

meals. On average, nationwide, we are talking about just 57 dollars per month for nearly 10 million mothers and infants who cannot afford nutritious foods. Almost one-half of the children born in our country rely on WIC. Many of these enter the Medicaid program, and experience has shown that the nutritional benefit to pregnant women results in up to \$4.20 in Medicaid savings for each dollar spent through WIC. Restoring full funding for this program is the smart thing to do for our budget, just as it is the right thing to do for our citizens.

Women and infants are not the only vulnerable population put at greater risk of food insecurity by this bill. The 22 percent cut to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program will prevent at least 130,000 low-income seniors from receiving desperately needed food packages. The 23 percent reduction to the Emergency Food Assistance Program will leave empty shelves at our local food banks, pantries, faith-based organizations, soup kitchens, and shelters. With food prices continuing to rise sharply and Americans continuing to struggle to get ahead in a tough economy, now is not the time to remove the critical safety net provided by these food assistance programs. In addition, food aid for 1.1 million people around the world will be unavailable as a result of the \$476 million cut to the Food for Peace international humanitarian program and the McGovern-Dole program, which provides for the donation of U.S. agriculture goods to school feeding initiatives around the world.

Furthermore, the drastic reduction to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission budget will leave the U.S. economy and consumers in peril. The Commission will not have the resources necessary to prevent the big banks from making the kinds of speculative bets that led to the recent financial crisis. And as gas prices continue to strain household and small business budgets, this bill will do nothing to help the Commission go after excessive speculation in oil markets—even though recent data suggest that nearly 90 percent of those trading in the oil markets are speculators, not legitimate users of oil. These speculators are driving up the price of petroleum and gasoline, and without an effective CFTC with adequate funding, consumers and taxpayers are the losers.

This bill also includes severe funding cuts for the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service and the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, which will undermine food safety in America and weaken efforts to ensure that medical products and new drugs are safe and accessible. It underfunds research programs to improve food production, safety, and quality as well as initiatives designed to advance organic farming and related markets. And it eliminates almost one billion dollars in conservation programs to protect soil and farmland, maintain healthy agriculture in rural America, preserve key resources, and restore wildlife habitat that supports associated recreational and economic opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, the Agriculture Appropriations bill before us today is one more step in the wrong direction for the Nation's budget, our economy, and our people. It leaves vulnerable low-income women, infants, children, and seniors to fend for themselves even though we know that good nutrition improves health and saves money in the long run. It allows Wall Street speculation to continue unchecked, threatening our economy and driving up gas

prices. It says that we should ignore the needs of our faith- and community-based food service organizations as well as those of hungry children and impoverished people around the world. And it leaves us all at greater risk of encountering food-borne illnesses, sets back research programs, and ignores our conservation needs. The American people expect more of their government, and I urge my colleagues to oppose this deeply flawed bill.

HONORING ALISON SCHIEBER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alison Schieber of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Alison is active in the community and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Woman in Volunteerism.

As President of the Allied Arts Council, Alison is also serving on the Missouri Citizens for the Arts Board to advocate for the advancement of the arts through education. A Sustainer of the Junior League of St. Joseph, Alison is also a member of the Community Action Committee and a spokesman for the St. Joseph Public Library Modern Library Campaign.

Alison is lauded for her ability to lead by example, understanding the important role the arts play in childhood development. Her advocacy for the arts led to her work with the Missouri Citizen's for the Arts as a lobbyist, working to remove the sunset clause on the Cultural Entertainment tax.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Alison Schieber. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph Community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for votes on Friday, June 3, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 411.

RIDE TO WORK DAY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the Congressional Motorcycle Safety Caucus I rise to recognize Ride to Work Day.

Each year the third Monday in June is designated as Ride to Work Day and this year, on June 20, more than a million motorcyclists across the Nation will use their motorcycles to commute. In doing so, these riders will make a statement about the utility, fuel economy

and fun of using motorcycles and scooters for transportation.

The Motorcycle Industry Council's most recent information estimates that more than 21.5 million Americans operated a motorcycle in 2009. Many of these riders visited Tennessee, and specifically the 2nd Congressional District, which features some of motorcycle riders' favorite roads in the Country. Two members of my own staff ride motorcycles for both fun and transportation.

As more and more Americans choose scooters and motorcycles as transportation options, or just choose to ride for recreation, it becomes ever more imperative that each of us does all we can to promote motorcycle safety. This means that motorcyclists must ride responsibly, by getting trained and licensed and obeying traffic safety laws. Other road users can do their part by being aware of motorcyclists and sharing the road.

On June 20, I encourage all riders to gear up and ride to work. I also encourage all other road users to take special note of all the riders on the road and remember to always look out for motorcyclists.

HONORING MURIEL REDMOND

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Muriel Redmond of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Muriel is active in the community and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award: Woman in Volunteerism.

After her marriage, Muriel became active in St. Joseph's Hospital Guild, continuing her interest founded while a student nurse. With her dedicated involvement, she accepted leadership positions, including president. Muriel started the Candy Striper program in 1947, being the first instructor.

Muriel's lifelong interest in the medical field included membership in the Medical Auxiliary. She has been an active member in the Flower Society, Girl and Boy Scouting, and P.E.O. She is a member of Y Women and a supporter of the Abuse Shelter.

As a member of St. Joseph's Cathedral Church and the adjoining school, she supported her children's education with two periods as president in the PTA. She remains active in the Quarter of A Century Nurses and at her present residence, the Living Community of St. Joseph; she was a founder of the Needles and Pins group.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Muriel Redmond. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph Community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

MARKING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF AIDS

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 30th anniversary of the first AIDS

diagnosis. On June 5, 1981, the Centers for Disease Control published the first mention of what would later be determined to be HIV. Since that time, the disease has taken a heavy toll on populations both at home and around the world. We remember those who have lost their lives to AIDS and honor those who have dedicated their lives to fighting this terrible disease.

The United States has been a world leader in this fight, and there is reason to be optimistic. The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, has directly supported life-saving antiretroviral treatment for more than 3.2 million men, women and children worldwide. In fiscal year 2010 alone, PEPFAR programs treated more than 600,000 HIV-positive pregnant women allowing more than 114,000 infants to be born HIV-free. In addition, PEPFAR directly supported HIV counseling and testing for nearly 33 million people, providing a critical entry point to prevention, treatment, and care.

In recent years there have been real advances in the treatment and prevention of AIDS. A scientific trial of microbicide gel has shown it to reduce the risk of a woman becoming infected with HIV during sex by almost 40 percent. Another trial has revealed that drugs used to treat HIV may also be effective in preventing infection.

We must do more to ensure that scientific breakthroughs in HIV/AIDS reach the most vulnerable populations. Mother-to-child transmission of HIV has been virtually eliminated in the developed world; however, 1,000 babies are still infected with HIV around the world each day. This is deplorable when we have the tools and medicines to end pediatric AIDS. I commend UNAIDS and PEPFAR for their plan to virtually eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV by 2015.

U.S. contributions to multi-lateral organizations such as UNAIDS and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria are critical to ending the AIDS epidemic. To date, the Global Fund has provided support to treat three million HIV-positive people, and reached 150 million people with HIV counseling and testing.

We have come a long way since that June day 30 years ago. I am proud of the resources this body has dedicated over the years to fighting HIV and AIDS. Along with saving lives, this funding helps to free developing countries from the burden of disease, allowing economic growth and increased stability. I urge my colleagues to continue our commitment to fighting this disease.

A TRIBUTE TO ARCHBISHOP VATCHÉ HOVSEPIAN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor His Eminence Archbishop Vatché Hovsepien upon his 60th anniversary of consecration and ordination into the priesthood.

Archbishop Hovsepien was born in Beirut, Lebanon, where he received his elementary education at the Mesrobian Armenian National School, and later was accepted as a postulate at the Antelias Theological Seminary. Upon

successfully completing his studies, he was ordained Father Vatché Hovsepien, and served in the capacity of assistant dean and instructor of the Seminary.

In 1953, Father Vatché went to England to further his theological studies, and was simultaneously active in the World Council of Churches Youth Movement. After attending the College of the Resurrection near Manchester, he continued his studies at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. During his stay in Edinburgh, Father Vatché was a vibrant member of the Theological Commission. When Father Vatché was assigned to the Pastorate of the Holy Cross Armenian Church of Union City, New Jersey in 1956, he diligently continued to pursue his studies and obtained his Bachelor of Divinity Degree at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary at Rutgers University.

Father Vatché's journey continued to Canada during the influx of Armenian immigrants to the region. In 1967, he was designated as "Bishop of Canada," and he immediately organized a new Diocese. Through the efforts, dynamism, and perseverance of the Bishop, a cathedral with school facilities was purchased in Montreal, Quebec.

In 1971, Archbishop Vatché was elected as the Primate of the Armenian Church of North America Western Diocese. Upon attaining his new role, the Primate arrived at the Diocesan Headquarters, which at the time was a rented house in Los Angeles, California. Immediately, he began searching for a potential site for a cathedral, and a church was soon purchased in Hollywood, California. This church was later transformed into the St. John Armenian Cathedral, where the vast Armenian population living in Hollywood frequented every Sunday.

In 1988, when the disastrous earthquake struck in Armenia, the Archbishop established the Orphan's Fund, through which the Diocese sends aid and medical supplies to the orphans in Armenia regularly. In addition, Archbishop Vatché was instrumental in the founding of the St. Gregory Alfred and Marguerite Hovsepien Armenian School in Pasadena, California, as well as numerous other Armenian Day Schools in the community. Under Archbishop Vatché's leadership and guidance, the Western Diocese purchased a multi-purpose complex in Burbank, California, where the present Diocesan Headquarters stands. Archbishop Vatché has also actively participated in civic issues, and has met with five Presidents of the United States and various religious leaders.

I ask all Members to join me in thanking Archbishop Vatché Hovsepien for his selfless dedication and commitment to the Armenian community and wish him well in all future endeavors.

HONORING MICHELLE MEIERHOFFER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michelle Meierhoffer of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Michelle is active in the community through her work and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Emerging Leader.

Michelle Meierhoffer is a recent addition to the Saint Joseph community, and in her three years here has already garnered awards and appreciation through civic and professional endeavors. Pfizer Pharmaceuticals has recognized her contributions as a Sales Representative with numerous awards, including the company's top honor. She has lent her considerable energy and imagination to the Junior League and the Albrecht Kemper Museum of Art. She embodies her own words to others to "do their best and think outside the box to obtain their goals using new and exciting means."

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Michelle Meierhoffer. She has already made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph Community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

HONORING JOAN BROWN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joan Brown and recognize her contribution to volunteerism and community involvement in Marin County, California. Ms. Brown is retiring as Manager of the Civic Center Volunteers, CCV, program after more than 32 years of fostering citizen participation in local government.

After graduating from Northwestern University, Joan continued a legacy of service begun by her family. Her initial work as an elementary school teacher greatly inspired her career path, and the professional standards she cultivated as a teacher carried over into the environment she created at CCV. A trip to the Soviet Union in 1973 focused her passion for service on participation in local government. Her official guide on the trip insisted that the Berlin Wall was nonexistent, just U.S. propaganda, reminding Joan that citizen involvement is essential for democracy.

The CCV was established in response to Proposition 13, which reduced tax revenue to the counties. Joan was hired temporarily and quickly became a permanent employee in the Personnel Department as she helped to create a place where women, retirees, and recession-impacted professionals could dedicate their skills through volunteerism. Through her leadership, the CCV grew from zero in 1979 to 8,400 in 2010.

Marin County would be a very different place were it not for Joan's success with citizen involvement in each county department, saving the Marin taxpayers millions in the process.

Joan's knack for volunteer management extended beyond the reach of the CCV. She took on the challenge of co-founding the National Association of Volunteer Programs in Local Government which included both national and international training. With Community Mental Health, she engineered volunteer development in her successful 10-year Job Coach program. And she also promoted employee effectiveness by creating a newsletter for employees by employees and establishing an employee recognition event.

For her accomplishments both within Marin County and beyond, she earned the First Acts