

Bob began his formal career at American University in Cairo, Egypt, after graduating from Central Michigan University. Three years later, he returned home and settled his career in the fast-growing Utica Community School (UCS) district. Much of his career at Utica was spent as the venerated, respected, and highly successful debate and communications coach at Henry Ford II High School. He coached numerous teams and individuals to debate and forensics state championships and was inducted into the Michigan Speech Coaches Hall of Fame in 1983. His debate colleagues knew him as a fierce competitor and a voracious researcher with a nearly photographic memory. But above all, he was ethical, principled and always put first the education and care of the young people in his charge.

In 1984, Bob and his wife, Dr. Donna McMinn, embarked on a new chapter in their lives by moving to Japan where Bob became an English and communications instructor.

Inspired by the experience and potential to enrich the lives of young people back home, they returned to Michigan and Bob established the pioneering East Asian Institute at UCS. For nearly 10 years, countless students from Michigan and Japan spent time in one another's homes and schools as exchange students, building cultural bridges and relationships that endure today.

In 1994, the broader educational community took note of Bob's exceptional dedication and innovative work. He was honored as a Michigan Teacher of the Year by the state, Macomb County Teacher of the Year by WDIV-Newsweek and Teacher of the Year by the Michigan Council for Social Studies.

For the next 15 years, Bob served as a UCS administrator in a variety of roles and shaped curricula for all Utica Schools' students. Among the most innovative programs he spearheaded was the Utica Academy for International Studies, an IB Diploma Programme, and the Utica Center for Science and Industry. Additionally, Bob was the initial project director of a Department of Defense grant to establish a Chinese immersion program for UCS students starting in kindergarten. Thanks to Bob's vision, dedication and tireless advocacy, the Utica Schools remain on the cutting edge of cultural exchange and language programs in the State of Michigan. This "renaissance man" of education will truly be missed by his many colleagues and admirers in UCS and beyond.

Throughout his rich and varied career, Bob has helped shape the development and lives of thousands of young people whose own careers have taken them across the globe. At his retirement party tomorrow evening, many of his former students and debaters will gather from around the country to express their appreciation for his inimitable guidance and friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me as I salute Robert Van Camp, a shining example of the most dedicated of teachers, mentors and visionaries for education in Michigan, and indeed, around the globe. Although Bob will undoubtedly enjoy his retirement with Donna and their menagerie of animals on Stonecroft Farm, I hope in the next chapter of his life, he continues his work of building bridges to other cultures and countries and enriching the lives of young people everywhere.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2112) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. KIND. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012. This bill cuts the Woman, Infant, and Children (WIC) Program by more than \$650 million. With the country in the midst of a fragile recovery, my Republican colleagues have decided to prevent up to 350,000 women and children from receiving benefits from this highly successful program. In Wisconsin alone, up to 4,800 women and children would not be able to enroll. For years, WIC has provided mothers and children with healthy foods, counseling on breast feeding, nutrition guidance, and health care referrals. At a time of economic uncertainty, particularly for lower and middle income individuals, these cuts don't make sense. These cuts are especially alarming because they break a 15 year commitment by members of both parties to allow anyone that qualifies to receive WIC benefits.

Not only would the majority cut funding for WIC, they would also seek to underfund programs tailored to provide American children with nutrition education and more nutritious school lunches. Currently, one in three American children is considered overweight or obese. The number of children who are considered severely obese has more than tripled over a 25 year period. Providing America's children with healthy alternatives like fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and school lunches is a small price to pay to help alleviate this epidemic. In fact, it will provide more long term deficit reduction and put us on a better fiscal path than anything the majority has proposed. The long term medical, financial, and societal costs posed by childhood obesity are a far greater threat to our fiscal stability than healthy foods in schools.

Instead of putting deficit reduction on the backs of the country's most vulnerable citizens, I believe we should target true waste and fraud. For this appropriations bill, the country's outdated agriculture subsidy program is a good place to start.

DEMOCRACY RESTORATION ACT OF 2011

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Democracy Restoration Act of

2011. This legislation will serve to clarify and expand voting rights, as well as assist former felons with their reintegration into our democracy.

The Sentencing Project reports that, since 1997, 19 states have amended felony disenfranchisement policies in an effort to reduce their restrictiveness and expand voter eligibility. These reforms have resulted in more than 760,000 citizens regaining their voting rights. Yet, despite these reforms, an estimated 5 million people continue to be ineligible to vote in Federal elections, including nearly 4 million who reside in the 35 states that still prohibit some combination of persons on probation, parole, and/or people who have completed their sentence from voting.

I believe that there are three grave discrepancies in State laws regarding felony convictions that lead to unfairness in Federal elections. First, there is no uniform standard for voting in Federal elections, which leads to an egregious disparity and unequal participation in Federal elections based solely on where a person lives. Second, laws governing the restoration of voting rights after a felony conviction are unequal throughout the country and persons in some States can easily regain their voting rights while in other States persons effectively lose their right to vote permanently. Third, State disenfranchisement laws disproportionately impact ethnic minorities, thus adversely infringing upon citizens of these communities constitutional right to vote.

These concerns about ex-offender disenfranchisement are not rhetorical. In the past two election cycles, flawed voter purges have deprived thousands of legitimate voters of their rights. For example, an erroneous interpretation of state law by the Ohio Secretary of State deprived thousands of ex-felons in that state of even the right to register. Only Federal law can conclusively resolve the ambiguities in this area plaguing our voting system.

Like the States, Congress has recognized the need to address the barriers to full citizenship faced by ex-offenders. This voting legislation is the next step in restoring the ex-felon community to full citizenship. Denying voting rights to ex-offenders robs them of the opportunity to fully participate and contribute to their society. Disenfranchisement laws isolate and alienate ex-offenders, and have been shown to serve as one more obstacle in their attempt to successfully reintegrate into society. Moreover, these obstacles adversely impact the voting participation of their families, further undermining the effectiveness of our voting system.

This legislation is a narrowly crafted effort to expand voting rights for ex-felons, while protecting State prerogatives to generally establish voting qualifications. This legislation would only apply to persons who have been released from prison, and it would only apply to federal elections. Consequently, the bill is fully consistent with constitutional requirements established by the Supreme Court in a series of decisions upholding Federal voting rights laws.

In past Congresses, voting restoration legislation has been supported by a broad coalition of groups interested in voting and civil rights, including the NAACP, ACLU, the National Council of Churches (National and Washington Office), the National Urban League, the Human Rights Watch and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, among many others.

The practice of many states denying voting rights to former felons represents a vestige

from a time when suffrage was denied to whole classes of our population based on race, gender, religion, national origin, and property. Ex-felons who have been lawfully released from prisons have paid their debts to society. To continue denying them the ability to reclaim rights as citizens resurrects historic unenlightened practices of our society. Ultimately, I believe that we fail not only ex-offenders by denying them the right to vote, but the rest of a society that has struggled throughout its history to be legitimate and inclusive. Just like poll taxes and literacy tests, it is long past time that these restrictions be relegated to unenlightened history.

CONGRATULATING BRIGADIER
GENERAL RICHARD A. HERSACK
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brigadier General Richard A. Hersack for his outstanding service to our Nation on the occasion of his retirement.

On behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, I am honored to congratulate Brigadier General Hersack upon his retirement as Command Surgeon of the Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

His 28 years of dedicated service to the citizens of our Nation and our community is both admirable and commendable. Hersack received his commission in 1983 upon his graduation from the St. Louis University School of Medicine. As Command Surgeon, he was the principal medical adviser to the AFMC Commander, promoting the health and well-being of 84,000 military and civilian personnel. He is responsible for the medical policy implementation and treatment execution at eight medical treatment facilities and the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, totaling more than 435,000 beneficiaries. Additionally, he oversees operational medicine research, development, education and training programs conducted at the Air Force Research Laboratory's 711th Human Performance Wing.

Over the course of his distinguished career, he served at Wilford Hall Medical Center as the Arthur B. Tarrow Chairman, Department of Anesthesia. General Hersack was one of the original developers of the Mobile Field Surgical Team and the Critical Care Transport Team. He deployed in response to the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, and operations Joint Endeavor and Assured Response.

General Hersack also commanded the 51st Medical Group, 51st Fighter Wing at Osan Air Base in South Korea. Prior to his most recent assignment, he served as Chief of the Medical Readiness Policy and Operations for the Air Force Surgeon General, overseeing all Air Force Medical operations and deployments worldwide. General Hersack is also a Chief Flight Surgeon with more than 900 flying hours, and 25 combat missions in the C-130 aircraft.

For his many years of service to our Nation, I join the people of Ohio's Seventh Congress-

sional District in extending our best wishes upon his retirement and ongoing success in all future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on June 15, 2011, I inadvertently missed rollcall No. 424 and 425 and would have voted "no" on both rollcall votes.

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY
STUDENTS—CONNER WILLCOX

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of young men and women who have been chosen as future leaders in our armed forces by the prestigious United States service academies. It is a privilege to send such a fine group from the third district of Texas to pursue a world-class education and serve our Nation.

As we keep them and their families in our prayers, may we never forget the sacrifices they are preparing to make while defending our freedoms all across the globe. I am so proud of each one. God bless them and God bless America.

Today I salute Conner Willcox, a United States Merchant Marine Academy appointee. Conner is a graduate from McKinney Boyd High School where he played football as a starting inside linebacker, lacrosse where he served as captain his senior year, and also participated in wrestling. Conner was actively involved in the National Honor Society, Peer Assistance and Leadership, Saint Gabriel Church Youth Group and as a lifeguard. Conner wants to attend an academy because of the structure and tradition of excellence offered. It is his dream to be a leader in the military in order to protect the country and preserve the liberties we all enjoy. Conner comes from a military family as his grandfather flew 136 missions in Southeast Asia including more than 100 over North Vietnam and his brother is a Cadet First Class at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
DEREK M. HODGE VIRGIN IS-
LANDS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF
2011

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Derek M. Hodge U.S. Virgin Islands Public-Private Investment Act. This legislation would create an innovative pilot program to leverage private pension assets to raise approximately \$250 million a year

dedicated to the infrastructure of the U.S. Virgin Islands, while simultaneously raising an additional \$500 million a year for the U.S. Treasury.

In short, the bill would allow taxpayers a onetime transfer of existing IRA, 401k, and other tax deferred investments—up to a total limit of \$50 billion—into a special fund with no tax or penalties at the time of the initial transfer. The transferred funds would receive "Roth" like treatment at retirement if taxes are paid as follows:

For the first ten years, a 1.5 percent tax would be collected by the U.S. Treasury and divided 1.0 percent to the U.S. Treasury and 0.5 percent to the Virgin Islands.

During the second ten years, a 1.0 percent tax would be divided equally between the U.S. Treasury and the Virgin Islands.

After twenty years, a 1 percent tax would be continually collected only for the benefit of the U.S. Treasury.

The tax funds allocated to the Virgin Islands would be deposited in an escrow account. The Department of Interior would approve the release of the escrowed funds to pay for projects set out under an approved reconstruction plan.

Under my bill, the Virgin Islands would receive a twenty-year dedicated source of revenue that would enable it to build a modern infrastructure to move the islands toward self-sufficiency and reduce unemployment.

Mr. Speaker, the Virgin Islands has neither the tax base nor will it receive sufficient federal assistance to make the necessary investments in basic infrastructure like water, sewer, storm-water, roads, telecommunications, and electric grid. The current infrastructure is not "hardened" against frequent tropic storms, and therefore must be repaired often—further exacerbating the unwillingness of the private sector to invest in basic industries on the islands. These investments would substantially mitigate the federal government's cost for rebuilding after tropical storms and are essential to job creation and providing basic services to the citizens of the Virgin Islands.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation I introduce today is named in honor of former Virgin Islands Lieutenant Governor and former President of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, Derek M. Hodge, who recently passed away. Derek was the driving force behind this bill and he dedicated the last several years of his towards its passage because of what it would mean for his beloved Virgin Islands. There would not be a more fitting tribute to his life's work than the enactment of this bill into law.

In these days of budget cuts and growing unwillingness to fund for essential infrastructure, my bill will ensure the necessary investment in the Virgin Islands through a wholly voluntary funding source—a win for the citizens of the U.S. Virgin Islands and the American taxpayers.

COMMEMORATION OF
LYMPHEDEMA AWARENESS DAY

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today I hope to raise awareness of lymphedema, a