

He has covered every major local event including the record floods of 1965, the 1981 closing of the Hwy. 18 bridge and the flooding of more recent years. Norb embodies what every rural community needs, a friendly and thoughtful voice to bring them the events of the day.

With no plans to retire anytime soon, Norb plans to continue making a difference in the lives of the residents of Prairie du Chien. I am proud to know Norb and believe that his work not only impacts his community but serves as an example to the rest of the country.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

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SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 1, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2017) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the Fiscal Year 2012 Homeland Security appropriations bill, H.R. 2017 brought to the House floor by the Republican majority.

The problems with H.R. 2017 began even before the legislation was considered by the House. The rule to allow debate on H.R. 2017 enacts the House Republican's highly controversial budget plan to end Medicare as we know it. I voted with every Democratic Member of the House to oppose this rule—H. Res. 287—and to protect tomorrow's seniors from being forced to pay an average of \$6,000 in additional health care costs every year. My Republican colleagues should be admonished for their decision to begin debate on a bill intended to safeguard American citizens with a rule that undermines the health and economic security of every American senior.

The Fiscal Year 2012 Homeland Security appropriations measure fails to meet the public safety needs of communities in Minnesota and across the country. H.R. 2017 undermines support for our local law enforcement partners by slashing funding for firefighter assistance grants and State Homeland Security Grants, which are used primarily for training and equipping first responders. The International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) said of the legislation: "At a time when state and local public safety budgets are shrinking, it is unconscionable to implement cuts of this magnitude." The National Association of Counties is opposing H.R. 2017, arguing that reductions in critical grant programs cripple the ability of communities of all sizes to prepare for a range of threats, including potential nuclear, chemical, and biological attacks.

Moreover, H.R. 2017 does not include sufficient funding for transit agencies to hire additional law enforcement officers, acquire bomb sniffing dogs, or install explosive screening devices. Funding to states and localities to secure sensitive tunnels and bridges and install surveillance systems in other high-risk areas is significantly reduced. This bill does not provide

sufficient funds to protect harbors from terrorist threats or train maritime law enforcement personnel to safeguard U.S. ports.

Even, however, with cuts this extreme, the Republicans fund discredited projects. The notorious "287(g)" program founded by the Bush administration, and abused by such anti-immigrant zealots as Arizona Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio had its funding increased by millions of dollars. Sheriff Arpaio is under investigation for discrimination and illegal searches and seizures during his so-called "immigration sweeps" using the 287(g) program.

This bill undercuts federal partnerships with local law enforcement and reduces America's capacity to respond to natural disasters, criminal actions and potential terrorist attacks. And the rule for this bill forces enactment of a reckless Republican budget that breaks faith with America's seniors and forces unnecessary cuts to education, innovation and infrastructure to pay for another tax cut for the wealthiest Americans. I will vote no on H.R. 2017 and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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IN RECOGNITION OF EDDIE PALMIERI, THE DC JAZZ FESTIVAL'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT AND FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN JAZZ

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**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a distinguished American, Mr. Eddie Palmieri, the recipient of this year's District of Columbia's Jazz Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Palmieri, renowned for his unique fusion of Jazz and Latin rhythms, has blazed many trails in his remarkable career. "El Rumbero del Piano," a title which reflects his magic on the piano, has earned his place among the great ones for his dedication to Jazz and the cultivation of its creative soul.

Having grown up in Spanish Harlem to Puerto Rican parents, Latin beats were a part of Eddie Palmieri's life from an early age. He began his lifelong passion for creating music at the tender age of eight. By age thirteen, Eddie had joined his uncle's orchestra playing the timbales. From his early exposure to the music instruments of the South Bronx, was borne the beautiful medley of Jazz and Latin music that is now firmly weaved into American life.

A musical trailblazer, Eddie Palmieri received the first of what would be numerous Grammys in 1975 for the recording "The Sun of Latin Music"—marking the very first time in the history of the Grammys that the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences recognized Latin music. In 1988, the Smithsonian Institution recorded two of Mr. Palmieri's energetic performances for the catalog of the National Museum of American History in Washington, DC. In a sign of changing times, in 1993, he was appointed to the Board of Governors of the New York chapter of National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences.

Twenty years after placing Latin music on the Grammys map, Eddie once again char-

tered new territory, opening the door for the new category of Latin Jazz. More recently, in 2009, his widely popular composition "Azucar Pa' Ti" was inducted into the National Recording Registry of the United States Library of Congress as a significant and compelling American sound recording. Mr. Palmieri shares this honor of induction into the National Recording Registry with other titans of American music like The Band, Willie Nelson, Loretta Lynn, The Staple Singers, Patti Smith, Cliff Edwards, Little Richard and R.E.M.

A nine-time Grammy Award winner with a musical career spanning more than 50 years and 36 recordings, Mr. Eddie Palmieri is an inspirational pianist, composer, arranger, and a celebrated leader of Salsa and Latin Jazz orchestras. For his numerous contributions to the American musical landscape, but more for his brilliant work in introducing the world to the rhythms of Latin Jazz, I ask that the House of Representatives honor and commend El Rumbero del Piano for a lifetime of achievement.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

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SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 1, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2017) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the FY12 Homeland Security Appropriations Act.

The bill makes severe cuts to the funding available to front line employees of the Department of Homeland Security for critical operations along our borders, at our nation's airports and seaports, and for responding to natural disasters. The bill also reduces funding for state and local preparedness grant programs.

The bill provides a total of \$1 billion for all State and local grants and \$350 million for Firefighter Assistance Grants. Respectively, these figures are 65 percent and 50 percent below an already reduced request. Given the budgetary challenges already faced by our states, these cuts, if permitted to survive through the legislative process, could be devastating. According to the International Association of Fire Fighters, 1,600 fewer local firefighters will be on the job if the cuts in this bill are enacted into law. Such deep cuts will damage local preparedness, emergency response and the economic recovery.

I was happy to vote for an amendment offered by Ranking Member PRICE that permits states and local governments to rehire laid-off firefighters and to prevent others from being laid off. The amendment also waives certain budgetary requirements local fire departments have to fulfill to qualify for a grant. But, even with the addition of this important amendment, I cannot support a Homeland Security funding bill that ultimately makes the homeland less secure.

The House voted to include on the floor an amendment offered by Representative MICA that stripped hundreds of millions of dollars out of the Transportation Security Administration's budget and an amendment offered by Representative ROKITA that limits the collective bargaining rights of TSA employees. These amendments will devastate morale among the TSA workforce and, by slashing TSA's resources, will make Americans less safe.

I will monitor the progress of this bill in the Senate and conference. I am hopeful that future changes and improvements will give me a chance to vote on a more acceptable alternative.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION REGION III EXPORTER OF THE YEAR, MS. EILEEN MELVIN

**HON. MARK S. CRITZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Eileen Melvin, a crafty business woman in Johnstown, PA who was recently honored by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

In 2008, Ms. Melvin joined the board of directors of United Metal Fabricators, a producer of exam room equipment for the healthcare market. Her roots in the company lie much deeper as her father had worked as a legal advisor to the company 20 years earlier.

In transitioning to UMF, Ms. Melvin saw an organization that held onto the ideals of good craftsmanship, but failed to keep pace with the technological and manufacturing advances of the day. She saw potential for a strong company in a global market that was craving quality American made healthcare goods.

With her ascension to board president and CEO in 2009, Ms. Melvin worked to introduce technological advances into processing and sales, while still maintaining the quality craftsmanship and workforce UMF is known for. She has also worked to introduce UMF products around the world.

Throughout her tenure on the board, UMF has seen a 62 percent increase in their exports. Ms. Melvin's immense exporting in Saudi Arabia has also led to her participating in a Trade Mission to the country. UMF products are now being utilized in hospitals around the world.

Ms. Melvin helped a struggling company become a major exporter in the Johnstown region. For her accomplishments, she has been recognized as the Small Business Administration's local and Region III Exporter of the Year. Mr. Speaker, once again I would like to honor Ms. Melvin and her contributions to America's share in the global economic market.

A NATION'S GRATITUDE FOR THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF CAPTAIN JOSEPH W. SCHULTZ

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week our nation learned that Capt. Joseph W. Schultz died May 29, 2011 while on a mounted patrol when the vehicle he and his Special Forces team were traveling in struck an IED in the Wardak Province, Afghanistan. He was born March 20, 1975 and grew up in Sacramento, California and graduated from El Camino High School in 1993. He graduated from the University of Oregon in 1997 and received his commission as an intelligence officer from Officer Candidate School in 2003.

His first assignment was to 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, PIR, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC. He then served as the assistant battalion intelligence officer and as a rifle platoon leader in Company A, 1-504 PIR. Upon completion of his tour with the 1-504 PIR, he then went on to serve as the counterintelligence/human intelligence operations manager for the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division; and later as the G-2 advisor, 10th Iraqi Army Division.

After completing Special Forces Selection and Assessment, he graduated from Special Forces Qualification Course at Fort Bragg, NC. Upon graduation and receiving his green beret, Schultz was assigned to Co. C, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) where he served as the Detachment Commander of Special Forces Operational Detachment—Alpha 3333. Schultz deployed in support of various operations across the globe, including: Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraq and this deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with Company C.

His military education includes: the Military Intelligence Officer Course, Infantry Captain Career Course, Defense Strategic Debriefe Course, Airborne School, Ranger School, and the Special Forces Qualification Course.

Schultz's military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal; Purple Heart; Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal with one campaign star; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Overseas Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Combat Infantry Badge and Parachutists Badge. He also wore the Special Forces Tab and the Ranger Tab.

Prior to his military career, Schultz worked for California Governor Gray Davis and later the U.S. State Department, where he was assigned to the Middle East desk.

Capt. Schultz is survived by his mother Betsy Reed Schultz of Port Angeles, Washington. Condolences from our nation to his family, friends and fellow service members who mourn his loss.

HONORING TENNESSEE STATE TROOPER ANDY WALL

**HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to pay tribute to the life of Tennessee State Trooper Andy Wall. Trooper Wall was killed tragically in service to the state of Tennessee while escorting the United States Air Force Thunderbirds to the Great Tennessee Air Show.

At the age of 36, he had already served the community and our state for many years. He began his law enforcement career as a patrolman with the city of Dickson Police Department. After graduating from the Tennessee Highway Patrol Training Academy in 2004, he eagerly began his job as a Tennessee State Patrolman. His father, former sheriff for Dickson County Tom Wall, said "his son always aspired to be a trooper so that he could serve all the citizens of Tennessee." His friends frequently remember his laugh and smile as one that would brighten an entire room.

It is with great honor and respect that I salute Tennessee State Trooper Andy Wall. Emergency personnel are asked all the time to place their lives on the line. Trooper Wall made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the state he loved. The life of Andy Wall will always be remembered by the love of his family, friends, and colleagues. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Please join me in saluting the life and service of Tennessee State Trooper Andy Wall.

KIDNEY ACTION DAY

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me on June 11, 2011, in recognizing Kidney Action Day in the District of Columbia to raise awareness of chronic kidney disease and of the importance of early detection and treatment.

Over 31 million Americans suffer from chronic kidney disease, but many people are unaware that they may be at risk. In the District, there are nearly 6,000 people on dialysis and 1,600 people on the kidney transplant waiting list. Not only does the District have the highest rate of kidney disease in the nation, kidney disease is the 13th leading cause of death here. In areas of the city that are heavily populated with minorities, the rate of kidney disease is double the national average.

Since chronic kidney disease can go undetected for years, people are urged to get screened for it, either through blood or urine tests. Early stage kidney disease can be treated with medications, healthy eating and exercise. I cannot stress enough the importance of early detection and treatment of kidney disease, which, if undetected, can lead to diabetes and hypertension, which, in turn, increase the risk of heart attacks, strokes, and heart-related deaths. As chronic kidney disease progresses, patients may require dialysis, which