

the York River home, like great blue herons, bald eagles and ospreys.

The York River is also a classroom for young environmentalists—a place where students actively learn about the values and ecology of the river habitat through forward-looking environmental curricula developed by the public schools. In addition to its value as a natural setting for young and old learners alike, the river also serves as a recreational center. The waterways of the York River provide fishing grounds for residents and visitors who fish for striped bass and flounder, and the river is increasingly used for sailing, canoeing, and kayaking.

But, the York River is more than a beautiful place with abundant natural resources. It is also a place where people are making their living. Small fishing operations carry on trades that have been practiced on the river for hundreds of years. Sections of the York River are nationally recognized historic working waterfronts, and continue to provide access to the river for water-dependent businesses. Through preservation of historic waterfront access points such as Sewall's Bridge, the York River community has made it possible for local lobstermen to continue to engage in a trade that has shaped and continues to define the spirit of Maine. And, the York River watershed is a place where farmers carry on Maine tradition, growing pumpkins, potatoes and other produce that keep Maine communities healthy. These farmers face the same development pressures that waterfront businesses do, and the York River community has made it possible for farms like Highland Farm to keep providing sustainable local food sources.

Visitors come to the York River to enjoy its unique recreational, scenic, and historic values, and the York River community welcomes them and recognizes that preserving and maintaining this vibrant landscape is of critical economic importance. The York River community's investments in conservation have been substantial and have resulted in the preservation of natural and historical aspects of the river that draw visitors from throughout Maine and throughout the nation. This study bill will be a vital means of continuing to support these important efforts so that the York River can remain a community resource for future generations.

COMMEMORATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the National Library of Medicine. What began in 1836 as a small collection of medical books on a shelf in the library of the U.S. Army Surgeon General is now the world's largest biomedical library. The National Library of Medicine, part of the National Institutes of Health, is located in Bethesda, Maryland.

Today, the National Library of Medicine is much more than a collection of books. The National Library of Medicine is dedicated to the innovative use of communications and medical information to enhance public access

and understanding of human health as well as to provide valuable information resources for medical research. Whether it is serving to facilitate advances in medical technology, empowering the public to play an active role in managing health and health care, developing groundbreaking electronic health records, or responding to national emergencies with disaster management research, the National Library of Medicine is the world's most trusted resource for health information and innovation.

This historic anniversary is an opportunity to recognize the valuable contributions the National Library of Medicine has made to scientific discovery, health care delivery, and public health response. It is with great honor that I congratulate the National Library of Medicine on 175 years of excellence in medical and health information and look forward to seeing the positive effects its continuing innovation will have in the future.

HONORING NINOSKA PEREZ CASTELLON

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work and accomplishments of a distinguished radio journalist, artist and community activist of South Florida, Ninoska Perez Castellon.

Ninoska Perez Castellon is a prominent figure among the exiled Cuban community and deserves our utmost respect for always promoting democracy and freedom. Ninoska was born in Havana, Cuba. At the age of nine, her family was forced to flee from communist Cuba, leaving Ninoska to begin a new life in the United States. Ninoska's family began to transition to their new life by adapting to the American culture and language; nevertheless, their roots were never forgotten.

Being raised and educated in Miami allowed her to be close to her family who ingrained values and morals into Ninoska that hold true today. Her mother, Mrs. Rogelia Castellon has not only been a loving mother but has also been a fountain of knowledge and wisdom for her daughter. Rogelia is an intellectual and indefatigable fighter for the liberty of Cuba. Despite the tribulations she has endured, Rogelia refuses to be discouraged.

Learning perseverance from her mother, Ninoska completed her studies at Miami-Dade College and the University of Miami. At a very young age, Ninoska began her role as an active leader against the tyranny of Castro's communism. She has not only advocated for Cuba's liberty on American soil but her message has reached many hearts and ears around the world. Her voice has broken many barriers of an enslaved country living under the most prolonged and cruelest dictatorship in the continent.

Ninoska and her husband, Roberto Martin Perez, tirelessly condemn each crime committed by the Castro regime. Roberto is an exemplary individual who experienced firsthand the horrors of Cuban prisons with courage and dignity for 28 long years.

Ninoska's profound knowledge and expertise led her to testify before the U.S. Congress as an expert witness on Cuban issues. As a

founder of various Cuban-American organizations, Ninoska has gained the respect of numerous exiled communities residing in South Florida.

Ninoska symbolizes the American dream and is testament to what can be accomplished through hard work and dedication. For over 25 years, she has developed professionalism in her work as a journalist and is now one of the most recognized personalities in radio, television and print media. She currently produces and directs the program Ninoska Mambi on the emblematic Spanish radio station Radio Mambi. In addition to her continued journalistic success, Ninoska is also a talented artist. Her artwork portrays her undying love of Cuba and has been displayed in many galleries.

As a lover of freedom and democracy, Ninoska defends the United States with the same dedication and passion as she does for Cuba. Ninoska, having immense passion, has never ceased to denounce the crimes and abuses of totalitarian regimes. Her ideas and knowledge will be everlasting in the books she has written.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing my dear friend, Mrs. Perez Castellon for her morals and principles, her loyalty and love of Cuba, as well as her talent and dedication to our community of South Florida. My most sincere appreciation and admiration goes out to you, Ninoska Perez Castellon, you are a special person who has dedicated a life both, personally and professionally, fighting for democratic principles and the liberty of Cuba.

JOBS AND ENERGY PERMITTING ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2021) to amend the Clean Air Act regarding air pollution from Outer Continental Shelf activity:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the Capps amendment to H.R. 2021.

I thank my colleague, the gentlelady from California for bringing this amendment to the floor.

The Capps amendment corrects a glaring flaw in this legislation by maintaining the rights of states who have already been delegated authority to continue to regulate and monitor air pollution from offshore oil and gas operations that will ultimately affect their residents.

H.R. 2021 seeks to degrade state permitting powers by cutting time frames, restricting citizen engagement, and shifting responsibilities back to the Environmental Protection Agency.

I find it interesting that some of my colleagues who campaign on small government have decided to fight regulation by stripping authority from local agencies and handing it over to a federal bureaucracy!

Under the Clean Air Act, states have the right to issue permits and regulate emissions according to their own criteria, which either meet or exceed national standards.

States and localities should take the lead in regulating pollution because they are most responsive to the concerns of their citizens and

familiar with the dynamics at work on the ground.

In my home state of California, cities such as Los Angeles, where my 37th Congressional District is located, have struggled with air pollution for decades.

Thanks to the efforts of state regulatory agencies, such as the California Air Resources Board, the region has seen a marked improvement in air quality and other environmental indicators. The number of air quality alerts has fallen from over 200 per year in the 1970s to less than 10 per year today.

For 17 years, the Air Resources Board has regulated and monitored oil and gas operations near my district. The standards they employ were developed over nearly 5 decades of experience, and, most importantly, they remain directly accountable to the people and communities of California.

Mr. Chair, I believe that if a state invests time and money towards establishing high standards and creating innovative solutions to a problem, they ought to enjoy the full support of the law.

I urge my colleagues to support the Capps amendment.

HONORING U.S. MERCHANT MARINE

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the tremendous work accomplished by the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II.

Those who served on ships in the Merchant Marine risked their lives and welfare during World War II to protect our country. Like our other service members, the Merchant Marine members served in both theaters of war. They faced enemy fire, floating mines and other dangerous conditions. Unfortunately the risks faced by these brave men have often been forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents, Jacena Brahm, wrote me a letter to tell me about her husband, Vernon Lee Brahm, who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine. I'm proud to recognize Mr. Brahm and all the brave men who served in the Merchant Marine during World War II. These men committed their lives to America's cause by leaving their families and their homes and putting themselves in harm's way to help win the war. I commend these brave souls for all that they did to ensure our freedom. The Merchant Marine helped lead us to victory.

The sacrifices of our veterans have been appreciated throughout the history of our nation, and that demonstration of respect should not be denied to those in Merchant Marine who also defended our nations' interests in World War II.

HONORING JEANETTE SUTHERLIN

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Jeanette Sutherlin on

her retirement from the University of California Cooperative Extension; and to thank her for her dedicated, lifelong spirit of community service.

Since joining the University of California Cooperative Extension in 1973, Jeanette has been a leading advocate for nutrition and agricultural education, working tirelessly to implement nutrition education and youth development programs throughout Fresno County.

Jeanette began her career at the University of California Cooperative Extension in Fresno County as the 4-H Advisor. She later took over the role of Nutrition, Family and Consumer Sciences Advisor where she focused on providing nutrition education and access to healthy nutrition for low-income families in Fresno County. In addition, she successfully secured more than a half-million dollars in grants each year to fund multiple projects related to nutrition and agricultural education.

Jeanette's hard work in the Fresno County agriculture industry is deeply valued by those who have worked with her. One of Jeanette's main focuses was strengthening a nearly decade long relationship between the University of California Cooperative Extension and the Fresno County Farm Bureau. President Brian Pacheco commemorated Jeanette's contributions to the Fresno County Farm Bureau, stating, "Jeanette's expertise in nutrition education, youth development and administration has been an asset to the Fresno County Farm Bureau, and her services will not be soon forgotten."

Beyond her work at the University of California Cooperative Extension and Fresno County Farm Bureau, Jeanette has volunteered much of her time to philanthropic endeavors. She currently serves as Chairperson of the Board for the Trauma Intervention Program, providing emotional aid and practical support to victims of traumatic events and their families in the hours following a tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Jeanette Sutherlin on her retirement and wishing her the best of luck and health in her future endeavors.

SUPPORT OF A NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, the year 2014 marks the centennial of World War I, often referred to as the "Great War;"

Whereas, the National Mall is home to memorials for America's major 20th century conflicts—the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, with the exception of a World War I Memorial;

Whereas, the District of Columbia War Memorial, managed by the National Park Service, was dedicated to the more than 26,000 District of Columbia residents who, without a vote in Congress, served bravely in World War I, including 499 who were killed;

Whereas, a memorial dedicated to all Americans who served in World War I should be located in our nation's capital, in a well-traveled

area commensurate with the importance of World War I in the nation's history;

Whereas, members of Congress and other Americans desire to establish a commission to ensure a suitable observance of the World War I centennial;

Whereas, the National Park Service, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, and the American Battle Monuments Commission have specifically determined that either adding a new National World War I Memorial in the vicinity of the District of Columbia War Memorial or re-designating the District of Columbia Memorial as a National World War I Memorial would violate the Commemorative Works Act: Be it therefore

Resolved that, the District of Columbia War Memorial should remain a memorial dedicated solely to the D.C. residents who served in World War I; and, be it therefore

Resolved that, a proper location for a memorial dedicated to all Americans who served in World War I shall be determined; and, be it therefore

Resolved that, Congress should authorize a study or commission to determine a proper location for a memorial dedicated to all Americans who served in World War I.

AMERICA INVENTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1249) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform:

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Chair, for over two decades, USPTO has had an internal policy that human beings at any stage of development are not patentable subject matter under 35 U.S.C. Section 101. I commend Chairman LAMAR SMITH for including in the manager's amendment to H.R. 1249, the America Invents Act, a provision that will codify an existing pro-life policy rider included in the CJS Appropriations bill since FY2004. This amendment, commonly known as the Weldon amendment, ensures the U.S. Patent and Trade Office, USPTO, does not issue patents that are directed to or encompassing a human organism.

Codifying the Weldon amendment simply continues to put the weight of law behind the USPTO policy.

This amendment and USPTO policy reflect a commonsense understanding that no member of the human species is an "invention," or property to be licensed for financial gain. Patents on human organisms commodify life and allow profiteers to financially gain from the biology and life of another human person.

Codifying a ban on patenting of humans would not violate international obligations under the TRIPS agreement with the WTO, in which member countries can exclude from patentability subject matter to prevent commercial exploitation which is "necessary to protect ordre public or morality, [and] to protect human, animal or plant life." (The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, Article 27, Section 5).