

gets the best possible value out of its expenditures. The bill requires that an enhanced system of incentives be put in place to encourage employees to reach performance goals. Finally, H.R. 5013 will require that all companies receiving DOD contracts are subjected to comprehensive audits that ensure that their federal dollars are spent wisely and efficiently.

I have long been an advocate of increased government efficiency and accountability. As the holder of a master's degree in business administration and a former employee in the private sector, I understand the importance of government being as economically efficient as possible. At a time of economic hardship across in the United States, government should spend its money carefully and efficiently, just like households and businesses across the country.

Moreover, increased efficient and accountability is the fair thing for the American people. The American people deserve a government that works for them. If government is going to spend their hard-earned tax-payer dollars, it must do so in a way that gets the best possible value out of every single dollar. H.R. 5013 will help achieve this goal. By ensuring that the DOD limits waste, this bill will play a critical part in the effort to run our government more effectively and in a way that protects the American taxpayer.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5013.

IN HONOR OF JAMES E. BENNETT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of myself, Representative FRANK WOLF, Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, Representative JIM MORAN, Representative CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, and Representative GERALD CONNOLLY to recognize James E. Bennett, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Airports Authority, who has announced his retirement after 14 years of exceptional public service to the agency, the region, and the Nation. During his tenure at the Airports Authority, Mr. Bennett expertly guided the significant expansion and modernization of Washington Dulles International Airport and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, while simultaneously undertaking the challenge of managing the Dulles Toll Road and constructing the long planned Metrorail line to Dulles Airport and Loudoun County.

Whether one is a visitor to either of these world-class airports or watching the construction of the Metrorail line, it is not difficult to appreciate the bold vision and many accomplishments of Jim Bennett. Reagan National and Dulles International Airports combined served a total of more than 40 million passengers in 2009. In difficult economic times, both airports retained service to all top 50 domestic markets, bringing valuable, new air service to the metropolitan Washington region. Mr. Bennett's leadership also brought to completion \$3 billion of capital development projects, providing improved passenger service and enhanced ability to accommodate increased air service and passenger volume.

At Dulles International, a new security mezzanine and the state-of-the-art AeroTrain, were recently put into service. These monumental improvements return Dulles International to the form and function that Architect Eero Saarinen, envisioned for this beautiful landmark when it opened in 1962. At Reagan National, Mr. Bennett guided the addition of expanded parking and completion of a new Public Safety Communications Center to expand the Airports Authority's emergency operations capabilities.

In everything Jim Bennett has done, the interests of the public have been paramount. He has guided reinvestments in Washington Dulles and Reagan National Airports ensuring that these valuable facilities are equipped to serve travelers throughout the next decades, continuing to be important economic catalysts, providing jobs and business development opportunities for the region. He took on the Dulles Metrorail Project, proposing an innovative financing plan to bring transit service to Dulles Airport and the entire Dulles Corridor. The project is on budget and on schedule, indicative of Mr. Bennett's stellar management skills.

This region has had the unique benefit of having had one the country's finest airport managers, as well as a consummate public servant, in Jim Bennett. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his leadership, integrity, humility and inspiration. I ask that my colleagues join me and the National Capital region in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Jim Bennett for his vision and legacy of transportation improvements that he has left for the region and the Nation.

HONORING IWAO MATSUDA

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my longtime friend and respected colleague, Iwao Matsuda. Matsuda-san is arriving in Washington today for a meeting of the United States-Japan Legislative Exchange Program, a project he founded to encourage meaningful dialogue between our two countries. He has a long and honorable history of service to Japan as an elected official, first in the House of Representatives and later in the House of Councilors in the Diet. Matsuda-san has always been interested in resolving tensions and improving the relationship between the United States and Japan, and it was this drive that led to the creation and continuing success of the Legislative Exchange Program.

Members of the Diet and the Congress have grown to understand the importance of the United States-Japan Legislative Exchange Program. The two delegations have had the privilege of getting to know each other, and if there is ever a problem, we know who to call to find out more about it. These personal connections are vital to creating understanding between our legislatures and our nations. But I would like to point out another facet of Matsuda-san's contribution. Not only has he helped us to know each other and to create personal relationships, but his work has transcended his own personal relationships and left us all with an enduring legacy.

I honor my friend Matsuda-san's life and work, and I wish him a peaceful retirement. My colleagues and I will never forget his kind hospitality, both in official and personal settings, and I look forward to continuing our friendship in the years to come.

CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT WINNERS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplished students who earned the Certificate of Congressional Merit for their exemplary citizenship and academic excellence. Eleven students from Minnesota's Sixth District were nominated by their schools for this prestigious award and it is a great privilege to be able to share their accomplishments with this Congress.

These students have shown that they can set and achieve goals, work as a team member or a leader, and contribute to a larger cause all while making time for study and friendships as well. They have made significant contributions to their schools and communities and stand out to faculty and staff as students that would never ask for recognitions for their efforts.

I rise today, Madam Speaker, to honor these 11 students for their successful high school careers and to wish them all the best in their bright futures: Kaia Larson, Meadow Creek Christian School; Kara Peterson, Becker High School; Danielle Liebl, Rocori High School; Taylor Haag, Paynesville Area High School; Matthew Vogel, Saint Francis High School; Zachary Johnson, Monticello High School; Duy Nguyen, Spring Lake Park High School; Travis Taylor, New Life Academy; Sandra Arnold, Delano High School; Emily Bloch, Immaculate Conception Academy; and Kelsey Vigoren, Kimball Area High School.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating these students for their hard work and wishing them the best of luck. As the Irish poet and Noble Peace Prize winner William Butler Yeats said, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." In these students, a fire has been lit. They are the bright future we have to look forward to in Minnesota, and in our Nation.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,876,734,073,745.72.

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 \$2,288,594,800,033.30 so far this Congress.

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

NATIONAL TEACHER
APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution to commemorate National Teacher Appreciation Week and to recognize the importance of teachers in ensuring that Americans receive a quality education.

Teachers are heroes in our communities. None of us in Congress would be where we are today without the influence of those teachers who shaped our lives. They corrected us when we were wrong and they praised us when we were right. They taught us how to read and write, think critically, add and subtract, and they opened our minds to past events, scientific discoveries, and different cultures and civilizations. They encouraged us to follow our dreams and inspired us to reach our full potential.

My parents were educators in this vein. My father served as the first President of Bishop College in Mobile, Alabama, and my mother worked as a librarian. I saw through them how our teachers work miracles in the classroom day in and day out. They truly deserve the strongest praise we have to offer.

Benjamin Franklin once said that "an investment in education pays the best dividends." It is our teachers who are responsible for the value of that investment, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating them for their outstanding work.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF IWAO MATSUDA TO THE US-JAPAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Iwao Matsuda, Co-chairman of the U.S.-Japan Legislative Exchange Program (LEP).

LEP is the longest standing and among the most successful legislative exchange programs in the U.S. Congress. This week marks LEP's 22nd year and 43rd consecutive session. Mr. Matsuda has played a tremendous role in making LEP a rewarding program.

I have had the privilege of participating in several LEP meetings with Mr. Matsuda. He has been a remarkable leader of LEP and representative of the people of Japan.

As a member of the Japan Diet, Mr. Matsuda was troubled by the sometimes bitter trade disputes between the United States and Japan and wanted to find a way to improve communications and understanding among the legislatures of Japan and the United States. In 1988, Mr. Matsuda took the far-sighted initiative of contacting friends in the U.S. Congress and at the George Washington University to create a program that would encourage personal and informal discussions among U.S. and Japanese parliamentarians. This was the beginnings of LEP.

As time passed, Mr. Matsuda sought to expand the U.S.-Japan Legislative Exchange Program to include members of the South Korean National Assembly and initiated in 2003 the U.S.-Japan-South Korea Trilateral Legislative Exchange Program (TLEP), which meets regularly with LEP to foster closer ties and understanding among the democratic legislatures of the three countries.

After twenty-plus years of public service, Mr. Matsuda, a true visionary of the promotion of democratic ideals, will be retiring, and this will be his last LEP session.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much), Mr. Matsuda, for all that you have done to strengthen U.S.-Japan-South Korean friendships and expand understanding among the free peoples of the Asian-Pacific region and the world at large.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to explain how I would have voted on rollcall votes cast on April 29, 2010. Due to prior commitments in Houston, I was returning home and was not able to make the last series of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted on the following:

"No," on rollcall vote #234, the Foxx of North Carolina Amendment;

"No," on rollcall vote #235, the Gutierrez of Illinois Amendment No. Two;

"No," on rollcall vote #236, the Gutierrez of Illinois Amendment No. Three;

"Yes," on rollcall vote #237, the Burton of Indiana Amendment;

"No," on rollcall vote #238, the Velázquez of New York Amendment No. Five;

"No," on rollcall vote #239, the Velázquez of New York Amendment No. Six;

"No," on rollcall vote #240, the Velázquez of New York Amendment No. Seven;

"No," on rollcall vote #241, the Motion to Recommit on H.R. 2499 the Puerto Rico Democracy Act;

"Yes," on rollcall vote #242, on passage of H.R. 2499 the Puerto Rico Democracy Act.

Madam Speaker, I am a cosponsor of H.R. 2499, and strongly supported its passage in a statement made last week. I am pleased this legislation has passed the House and hope to see it move forward in the Senate to give the people of Puerto Rico and opportunity to determine their future.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL
DAVID FURNESS, USMC

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, today I recognize and pay tribute to Colonel David Furness, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of his transfer from the liaison office. I, and many other members of this chamber, have had the pleasure of working with him

over the past two years that he has served as part of U.S. Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs and as the Director of the USMC Liaison Office in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Colonel Furness expertly represented the Marine Corps on all matters in the U.S. House of Representatives and spearheaded the Marine Corps' most difficult and challenging legislative initiatives from June 2008 to May 2010. Through his direct and skillful interaction with Members of Congress, he ensured that Marine Corps requirements were widely understood by key Members and staff to guarantee the best possible support to the Marine Corps. He also successfully oversaw, planned, coordinated, and escorted more than 150 international and domestic trips for high-level Congressional and Staff Delegations.

Furthermore, Colonel Furness managed, trained and mentored a team of Legislative Liaison Officers and House Legislative Fellows and created an environment that fostered teamwork and professionalism. He led Company and Field Grade Officers and ensured they better understood both the message of the Commandant and the role of the Congress in National Security matters. Colonel Furness contributed immeasurably to making capable Liaison Officers who will return to the Marine Corps Fleet with a better understanding of how Congress and the Corps work closely together to win our Nation's battles.

Through it all, Colonel Furness has been able to ensure that Members of Congress and their staffs never forget the purpose and focus of the Marine Corps: the Marines themselves.

Madam Speaker, through all of these actions, and many more, Colonel Furness has maintained and improved the U.S. House of Representatives' view of the Marine Corps. His performance has made a lasting impact on the readiness of the Marine Corps, laying the groundwork for continued Marine successes on Capitol Hill.

INTRODUCTION OF OUTDOOR
LIGHTING EFFICIENCY BILL, H.R.
5201

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, three years ago, Congressman UPTON and I introduced legislation—which became law in 2007 as part of the Energy Independence and Security Act—that will revolutionize the way Americans light their homes.

Our legislation banned the famously inefficient 100-watt incandescent light bulb by 2012, will phase out remaining inefficient light bulbs by 2014, and requires that light bulbs be at least three times as efficient as today's 100-watt incandescent bulb by 2020.

That bill was the product of bipartisan and bicameral efforts to forge a consensus between industry and environmental groups. The result was not only broadly accepted, it was groundbreaking. The Alliance to Save Energy estimates that the provisions will eventually save \$18 billion in energy costs every year, and prevent the emission of 100 million tons of carbon dioxide annually by 2030. That's the equivalent of taking 20 million cars off the road.