

so many in our area are praying for you more than they have ever prayed for themselves. I am well aware that my words will not soften your overwhelming grief, but in the words of President Lincoln, "May God give you that consolation which is beyond all earthly power."

On behalf of the First District of Michigan, I would like to express my profound sadness for the loss of such a noble young man as Robert Voakes. Northern Michigan has certainly lost one of its finest, and his memory and service will not be forgotten.

HONORING THE LIVES OF JOSH BURCH AND BRETT FULTON—
FLORIDA DIVISION OF FORESTRY FIREFIGHTERS

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to two Florida Division of Forestry firefighters who perished in the line of duty on June 20 while fighting the Blue Ribbon Wildfire in Hamilton County, Florida.

On Monday, June 20, Josh Burch, 31, of Lake City, Florida, and Brett Fulton, 52, of White Springs, Florida, paid the ultimate price for our safety, giving up their lives for our protection. Our hearts and prayers go out to their families and loved ones as we remember the invaluable work that they and their fellow firefighters perform each and every day.

The Blue Ribbon fire has burned across hundreds of thousands of acres in Northeast Florida and taken the lives of two courageous and dedicated firefighters and family men. Let us honor Josh and Brett and never forget their sacrifice to Florida and the nation.

KENNETH RILEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kenneth Riley, a Staff Sergeant in the Army retiring following more than 30 years of military service. He joined the Army in 1976 through the delayed entry program, and after high-school graduation in June 1977 he was called to active duty. After finishing basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, he was deployed to Karlsruhe, Germany until October of 1979.

Upon returning Mr. Riley was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. After serving 6 years of active duty, he was discharged in June of 1980 at which time he entered the Army Reserves. Mr. Riley served in Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2003–2004, 2005–2006, and 2009–2010, eventually retiring in November of 2010.

Mr. Riley has been married to Mrs. Helen Riley for 32 years. They have two children, Tabitha Brown and Tanya Riley. Mr. Riley has 6 grandchildren with another on the way.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Kenneth Riley, a true patriot that has dedicated a major portion of his life to

serve his nation. It is truly an honor to serve Mr. Riley in the United States Congress.

CONGRATULATING MATTHEW
TIMMER FOR OBTAINING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Matthew Timmer for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Matthew has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

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:

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2112, the Fiscal Year 2012 Agriculture-FDA Appropriations bill. This legislation continues the Republican majority's destructive pattern of underfunding community needs and undermining the country's fragile economic recovery.

Total funding in H.R. 2112 is \$3 billion less than last year's funding level for Agriculture appropriations. As a result, there are far fewer resources to meet the growing needs of the American people. This legislation cuts critical nutrition programs for vulnerable women, children and elderly. It puts every family at greater risk of food-borne illness by slashing funding for food safety. And it gives Wall Street speculators more freedom to inflate gas prices by cutting funding to police oil speculation.

The House Republican majority is forcing these dangerous cuts on our communities and arguing that sacrifice is needed to reduce federal deficits. Unfortunately, these are disingenuous arguments that hide the Republican's true budget priorities. While making drastic cuts to successful community programs in this and other appropriations bills, the Republican majority is protecting hundreds of billions of dollars in tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans in their 2012 budget, including nearly \$4 billion in special tax subsidies for the largest

oil companies. Republicans have failed to justify their choice to spend precious federal resources on tax giveaways for Americans who have the most while handing deep cuts to those who have the least.

The following provisions of H.R. 2112 are the most troubling:

Women, Infants and Children, WIC: Though House Democrats were able to restore \$147 million in funding, the WIC program will still be slashed by over \$500 million from last year's level. Over 9 million women and young children benefit from this vital program that offers nutrition and health care assistance to some of our most vulnerable populations. H.R. 2112 will deny over 350,000 low-income women and infants access to the program.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program, Emergency Food Assistance Program, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: House Republicans chose to cut by over \$100 million these vital safety net programs that keep millions of Americans from going hungry at night. H.R. 2112 also cuts \$2 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the food stamp program) reserve fund. This funding is set aside in the event that participation is greater than expected.

Food banks, emergency shelters, Americans who rely on food stamps, and seniors living at or below the poverty level will suffer from these cuts. With American families struggling to find jobs in this slow economic recovery, Congress should be strengthening the nutrition safety net, not weakening it. Minnesota has seen a 19 percent increase in food stamp usage over the past year while our food banks are under enormous strain to deal with the surging demand for their services.

Food and Drug Administration, FDA: Recent deadly E. coli outbreaks across Europe are only the latest evidence of why it is reckless for House Republicans to underfund the President's request for the FDA by 21 percent. Congress passed landmark food safety reforms last year to protect public health. Yet, without adequate resources to implement these new protections, Americans will be exposed to unnecessary risks every time they visit the grocery store.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission, CFTC: Wall Street speculators are contributing to skyrocketing gas prices by inflating the price of oil. As families in Minnesota and across the country struggle to pay these costs, House Republicans are choosing to cut the federal entity charged with policing speculation. In H.R. 2112, the CFTC receives 44 percent less funding than requested by President Obama.

International Food Aid: The United States has a critical national security interest in helping to alleviate hunger in around the world, particularly in places such as Afghanistan and Pakistan. House Republicans cut the budget for the P.L. 480 Title II program that provides emergency food aid assistance by 38 percent. The successful McGovern-Dole International Food for Education program is also cut by 10 percent.

Stopping Clean Water Act Enforcement: House Republicans inserted a legislative provision in H.R. 2112 to stop the Army Corps of Engineers from meeting its legal responsibilities under the Clean Water Act to protect our Nation's wetlands and tributaries.

Conservation Programs: Rural conservation programs received an unprecedented \$1 billion cut from mandatory spending levels in H.R. 2112. This decision is deeply unfortunate, considering conservation programs such as the Conservation Stewardship Program and the Wetlands Reserve Program have benefited farmers while improving water quality and wildlife habitat.

H.R. 2112 does reflect a bipartisan agreement to continue the ban on horse slaughter inspection. The bill also stops funding for USDA's Livestock Protection Program that has been found to use lethal methods to address wildlife conflict. Taxpayer money can be better spent on predator control methods that do not involve the use of toxic poisons, steel-jawed traps and aerial gunning.

Overall, H.R. 2112 is a deeply flawed bill. If enacted into law, it will inflict great and unnecessary pain on America's urban and rural communities with no significant or lasting reduction in the federal deficit.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this bill.

SUDAN: HANGING IN THE BALANCE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a great sense of urgency to call attention to the unfolding nightmare taking place in Sudan right at this very moment.

I submit for the RECORD an article today from the New York Times describing the heinous actions taken by the Sudanese Army against their own people. The article quotes an American official as saying that without mediation, "you're going to have massive destruction and death in central Sudan, and no one seems able to do anything about it."

Indeed, no one seems to be doing anything about it.

Have we forgotten the tragic history of Rwanda? Of Darfur? Are the Nuba people destined to the same grim fate? Have we learned nothing from these previous mass annihilations of people?

The New York Times reports that, "United Nations officials in Southern Kordofan, the state that includes the Nuba Mountains, estimate that dozens have been killed in aerial bombings in the past two weeks and maybe dozens more in extrajudicial killings. Nuban officials put the civilian death toll in the hundreds."

The story continues, "Sudanese soldiers are planting land mines in several towns, United Nations officials said, and possibly digging mass graves. Many people in the mountains are Christian, and church officials say Christians have been attacked and churches burned."

The Times piece echoes reports I heard last week from a young man who was a former intern in my congressional office. He has been living and working in Sudan for the past two years and is in continuous touch with people on the ground in Sudan, including in areas that have been virtually cut off from the outside world.

In the face of this tragedy, the administration is AWOL. The press is hardly covering the story. Congress is barely engaged.

What more will it take?

Time is running short and the situation is grim. The world must not continue to turn a blind eye to slaughter.

[From the New York Times, June 20, 2011]

AS SECESSION NEARS, SUDAN STEPS UP DRIVE
TO STOP REBELS

(By Jeffrey Gettleman)

NAIROBI, KENYA.—The Sudanese Army and its allied militias have gone on an unsparing rampage to crush rebel fighters in the Nuba Mountains of central Sudan, bombing thatched-roofed villages, executing elders, burning churches and pitching another region of the country into crisis, according to United Nations officials and villagers who have escaped.

"The market was burning," said Salah Kaka, a mother of four who trekked for days with thousands of others to a mushrooming refugee camp after her husband disappeared during an air raid. "I dug ditches in the ground and hid the children."

Tens of thousands of rebel fighters have refused the government's threat to disarm, digging into the craggy hillsides. They are demanding political reform and autonomy, a familiar refrain in Sudan's marginalized hinterlands that has set off insurgencies in Darfur in the west, as well as eastern and southern Sudan.

"This is going to spread like wildfire," said an American official who was not authorized to speak publicly. Without mediation, "you're going to have massive destruction and death in central Sudan, and no one seems able to do anything about it."

The Sudanese Army has sealed off the area and threatened to shoot down United Nations helicopters. Sudan's forces detained four United Nations peacekeepers and subjected them to "a mock firing squad," the organization said Monday, calling the intimidation part of a strategy to make it nearly impossible for aid agencies and monitors to work in the region.

It seems that the Sudanese government, facing upheaval on several fronts, especially with the southern third of the country preparing to declare independence next month, is determined to suppress the rebels and prevent them from encouraging other restive areas to rise up.

Even after the southerners secede, countless fault lines remain in northern Sudan. Non-Arab people in the Nuba Mountains, Darfur, Blue Nile State, Kasala—and all the way down the Nile to Egypt—have long been chafing against an increasingly isolated government dominated by a small group of Arabs and led by President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, a war crimes suspect indicted by the International Criminal Court.

"Bashir is facing enormous pressure," said E. J. Hogendoorn, a program director at the International Crisis Group. "There are a number of areas that could rebel again," he said, and the offensive in the Nuba Mountains "may actually exacerbate resentment and inadvertently unite armed opposition movements."

United Nations officials in Southern Kordofan, the state that includes the Nuba Mountains, estimate that dozens have been killed in aerial bombings in the past two weeks and maybe dozens more in extrajudicial killings. Nuban officials put the civilian death toll in the hundreds.

Sudanese soldiers are planting land mines in several towns, United Nations officials said, and possibly digging mass graves. Many people in the mountains are Christian, and church officials say Christians have been attacked and churches burned.

"So many people have been made to leave their homes," said Ali Shamilla, liaison offi-

cer for the Nuba Relief, Rehabilitation and Development Organization. "Many are living in caves."

Witnesses said government soldiers were shooting "the black people," a reference to Nubans, who are often darker skinned than the Arab-dominated military. Human rights groups worry that this could begin a new round of ethnic cleansing, given the wholesale destruction of communities that has been part of how war is fought in Sudan.

Hundreds of thousands died in Darfur after the government razed villages and armed militias to throttle rebels there, leading to genocide charges against Mr. Bashir. Millions died in the decades of civil war between north and south, under many of the same tactics.

The same thing happened in Nuba. In the mid-1980s, southern rebels opened bases in the Nuba Mountains. Residents who had long felt discriminated against by the Arab rulers of Sudan joined the southerners in droves.

The rulers responded by arming Arab militias—just as it would in Darfur—and setting them loose on impoverished villagers. Tens of thousands of civilians were killed and villagers were incarcerated in "peace camps," forced to convert to Islam. Entire villages were wiped out.

"Nuba were often just shot on sight by Khartoum forces, no questions asked," said Roger P. Winter, a former State Department official, who testified Thursday during a Congressional hearing on Sudan's future. "Today, again, Nuba are positioned for liquidation by Khartoum forces."

This may sound hyperbolic. But as Julie Flint, an author who first visited the Nuba area in 1992, argued, some of the same men responsible for earlier atrocities in Nuba are in charge once again, including Ahmed Haroun, the Southern Kordofan governor, indicted by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity connected to Darfur.

"A new war in Nuba threatens to be a replay of Darfur," Ms. Flint said.

The Sudanese government does not deny bombing Nuban villages, arguing that the Nuba militia were supposed to disarm but did not. One Sudanese official said the war could go on "for some years." Nuban militia leaders have vowed to fight until there is "regime change" in Khartoum or autonomy for Nuba.

Under the accords that set in motion the south's secession, Nubans were supposed to hold "popular consultations" to determine their future, but that has not happened. Now that the south is on the verge of realizing its hard-fought goal— independence many Nubans feel their demands have been deferred.

In the north, oil had helped buy friends and woo enemies, but huge economic uncertainties loom. The south has most of the oil, and in any deal before the south splits off, the north will almost certainly get less than it used to.

Already, riots have broken out in central Sudan's Arab heartland, as Mr. Bashir has warned of austerity measures. Many analysts say the recent military activity along the north-south border, including the north's seizure of the disputed Abyei area and its push in the Nuba Mountains, is part of a hard-knuckled negotiation to secure more oil revenue.

Southern Sudan's leaders are reluctant to go to war over Nuba, but the southern-allied militiamen in Nuba are part of the overall southern military command, so the south could be dragged into the conflict.

During a recent meeting, the top Nuban militia commander, Abdel Aziz al-Hilu, said that before any cease-fire he would have to inform "Chairman Salva," meaning southern