

many of them in expediting their requests for the benefits to which they are entitled, including mental health benefits. Unfortunately, many of these veterans still wait years for a resolution of their cases. This is simply unacceptable. These men and women have sacrificed their health, well-being, and, in some cases, their livelihoods, for this country.

The excessively long wait times at the VA are unjust and un-American. The wait times for veterans who are suicidal or suffering from mental health illnesses, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), are especially troubling.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support timely mental health services for our veterans by voting "yes" on this amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF CITY OF LAS VEGAS MAYOR OSCAR GOODMAN

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of the Mayor of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada, Oscar Goodman.

Mayor Goodman has worked tirelessly for the City of Las Vegas. From 1999 to 2011, the Mayor facilitated 19 community and recreational centers, eight transportation projects, eight fire stations, seven expansion and beautification projects, a water reclamation center, and a police area command station.

Mayor Goodman has been responsible for many great accomplishments in the heart of downtown. As Mayor, he was successful in acquiring a large piece of urban real estate in the City without resorting to eminent domain. Symphony Park will include the Lou Ruvo Brain Institute, Performing Arts Center, business, medical, and retail opportunities.

Mayor Goodman also managed to acquire a historic downtown post office from the General Services Administration. The building is being converted to a state-of-the-art museum capturing the excitement and notoriety of the history of Las Vegas. Also in the center of Las Vegas, an intellectual marketplace is being designed and will be home to the University of Nevada Las Vegas' (UNLV) School of Architecture, UNLV Modern Letters Program, and the Nevada School of the Arts.

Mayor Goodman serves as the Chairman of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority and works non-stop to raise support for cultural programs and charities of Las Vegas.

Oscar Goodman first ran for Mayor of Las Vegas in 1999. By his third reelection bid in April 2007, Mayor Goodman captured 84 percent of the vote.

As the Congresswoman for the people of Las Vegas, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the achievements of the self-proclaimed "Happiest Mayor in the Universe," Mayor Oscar Goodman.

COMMENDING THE GRADUATES OF ROBINSON SECONDARY SCHOOL ON THEIR ENLISTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize nine graduating seniors in my community for their record of academic and athletic accomplishment and their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces.

With graduation season upon us, thousands of young people in my community, and millions across the nation, are preparing for the next chapter in their lives. Some will pursue higher education or vocational training, others will seek to enter the workforce immediately, and many will answer the call to serve their community and their country.

I join with their families and friends in congratulating and commending the following Robinson Secondary School graduates on their enlistment:

United States Marines: Philipp Zinser, Daniel Kellam, Sam Lausier, Ji Jong Lee, Won Gyu Lee and Junsuk Choi

United States Navy: David Maeng

United States Air Force: Jade Vitali and Kevin Haas

At a time of great uncertainty both at home and abroad, these young people have stepped forward to follow in a long line of distinguished Virginians who selflessly volunteered to defend our nation and its ideals. In fact, these graduates hail from a school named for Sgt. James W. Robinson Jr., who was the first Virginian to receive the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and heroism during the Vietnam War. Sgt. Robinson's accomplishments continue to serve as a model for character and leadership not only for the students at the school bearing his name, but also for all those who seek to follow in his footsteps.

The Northern Virginia Chapter of Our Community Salutes will host a ceremony Thursday, June 9, to recognize these young people and their families and to wish them safety and success as they pursue a career in the Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the courage and dedication of these graduates and in assuring them and their families that the full support and resources of the U.S. Congress and the American people will be behind them every step of their journey in defense of our nation's freedom.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REGULATORY BALANCE ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue of great importance to family farmers and agricultural businesses. The regulatory burdens placed on family farmers and the agriculture business hinder job creation, job retention, and innovative breakthroughs in technology and crop production. Family farm-

ers across the country lead the world in the production of a safe, secure food supply and provide a multi-billion dollar economic impact. In order for family farmers and the agriculture community to continue to prosper, the regulatory process must follow common sense and not be unduly burdensome.

That is why I am pleased to introduce the Regulatory Balance Act, which codifies into federal statute the cost benefit analysis required by Executive Order 12866. Simply put, any regulation with a significant economic impact of \$100 million or more proposed by the United States Department of Agriculture, USDA, the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, and the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, must perform a cost-benefit analysis and report the same to Congress before the regulation takes effect. A cost-benefit analysis would determine whether a proposed regulation would have a negative economic impact on our Nation's economy.

As a farmer, I understand the costs associated with many of the regulations placed upon the agriculture community. By guaranteeing a more transparent, efficient regulatory process that works for family farmers instead of against them, the rural areas of my district and this country will thrive. Family farmers and the agriculture community will continue to be the best in the world as long as federal agriculture regulations are evenly balanced between cost and benefit.

Creating a stable regulatory environment, where balance between the cost to family farmers and the agriculture community is balanced with the benefit of the regulation, allows family farms and the agriculture community to invest and grow their business without added costs due to regulations that fly in the face of common sense.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the Regulatory Balance Act and bring stability and balance to the regulatory process.

THE STATE OF TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES H.R. NO. 1955

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

H.R. No. 1955

RESOLUTION

Whereas, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed granting endangered species status to the dunes sagebrush lizard, a measure that would have a significant negative impact on the Lone Star State; and

Whereas, The business climate in Texas has been consistently ranked as the nation's best, and the oil and gas sector is crucial to its continued vitality; Texas is the nation's leading producer of oil and natural gas, and it holds 30 percent of the nation's natural gas reserves and almost a quarter of its oil reserves; the oil and gas industry contributes \$30 billion annually to the Texas economy and employs more than 315,000 Texans at some of the highest salaries in the state; and

Whereas, Despite its resilience, the Texas economy has not been immune to the global economic recession; there have been significant job losses over the past two years, and

recently high gas prices have posed new challenges; the Fish and Wildlife Service failed to take these factors into account in its proposal to grant endangered species status to the dunes sagebrush lizard in southeastern New Mexico and adjacent oil-producing areas of West Texas; and

Whereas, In addition, the service has failed to consider that approximately 75,000 acres identified as habitat for the lizard are owned and managed by The University of Texas for the benefit of higher education; university officials have estimated that the listing could stop the drilling of approximately 1,000 oil and gas wells and eliminate the production of seven million barrels of oil equivalent annually; and

Whereas, The Texas Legislature and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have traditionally recognized the private landowner as the primary steward of our state's natural resources, but the Fish and Wildlife Service has not adequately consulted with the State of Texas, Texas landowners, or other stakeholders; moreover, the service has failed to fully consider issues unique to species protection and habitat conservation in Texas; and

Whereas, Listing the dunes sagebrush lizard as an endangered species would inflict severe economic damage, harm property owners, and undermine higher education in the Lone Star State; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the house of representatives of the 82nd Texas Legislature hereby respectfully urge the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to withdraw its proposal to list the dunes sagebrush lizard under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; and, be it further

Resolved, That the house of representatives direct the agencies of the State of Texas to cooperate with the efforts of the Texas Endangered Species Task Force to investigate the scientific basis of the proposed listing and the potential burdens on private property rights and economic development in the state; and, be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk of the Texas House of Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, the acting director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

JOE STRAUS,
Speaker of the House.

I certify that H.R. No. 1955 was adopted by the House on May 25, 2011, by a non-record vote.

ROBERT HANEY,
Chief Clerk of the House.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM T. NOONAN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a public servant who has dedicated most of his career to making my hometown a better place. William T. Noonan, known to his friends as Bill, has served for the last 21 years as the Administrator of Sumter County, South Carolina. That 21-year tenure has earned him the distinction of being the longest serving Administrator in Sumter County's history.

A native of Silver Spring, Maryland, Bill received his bachelor's degree from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina in 1963 and a master's degree from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, in 1970.

Following a 15-year career in education, serving as a teacher, coach and administrator, Bill joined the management team at Campbell Soup Company, Sumter Plant, as its Human Resources Director in 1978. He held that position until 1985, when he was promoted to Regional Risk Manager, Southern Division (six plants in GA, SC, NC, and MD). Following a 12-year career and the restructuring of Campbell's Poultry Division, he accepted the position of Chief Administrative Officer for Sumter County rather than relocating his family to Campbell's headquarters in Camden, New Jersey.

Bill's involvement in community organizations has included the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Sumter, Clarendon and Lee Counties (Board of Directors/Past President), the Governor's Initiative for Work Force Excellence, Leadership South Carolina, Leadership Sumter, and the South Carolina Executive Leadership Program. He served as a member of the Sumter School District Seventeen Board of Trustees from 1984 to 1990. Throughout his career, Bill has been selected by his peers to numerous positions of distinction and honor. Currently, he serves as Secretary for the Board of Directors for the South Carolina Association of Counties, and is a Trustee of the South Carolina Association of Counties Workers' Compensation and Liability Trust Funds. Bill is a past President of the South Carolina Association of Counties Managers, Administrators, and Supervisors Association.

Bill is married to the former Sandy Andrews of Sumter. Together they have four children and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in applauding the wonderful work of Bill Noonan. He has been a leader in Sumter County for his entire career and is a vital part of this vibrant community. I wish him well in his future endeavors and thank him for his dedication to Sumter County.

CONGRATULATING ARIZONA
STATE UNIVERSITY'S WOMEN'S
SOFTBALL TEAM, WINNER OF
THE NCAA 2011 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Arizona State University's (ASU) women's softball team in winning the NCAA 2011 championship title. The Sun Devils swept the University of Florida Gators on June 7, 2011 in a best-of-three series, winning the final game by a score of 7-2. This accomplishment marks the Sun Devil's second national championship in four seasons, placing them among an elite group of just four teams who have won multiple NCAA titles in softball, with ASU also winning the title in 2008.

The team's success is undoubtedly attributed to the extraordinary leadership of Head

Coach Clint Myers, the hard work and dedication of the players, and the efforts of supporting staff and loyal fans alike. Especially impressive was the stellar performance of freshman Dallas Escobedo and senior Kaylyn Castillo. Their teamwork and close collaboration was integral in leading ASU to victory. Escobedo won her 19th consecutive decision while becoming the first freshman pitcher to be credited with a national championship since 1990. Castillo's strong defensive stance as catcher, her ability to guide and mentor Escobedo, and her impressive .429 average also greatly contributed to the team's championship win.

Additionally notable, in seven seasons of the best-of-three championship series format, no winning team has compiled a larger cumulative margin of victory than ASU's 15 runs, and in this past season alone, the Sun Devils won 23 of 24 games and recorded a perfect 10-game winning streak in the tournament.

I want to congratulate Head Coach Clint Myers, Assistant Coach Chuck D'Arcy, Associate Head Coach Robert Wagner, and all the players on the championship team: Nikole Afusia, Lucy Aubrecht, Hillary Bach, Katelyn Boyd, Kaylyn Castillo, Krista Donnenwirth, Jessica Donovan, Lindsey Edgerton, Dallas Escobedo, Lacy Goodman, Talor Haro, Alix Johnson, Breanna Kaye, Kayla Ketchum, Annie Lockwood, Dani Rae Loughheed, Michelle Nulliner, Sam Parlich, Mackenzie Popescue, Sarah Rice, Lesley Rogers, Mary Spiel, Mandy Urfer, Bailey Wigness, and Christina Zambrana.

In considering all of these achievements, I ask that you join me in recognizing Arizona State University's softball team in winning the NCAA 2011 championship title.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF FLAG DAY AND THE FOUNDING OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heartfelt sense of patriotism that I rise to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Flag Day, as well as the 375th anniversary of Hartford, Connecticut.

The concept of "Flag Day" actually originated in Hartford. Just before the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, Hartford resident George Morris imagined Flag Day as an opportunity to promote the idea of a strong union in the face of a looming conflict. Later that year the Hartford Daily Courant newspaper endorsed Morris' idea, and in 1862 the General Assembly in Hartford made Connecticut the first State to recognize June 14th as Flag Day.

The great city of Hartford was founded 375 years ago by Reverend Thomas Hooker and has played an instrumental role in our Nation's history throughout the years. Whether it was laying the foundation for the United States Constitution or being the home to distinguished citizens such as Mark Twain, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Sam Colt, Hartford's history has forever been interwoven with that of our great country.

Given that the City of Hartford has played such a historic role in shaping the United