

Joel Katz has served in my Washington office helping the legislative staff meet its deadlines and achieve our goals. His hard-work, commitment to getting the job done and dependability made a huge difference to me and to the constituents he served.

Kenya Cox has an incredible dedication to many causes that have benefitted our district and the entire state. I appreciate her dogged and persistent work ethic in response to constituent requests. Her commitment to resolving problems and her tenacity in getting the job done well is admirable.

Andy Purath has served me in Washington for the last year as a congressional military fellow. I appreciate his hard work in the legislative office and his willingness to serve our country.

Mariam Bell has helped us complete the archive process on deadline and has been a blessing to Vicki and me for many years. I am thankful for her thoughtful approach to handling an enormous task.

I want to also recognize staff who have previously worked for me: Dave Hanna, Matthew Schlapp, Ruth Richman, Karen Casto, Tamara Baker, Gwendolyn Caldwell, Ardena Schienbein, Cindy Gustafson, Pam Porvaznik, Russ Yost, Scott Margolius, Judy Patton, Melissa Beall, Matt Rowden, Brad Ayers, Hannah Woody, Kevin Bruce, Amy Skeen, Amy Butler, Jennilee Browning, Jamie Sauser, Scott Plecs, Timon Oujiri, Aaron Weiss, John Howland, John Brady, Elias Voces, Joan Smutko, Trisha Reagan, Monica Green, Cindy Black, Emily Wellman, Jason Moshier, Courtney English, Joey Rathbone, Chris Israel, Joe Cramer, Sarah Key Sunday, Doddie Bowman, Terry Horton, Amy Lorenzini, Cheryl Arensdorf, Katie Steers, Jenni Schallenkamp, Tiffany Keeler, Nicole Noble, Don Boleski and Arsalan Arif. Without the years of service these people gave, I would not have been able to accomplish so much.

I would like to thank the staff on the House Appropriations Committee that have aided me tremendously through the years: Jeff Shockey, Debbie Weatherly, Dave LesStrang, Steve Crane, Stephanie Meyers, Kevin Jones, Stephen Sepp, Liz Dawson, David Gibbons, Mike Ringler, Ben Nicholson, John Martens, Martin Delgado, Allison Deter, Jennifer Hing, Jenny Kisiah, Frank Cushing, Letitia White, John Shank, Tom Rice, Michelle Mrdozza, Migo Micconi, Ben Nicholson, Jennifer Miller, Dena Baron, Michael Stephens, Delia Scott, Chris Topik, Greg Knadle, Beth Houser, Rob Nabors, Cheryl Smith, David Reich, Nicole Kunko, John Bartrum, Tammy Hughes and Sandy Farrows.

I also want to acknowledge and thank the staff I have worked with on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Mike Meermans, John Stopher, Kathleen Reilly, Meghann Courter, Fred Fleitz and Courtney Littig.

To all of my Congressional colleagues I have worked with over the years: it has been an honor to serve alongside you. Thank you for your friendship and your dedication to our great country.

My family and I deeply appreciate all our supporters and friends who have lifted us up in prayer and those who have given so much to make the impossible happen. For the past 16 years as I traveled to work and saw the Capital dome in the morning, I would pray, "Lord, help me do the right thing."

God has answered that prayer by surrounding me with a family and staff who, along with thousands of friends and supporters, have helped me faithfully carry out my responsibilities.

In the coming months and years, many tough decisions will be made in terms of what we do as a country. The success of our nation depends on engaged citizens who believe, as our Founding Fathers did, that the government should be by the people and for the people. We must all remain in the fight to help make Kansas and our country stronger, more prosperous and an even better place to raise a family.

Vicki and I look forward to continuing that journey with all those who have so faithfully walked with us.

While there are numerous other people that could be mentioned, I again want to say what an honor it has been to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives on behalf of the people of Kansas who sent me here these past 16 years.

May God continue to bless the Great State of Kansas, and may God bless America.

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL REPEAL ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2965, the Don't Ask Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010. This will be the second time this year that the House votes to repeal the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Opponents of repeal are out of touch with the American people, out of touch with the American military, and out of excuses. For years, Republicans in the House and Senate have claimed that allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly would threaten unit cohesion. America's troops and military leaders disagree. In the Pentagon's comprehensive review of this issue, 70 percent of service members surveyed believed that repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" would have no negative effect on the performance of their units. The military's top leaders, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen—both appointed by President Bush—have strongly advocated for repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

At a time when our military is fighting two wars, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is hampering our Armed Forces, and harming our national security. According to a GAO report, the military had discharged over 750 mission-critical service members by 2003 because of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," including over 320 service members with language skills—such as Arabic and Pashto—that are critical to our success in Iraq and Afghanistan. As reported by the Washington Post, there are an estimated 66,000 gay Americans currently serving in the military; that's 66,000 American troops who could be discharged tomorrow simply because they are gay.

Mr. Speaker, today I will vote to end a policy of open discrimination against a group of courageous Americans—men and women who

proudly serve in the Armed Forces and put their lives on the line to defend our country. For thousands of gay and lesbian veterans who have been discharged from the military over the years, Congress has acted too late. Nonetheless, it is time to honor their service by providing a new generation of patriotic gay and lesbian Americans the opportunity to serve our country proudly and openly.

I urge my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2965, and I call upon Members of the Senate to do the right thing by repealing this destructive policy once and for all.

HONORING BLAKE GOETZ

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mrs. BONO MACK. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor a very distinguished member of my community, Fire Chief Blake Goetz.

Today I wish to recognize Fire Chief Blake Goetz, who has dedicated 33 years of service to the City of Palm Springs and over 29 years to the Palm Springs Fire Department. He will retire from his position as Fire Chief on December 31, 2010, and I am pleased to rise to make a few remarks on his impressive accomplishments and many contributions to the City of Palm Springs.

Chief Goetz started his career with the Palm Springs Fire Department in 1981. Over the years, Chief Goetz has remained committed to safeguarding our community and has greatly increased the Coachella Valley's preparedness for fires, earthquakes and floods. Goetz initiated the Palm Springs Fire Department's Fire Prevention Safety Program to spread awareness of the dangers of fire and fire-related hazards to local grade schools during Fire Protection Week. His work in developing the Palm Springs Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) brought this critically important program to our area, and has greatly enhanced our local community's ability to respond to disaster. Goetz was appointed Fire Chief in 2004, and has continued to be an outstanding public safety official and well-respected leader in the community.

In addition to his time at the Palm Springs Fire Department, Chief Goetz has committed himself to the safety and well-being of the people of the Coachella Valley in many other areas. As a certified emergency manager with the International Association of Emergency Managers from 1998 to 2008, Chief Goetz played an essential role in bringing the Coachella Valley Emergency Managers Association to our community. Goetz has served as a member of the board of directors of Southern California Emergency Services Association and is currently chair of the board of directors of the Palm Springs Federal Credit Union. Goetz holds a lifetime instructor credential in fire science for California Community Colleges, and I am confident that he will continue his efforts towards promoting safety and protecting others after his retirement.

Today I stand proud to honor the admirable accomplishments of Fire Chief Blake Goetz, and extend my sincere appreciation for his distinguished service to the Palm Springs Fire Department and the Coachella Valley.

IN HONOR OF COACH JOE
PATERNO AND HIS 400TH WIN AT
PENN STATE

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, a great coach, a leader among men, who is an icon of college football and is one of Penn State's greatest treasures. Joe has just recently won his 400th college victory. More importantly, Joe's greatest accomplishments are not found on the football field, but in the young men that he has prepared for the game of life. I ask that this tribute penned in honor of him by Albert Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

PA . . . TERNO INSTINCTS

Upon, these fields of green . . .
Have but come, year after year . . . such
young men who dare to dream . . .
Specimens, of such great strength and speed
. . . of might, almost like supermen
who lead . . .
Who one day must walk off this great stage,
with what now to carry them through
their days?
And what do they now have so left, when
their days of glory are gone to them to
bless?
For sixty so odd years, as have so here . . .
As have such young men, so appeared . . .
From boys to men, at Penn State to be so en-
deared . . .
To be blessed, by Joe Pa to be near . . .
Upon, these fields of green so here . . .
For one man, one coach . . . has stood on
principle, oh so very clear . . .
To help build lives, build futures . . . as has
he so strived each year . . .
While, watching over them . . . from boys to
men . . .
Like a Shepherd, watching over his flock
. . . time, and time again . . .
Giving them hopes and dreams, discipline
and honor to each and every one it
seems . . .
Like a Father . . . Like a Son . . . as "with
each student, this new family has run
. . .
Leading, guiding, coaching, teaching, loving
each and every one!
With but his Pa Terno Instincts and dreams
. . .
As Joe Pa, has guided them from their teens
. . . Showing them all how life is won!
Molding them all, into such fine men . . . all
upon these fields of green . . .
His gift to all, a future . . . way beyond these
fields of dreams . . .
Education first! As now we see Joe Pa's fine
worth . . .
As this great love affair, brings such tears to
eyes . . . as Joe Pa's Terno instincts,
give rise!
For Joe, is a giver not a taker . . . bringing
boys to men, to new heights as they
awake here . . .
For few will run in NFL's sun, so what do
they so have left when all is done?
A future! Over four hundred career wins are
great . . .
But, Joe Pa spells victory . . . with one
word, "Graduate!"
With but his heart of lion, for all of them,
Joe Pa will never stop trying!
Oh, upon these fields of green . . . to mold
boys to men, to live their dreams . . .
But to have thousands and thousands, of lov-
ing sons . . .

No greater blessing, or victory to be won . . .
With but Joe's Pa... terno Instincts . . . he
has willed, all on these fields of green
. . .

For upon these fields of green, Joe . . . Pa is
a winner who has won . . .
But, In The Game of Life . . . Joe Pa is but
a Champion this one!

TRIBUTE TO TROOP 184 BLUE
RIDGE COUNCIL OF THE BOY
SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Troop 184, Blue Ridge Council, of the Boy Scouts of America, on a momentous achievement. As of October, all five original members of Troop 184 have now attained the rank of Eagle Scout. As an Eagle Scout myself, I know the dedication, character, and commitment that each Scout has shown, and I am proud to recognize them for their hard work and their service to their community.

I would also like to recognize the remarkable leadership of Scoutmasters Kevin Dawson and Eugene Moorefield III. Kevin Dawson has also received the award of Silver Beaver from the Blue Ridge Council for his dedication to the Boy Scouts. Mr. Dawson and Mr. Moorefield's truly exceptional leadership and dedication have helped to instill in these young men values that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. I am honored to recognize their service and leadership.

I ask you to join me in congratulating Gavin Dawson, James Moore, Lee Merryman, Hart Gillespie, and Martin Moorefield for their impressive achievements. These young men have shown the finest qualities of citizenship, leadership, and service, and I look forward to seeing them contribute to their communities for years to come.

CALHOUN HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITIVE
CHEERLEADING TEAM

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Calhoun High School Lady Yellow Jackets, Georgia's 2010–2011 Competitive Cheerleading State Champions.

Coached by Ginger Reeves, Calhoun's Varsity Competitive Cheerleading Team has been a dominant force in cheerleading in my home state of Georgia, winning four state titles since 2006.

The varsity squad consists of Jade Ables, Nikki Bertuca, Makenzie Blalock, Erica Carter, Christina Cumbey, Gabby Defalco, Brooke Dixon, Morgan Diamond, Ashlyn Gilbert, Jessica Goswick, Melanie Hampton, Aslyiah Harris, Mackenzie Kessler, Katelyn Langston, Kristen Langston, Hannah Magnicheri, Magen Pinyan, Mary Plunkett, and Hillary Rhodes.

I am proud of all of their accomplishments and their contributions to my home state and the 11th District of Georgia.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Calhoun Lady Yellow Jackets.

TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT IN-
SURANCE REAUTHORIZATION,
AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for airport improvement program, and for other purposes:

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4853—Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010.

I believe it is important that we extend the so-called Bush tax cuts for everyone while our economy is still struggling to recover, and as long as we can pay for it. This bill as presented to the U.S. House does not meet that test. I am especially disappointed in the provision on the estate tax. I cannot in good conscience cast one of my last significant votes in Congress in favor of a bill that would add tens of millions of dollars to the Federal deficit to benefit the wealthiest few families in the country.

The payroll tax holiday provision included in this package is also troublesome since for the first time in 75 years, the sacrosanct, dedicated revenue stream to provide Social Security benefits is diverted for other purposes. While we have fully protected the Social Security Trust Fund in the legislation and there will be no change in how much money is in the Trust Fund, I am concerned that proponents of private accounts will argue to continue this diversion of the payroll tax beyond one year—perhaps even putting the money into private accounts. At a time when we know that the long term solvency of Social Security will need either greater contributions or significant reductions in benefit, providing a payroll tax holiday is clearly a move in the wrong direction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 628 on, H.R. 1405, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site Designation Act, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 629 on, S. 3167, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Census Oversight Efficiency and Management Reform Act of 2010, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave