In addition to extending service to remote rural areas, John has developed more than 1,300 outlets for food, to ensure that every person in their 40-county service area has reasonable access to food aid.

The West Michigan Food Bank is so successful that it is able to provide food for less than a tenth of what it would cost at a grocery store. In 2010, the food bank expects to hit the 25 million pound mark for distributed food.

In 1994, under John's leadership, the food bank launched their "Waste Not, Want Not Project" with Michigan State University, to determine how communities in America can adequately address their hunger problems. This project has won international awards and has allowed the food bank to meet its goal of 15 percent growth per year until all needs are met.

As a participant in my church's food distribution program in Grand Rapids, I recognize full well the dramatic impact a little food aid can make in the lives of struggling families.

Although John's life may regrettably be cut short by his aggressive cancer, he should take comfort in knowing that his efforts have helped save and improve the lives of thousands of hungry people across Michigan. We are most

grateful for and appreciative of all that John Arnold has done to aid the poor and hungry people in Western and Northern Michigan. He serves as a model for all food bank directors and executives across our Nation.

#### TRIBUTE TO AIR FORCE SENIOR AIRMAN MARK ANDREW FOR-ESTER

### HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, one of the most somber and humbling duties of our jobs is when we attend the funerals of our fallen soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. On October 7, 2010, I attended such a funeral for a fallen airman who not only was my constituent, but was a family I had grown up with.

I would like to pay tribute to this American Patriot from my hometown of Haleyville, Alabama, who was killed in action on September 29, 2010, in the Uruzgan Province of Afghanistan.

Air Force Senior Airman Mark Andrew For-ester paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend our great nation. Mark was assigned to the 21st Special Tactics Squadron at Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina. He served as an Air Force Combat Controller and was embedded with a Special Forces Unit in Afghanistan.

When I think of a young man like Mark, I think of words like; honor and bravery. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."—John 15:13. Mark died while protecting his friends and fellow service members.

In the fall of 1864, President Abraham Lincoln, wrote the following message to the mother of a fallen soldier. "I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom." President Lincoln's words ring more powerful today than ever before.

Mark earned numerous awards during his service including a Bronze Star with Valor and a Purple Heart.

It is an honor to be able to say that I was associated with Mark and his family over the years. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Mark's family and all those who knew and loved him.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, on December 9, 2010 I missed rollcall vote No. 627 because I was attending a White House signing ceremony for the Animal Crush Video Prohibition Act of 2010—legislation which I helped author. Had I been present I would have voted in favor of H.R. 6412, the Access to Criminal History Records for State Sentencing Commissions Act of 2010, legislation which will help improve criminal sentencing procedures in states throughout the country.

#### 99-YEAR TRIBAL LEASE AUTHORITY ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, S.1448 is identical to legislation that I introduced in the House of Representatives with Representative SCHRADER in March. The bill accomplishes two things: 1) it corrects a disparity between federally recognized tribes in Oregon in how these tribes lease land held in trust, and 2) it incentivizes long term investment that will attract businesses and create jobs for Oregon tribes and nearby communities.

Currently, four of the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon are able to lease land held in trust by the federal government for up to 99 years without going through a maze of bureaucracy and red tape at the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The 99 year lease authority is crucial to attracting and retaining long-term investment, incentivizing economic development projects on trust land, and creating jobs for communities that need them the most.

But five of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes—the Coquille, the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw, the Klamath, and the Burns Paiute do NOT have this important authority. These tribes are limited to 25 year leases or must rely on a lethargic BIA to approve longer leases on an individual basis.

S.1448 fixes this disparity and gives all nine federally recognized tribes the same authority to pursue economic development and job-creating activities on land held in trust.

The bill enjoys bipartisan support, has no opposition in the state of Oregon, and passed the U.S. Senate without amendment and by unanimous consent. This is a no-brainer. It's good for the Tribes. It's good for rural and tribal communities. The bill will create jobs and incentivize financial investment. I ask my colleagues to pass this bill today on suspension and send it to President Obama for his signature.

#### HONORING SERGEANT MATTHEW THOMAS ABBATE

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Matthew Abbate, Sergeant of the United States Marine Corps. Loved and respected by his family, friends and fellow Marines, Sergeant Abbate was killed in the line of duty in Afghanistan on December 2, 2010. It was his second tour of duty.

At just 26 years of age, Sergeant Abbate had already accomplished many things—including his life-long dream of joining the Marine Corps. He had traveled the world, started a family, and achieved satisfaction and recognition in his military career.

Sergeant Abbate grew up in Piedmont, California with his father Sal Abbate, a local business owner, and his stepmother Jane

Whitfield. He attended Beach Elementary School, Piedmont Middle School and Piedmont High School for his freshman year, before residing with his mother and stepfather, Karen and James Binion, in Fresno, California. As a youth, Matthew Abbate was charming, athletic, independent and free-spirited. After graduating from high school in 2002, he moved to Hawaii in search of work that would support his interest in world travel.

As an employee on the Norwegian Star cruise ship, he enjoyed adventures throughout Asia and the Pacific, including Thailand, Australia, Fiji and the Panama Canal. Following those travels, he attained his goal of enlisting in the Marine Corps, and, by the age of 20, was training for his first 10-month tour of duty in Iraq.

Sergeant Abbate's passion and steadfast dedication to the Corps led him to re-enlist after finishing his first tour, and to spend a year in sniper training. Just three months into his mission in Afghanistan, Sergeant Abbate's commitment to service resulted in the ultimate sacrifice.

Among the many sources of pride Sergeant Abbate found in being a Marine, the brotherhood he had with his fellow troops was foremost. He was a stalwart team member and a leader who inspired his peers to vote him as the Marine they'd most like to be.

As we gather in remembrance, we celebrate the life of a man who took great pride in being a loving father, a good person and a brave Marine. Sergeant Abbate leaves behind an extended network of loved ones, including his wife, Stacie Rigall, his two-year-old son, Carson, his parents, stepparents and four siblings.

His contributions to our nation will be remembered for generations to come, and his legacy continues in the hearts of those whose lives he touched in remarkable ways.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors United States Marine Corps Sergeant Matthew Thomas Abbate. His exemplary spirit and sense of public duty will continue to guide others toward courage, fortitude, selflessness and service. Sergeant Matt Abbate was truly a great man and he will be deeply missed. May his soul rest in peace.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes in the House Chamber yesterday. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 628, 629 and 630.

IN RECOGNITION OF SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF MATAWAN'S 120TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Second Baptist Church of

Matawan, New Jersey as the parishioners gather to celebrate the church's 120th anniversary. Members of the congregation enthusiastically dedicate their time to religious service in Matawan and its surrounding community. Their actions are undoubtedly deserving of this body's recognition.

The Second Baptist Church of Matawan was founded in 1890 and continues to build upon its rich history. Under the leadership of Reverend Stephen Moore, Reverend Jeffrey Gray, Deacon Willie Kiah and the Church Board of Officers, the Second Baptist Church of Matawan provides a harmonious environment for members of the congregation and the community to build upon their faith. Faithfully serving the members of its congregation, the Second Baptist Church of Matawan adheres to their principles of individual freedom in matters of faith. They continue to welcome new members to their congregation. They have implemented numerous ministries and continue to assist ailing members of the community. Their humble actions and service to the community are commendable.

Madam Speaker, please join me in leading this body in acknowledging the Second Baptist Church of Matawan, as the parishioners celebrate their 120th anniversary. The Second Baptist Church of Matawan community is tremendously valued in my district and the State of New Jersey.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,852,589,330,911.83.

On January 6, 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 \$3,214,163,584,618.03 so far this Congress.

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

HONORING HOMER C. FLOYD UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

### HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, Homer C. Floyd, a champion of civil rights and human relations in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the past four decades, is concluding a remarkable career. Since February 1970, Mr. Floyd has served as Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. He has an impressive record of accomplishments in civil rights, and has received numerous awards from organizations including the Pennsylvania NAACP, the International Association of Official Human Rights Organi-

zations, and most recently the Talk Magazine 2009 Person of the Year.

Even before attaining his executive position in Harrisburg, Mr. Floyd amassed a wealth of experience and accomplishment that spans North America. A graduate of the University of Kansas, Homer Floyd played Canadian professional football for the Edmonton Eskimos. He worked as a recreation supervisor in Kansas City, Missouri, and directed a civil rights commission with jurisdiction across the Dakotas, Missouri and Kansas. He consulted with the government of the Virgin Islands and worked with the U.S. Equal Opportunity Employment Commission in Washington. Since his arrival in Harrisburg he has donated his time to a long list of boards and committees and has volunteered on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and numerous community, sports, youth and civil rights organizations in central Pennsylvania. He was married to the late Mattie Longshore and has three children and three grandchildren.

Now Homer C. Floyd is retiring, although it is bound to be a busy retirement based on his high-energy career. His family, friends, colleagues and admirers are gathering for a Retirement Celebration of Audacious Service on Monday December 20, 2010, at the African American Museum in Philadelphia. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join with me in honoring and congratulating Homer C. Floyd for a valuable and achieving life on behalf of his fellow citizens.

H.R. 4173, THE DODD-FRANK WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT—CLARIFICATION OF INTENT WITH RESPECT TO SECTION 625

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, as a House conferee for H.R. 4173, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ("Dodd-Frank Act"), I rise to reaffirm the intent of section 625 of the Dodd-Frank Act, which the President signed into law earlier this year (P.L. 111-203).

For years, many federal mutual holding companies have waived receipt of dividends in reliance on current Office of Thrift Supervision ("OTS") regulations which permit waivers of such dividends. These regulations also provide that such dividend waivers would not affect the exchange ratio in the event of a full conversion to stock form.

Section 625 of the Dodd-Frank Act seeks to maintain the current OTS regulation regarding dividend waivers for federal mutual holding companies which, prior to December 1, 2009, had waived the receipt of dividends pursuant to current OTS regulations permitting such dividend waivers. Section 625 authorizes that these mutual holding companies may continue to do so as long as they provide proper notice beforehand and no finding is made that such dividend waivers constitute a safety and soundness violation. Section 625 also provides that such dividend waivers shall not affect the exchange ratio in the event of a later full conversion by the mutual holding company to stock form. The OTS's regulations (which