

staff. And following a period where she lived in Missouri, she returned to DC to work on the staff of the Committee on Science and Technology.

I have long been proud of the bipartisan nature of this Committee. Leigh Ann exemplifies this even in her home as she is happily married to John Cuaderes, the Republican Deputy Staff Director for the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Outside of work, Leigh Ann is a dog-lover, a DC restaurant connoisseur, and she enjoys traveling.

Leigh Ann is known among staff as the person who gets things done. Throughout her career, staff have consistently relied on her sound judgment and thoughtful consideration on a countless number of projects. Beginning in 2007, the offices of the Committee on Science and Technology were renovated as the first House office space in the "Green the Capitol Initiative." Leigh Ann managed and oversaw this vast project. She also coordinated the transition of our committee to the Majority in 2006.

Leigh Ann has long been a dedicated, loyal, and hard working member of my staff. I want to thank her from the bottom of my heart for everything from volunteering as a teenager on my first campaign to her expertise in managing the office for the Committee on Science and Technology.

Leigh Ann, I cannot imagine my time in Congress without your steadfast service. I know that all the staff of the Committee on Science and Technology wish you well in the next phase of your life. We will miss you and cannot replace you.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS HOUSING FAIRNESS ACT OF 2010

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Ms. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I introduce a bill to ensure that veterans have access to a diverse range of housing options.

In 2006, Congress passed legislation allowing veterans to use their VA loans to purchase cooperative housing. The VA loan program allows veterans to buy homes with no down payment and limited closing costs; additionally, the program offers negotiable interest rates and flexible repayment plans. With over one million housing cooperatives nationwide, extending these generous loan benefits can make affordable homeownership a reality for veterans in our districts all across the country.

This bill makes permanent the Department of Veterans Affairs loan guarantee for the purchase of residential cooperative housing units and gives veterans the freedom to choose where they live by allowing veterans to use their veterans' loans to purchase co-ops. In my district, co-ops are often the lowest cost housing. It makes no sense to deny veterans the ability to use their veterans' benefits to purchase these units. My bill will allow veterans to explore all housing options and choose the one that suits their needs.

With this legislation we can honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's veterans by giving them the tools and resources they need to pursue their dreams.

EQUITY IN SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 2010 INTRODUCTION STATEMENT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Equity in Social Security Act of 2010." This bill is designed to eliminate the discriminatory policy of the Social Security Administration that prevents same-sex couples from receiving the same benefits as their heterosexual counterparts.

Social Security provides spousal, survivor, and death benefits to married heterosexual couples in their later years. Same sex couples are not eligible to receive these benefits because the federal government does not recognize their marriages or civil unions.

These same-sex couples pay into Social Security while working just the same as every other American, but in their time of need, the government treats them differently. Gay couples receive 18 percent less in Social Security benefits than heterosexual couples while lesbian couples receive 31 percent less than heterosexuals. It is no wonder that these groups are also more likely to live in poverty in their old age than heterosexuals.

All Americans should receive a Social Security benefit based on their contribution to the program, not their sexual orientation. That is why my legislation would allow couples in relationships that have been recognized by their state of residence, whether a domestic partnership, civil union or marriage itself, to receive the same benefits from Social Security as heterosexual married couples.

Let me be clear about this effort today. This is meant in no way to distract from the effort to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act. That is the ultimate goal in the movement for marriage equality. My bill is not about marriage—it is about economic fairness. This legislation is meant to provide assistance to elderly individuals who have not been treated fairly by their government.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2965 and do so proudly. I support the Senate Amendment because I stand on the side of our military and all who have sacrificed for our freedom, and that is why I support the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," DADT, policy which, since 1993 has resulted in the discharge of over 13,000 American servicemen and women and cost our taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars in wasted funds. DADT denies equality to thousands of our soldiers

and dissuades thousands more from enlisting in the defense of our country.

I believe that all Americans willing to risk their lives in the defense of our country and obey its laws should be allowed to do so. Both our military and civilian leaders support the repeal of DADT. It is our responsibility to ensure that this change is initiated at a gradual, manageable pace so as to avoid any unnecessary disruption.

Defense Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, understand that an orderly transition is critical to minimizing disruption in the ranks, ensuring we maintain our strength level and not compromise national security. I applaud Secretary Gates' leadership and initiative, beginning with the landmark report he commissioned in March 2010 which included a survey of over 115,000 enlisted personnel and 44,000 military family members. In conjunction with this report, the Department of Defense prepared an implementation plan that will provide a smooth transition with minimal dislocation. The Pentagon stands ready to implement this plan, and I am proud that Congress is acting to move it forward.

In the 17 years since DADT was adopted, there has been a remarkable change in public opinion regarding the acceptance of gays and lesbians serving in the armed forces. This change has been so dramatic that the repeal of DADT no longer represents a subject of controversy for the large majority of Americans. Indeed, repealing DADT brings public policy in line with informed popular sentiment, which is nearly always a positive good.

The Pentagon's report documents one of the largest surveys of the attitudes of military personnel ever conducted. Its key finding is that the sexual orientation of their peers is not a matter of concern to most service members. Nearly 7 in 10, 69 percent, of respondents believed that they had already served with a gay or lesbian in their unit, and it did not undermine morale or military readiness. The report also finds that, if properly implemented, the repeal of DADT will have no adverse effect on unit cohesion or morale. These attitudes are in line with those of most Americans, who recognize that the military needs every patriotic, able-bodied recruit during a time of war.

Mr. Speaker, opponents of the measure still claim that repealing DADT is "social engineering" that will undermine morale and erode the fighting force of our nation's military. Their claim is refuted by the empirical study conducted by the Pentagon. It is also interesting to note that similar arguments were raised in opposition to racial integration and the enlistment of women in the armed services. The critics were wrong then and they are wrong now. The action we take today also brings us in line with the long-standing practice of our NATO allies as well as that of Israel, a nation rooted in faith that would do nothing to compromise the security of its people.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this legislation and urge all my colleagues to do likewise. I look forward to the moment when President Obama signs this bill into law, which will at once strengthen our armed forces and ensure that all those who want to defend our freedom are given the opportunity.

DENISE WADDELL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Denise Waddell for her outstanding service to our community.

As the President of First Bank of Wheat Ridge, Denise has developed an exceptional team, built and maintained business relationships and worked tirelessly to promote a positive economic environment in the community.

Denise Waddell supports many programs that promote small business including the Wheat Ridge community as a whole. As the Board President for Wheat Ridge 2020 she actively advocates at City Council meetings, speaks out on the opportunities for investment and constantly champions collaborative efforts.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Denise Waddell for being honored by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

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 the airport improvement program, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, it is with regret that I rise in opposition to this legislation. Less than two weeks ago, I joined a majority of this House in passing middle class tax relief that balanced the needs of working families with our nation's need to get its fiscal house in order. Unfortunately the Senate failed to pass this bill.

The legislation we are considering today is deeply flawed. We should try to put money in the pockets of working families, and I do not fault President Obama and many of my colleagues who want to get something done on behalf of the millions of Americans who need help. But, this is the wrong way to do it.

Yet, at a time when income inequality in the United States has risen to its highest level in decades, the bill under consideration would shift the burden of funding the federal government further onto middle-class and working-class families. The bill would give away tax breaks to the wealthiest two percent of households at a cost of more than \$120 billion charged to the national debt.

I am most concerned, however, that the bill undermines the very idea of Social Security. Social Security has been a pillar of our society for generations. When Franklin Delano Roo-

sevelt, Frances Perkins, and others created Social Security in 1935, it was a political masterstroke. Social Security was created as an insurance program and has remained intact for 75 years because Americans have a real sense of ownership for the program.

In good economic times and in bad, regardless of which political party is in power, this sense of ownership—that Americans will get out that which they put into the Social Security—has allowed it to survive despite the efforts of determined enemies.

A provision in the bill would reduce an employee's contribution to Social Security from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent of salary. This could have a beneficial stimulative economic effect. The \$112 billion cost to the Social Security trust fund of this payroll tax holiday is supposed to be replaced with money from the general treasury fund. But that is just the problem. In Social Security's history such a commingling of payroll taxes and money from the Treasury at this scale is unprecedented.

This is not just about the financial health of Social Security, rather it is about Social Security's rationale that has worked well for generations. This bill places Social Security on the table with tax breaks for business expenses, tax breaks for the top two percent of Americans, the estate tax and the Alternative Minimum Tax—essentially making it just another bargaining chip. If we allow Social Security to become a bargaining chip for dealing politicians, then it will not be long for this world. As much as we need economic stimulus now, we will need Social security for decades to come. Rather than taking money from Social Security, I would support a tax credit—similar to President Obama's Making Work Pay tax credit—that would give working families a sizeable tax break with money from general revenues.

In a message to Congress on January 17, 1935, FDR insisted that Social Security should be self-sustaining and that funds for the payment of insurance benefits should not come from the process of general taxation. FDR's message is as correct today as it was 75 years ago.

To be sure, the legislation before us today contains many good provisions that I would support on their own. The bill contains a one year extension of emergency unemployment benefits. According to the Labor Department, there are five job-seekers for every job opening in the U.S. Extending unemployment is the right thing to do morally and for the economy. The legislation would extend middle class tax relief for two years along with many family-friendly tax breaks such as the Child Tax Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit, Alternative Minimum Tax relief, and marriage penalty relief. The bill also would extend expanded transportation benefits for commuters and tax credits like the research and development tax credit to help businesses grow and create jobs.

Congress needs to provide unemployment insurance for Americans searching for work, extend tax relief working families, and find solutions to our budget crisis. Yet these must not come at the expense of Social Security. It is too important to lose.

HONORING ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL CARDINAL FOOTBALL

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the coaches, athletes, and fans of Elizabeth High School for their outstanding performance during the 2010 football season. The grit, determination, and perseverance showed by these young individuals culminated with a 3A State Championship on December 4, 2010. Playing under intense pressure in front of a packed house at Legacy Stadium in Aurora the Cardinals exceeded expectations and fought through all odds to obtain a 29 to 6 victory over an extremely talented Glenwood Springs football team.

Such exemplary work could not have been achieved without the unwavering and visionary tutelage of head coach Chris Cline and his staff of Mike Zoesch, Ty Barrett, Craig Blackman, Brian Martinez, Eric Jibblits, Kirt Woodman, and Steve Mann. Their energy, expertise, and passion for the game was contagious and helped ignite a truly outstanding season. Recognition must also be given to the unsung heroes of the team. Managers Kayla Allred, and Briana Cisneros tirelessly worked to take care of logistical aspects of the game, ensuring the coaches and players could focus their energy on the gridiron.

I would like to congratulate these young men individually for their accomplishment; they will forever be remembered for bringing their first state title to the proud town of Elizabeth. They are: Josh Weber, Dakota McCune, Zach Shepherd, Marty Sullivan, Dalton Taylor, Scott Carter, Jordan Bucknam, Brad Goldsberry, Blake Arellano, Colton Dillavou, Nate Nicholas, Zach Butler, Bobby Wintersteen, Joe Finken, Dylan Burgett, Spencer Fulbright, Sean Dorrance, Eli McKinney, Chase Nicholas, Trayco Ross, Jake Soule, Landon Willson, Austin Peterson, Peyton Hopkins, Gabe Mortensen, Matt Hrabik, Steve Biery, Cody Slade, Kellen Gomon, Brandon Strannigan, Micha Lockerby, Salvador Robles, Cole Hoffman, Cody Miller, Dakota Boss, Dallas Reins, Seth TenEyck, Trevor Gill, Chantz Walpole, Travis Cayou, Carter Solomon, Brian Shomshor, John Weber, Garrett Sweigert, Sean Taylor, Matt Doura, Devon Campbell, Robert Wagner, Tim Reeder, Jaxon Graber, and Trayco Ross.

Chase Cline and Matt Biery deserve special acclimation for their selection to participate in the Colorado All State football game in June. The superior talent and dedication of these scholar athletes is archetypical of the entire team apparatus that helped lift the Cardinals to an undefeated season.

Fans, family, and school officials who braved the elements to motivate their team from the bleachers are to be commended as well. I know the deafening roar of the crowd on key plays throughout the season helped propel the team to unmatched heights. I join them, and the rest of the sixth district of Colorado in proclaiming my congratulations to a highly deserving school and town.