

repairs outside of the normal appropriations process.

By nature high-speed rail funding are immediate economic generators. Under H.R. 2354, the 15th District is slated to lose more than \$495 million in funding awarded to four high-speed rail projects in our district. The projects that would be derailed are the development of new train stations in Ann Arbor and Dearborn, the joint Midwest Regional Rail passenger rail equipment purchase, and the rehabilitation and improvement of track between Kalamazoo and Dearborn. This rescission will result in the loss of as many as 13,008 jobs.

And as if cutting funds for mass transit were not enough, H.R. 2354 also seeks to eviscerate the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing loan program, which helps automakers and suppliers produce more fuel efficient vehicles and decrease U.S. dependence on foreign oil. This is the height of folly and quite frankly indefensible.

Mr. Chair, for all of these reasons and more, I oppose H.R. 2354 and urge my colleagues to do so as well. Their children and grandchildren will thank them if they do.

TRIBUTE TO THORNE MAGINNIS
AND OTHER YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS
FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS
ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE
OF THE 37TH CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is no exaggeration to say that the past few years have been among the challenging in our nation's history. The collapse of the housing market, the turmoil on Wall Street and the ensuing financial crisis, the severe economic downturn resulting in the loss of millions of middle-class jobs, and the ever present threat of terrorist attacks on our homeland are enough to make many question whether the American Dream is still attainable and to conclude that our best days are behind us.

I do not share this view. The future of our country is bright and I firmly believe that our best days lie ahead. One of the reasons I am so optimistic that 21st century will be known as the second "American Century" is the extraordinary quality, talent, commitment, and energy of the young people who will in time assume the responsibility of leadership.

Members of Congress know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

I rise today to pay tribute to the wonderful young men and women who have done this work in my office for my constituents.

Today, I bid farewell to an extraordinary young man, Thorne Maginnis, who joined my team in January of last year and who will be moving on to attend law school this fall at the University of Virginia. From his first day on my staff Thorne's talents as writer, analyst, and researcher were apparent for all to observe. These gifts, combined with his winning personality and cooperative spirit made him an invaluable staffer and a valued friend to his colleagues, who all will miss his good cheer but wish him well in his future endeavors, which I am confident will include continued service in furtherance of the public interest.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. When I was six years old I dreamed of becoming a public servant when I grew up so I could help others. As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King once said:

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated and I wish to acknowledge them. They are: Devin Benavidez, Elliott Bluffer, Laura Sisemore, Chris Robinson, Carlos Jurado, Jerry Boies, Sunjay Bhatia, Jazmine Florence, and Renata Harris. In past years, my office has benefitted from the contributions of other volunteers, including Helen Lei, Navy San, Chris Prado, Jimmie Luthuli, Erika Wright, Peter Ward, Alyce Boatwright, Tom DeMaio, and Brittni Hamilton.

Mr. Speaker, the infusion of energy, intelligence, and idealism young people bring to their internships in my office and those of my colleagues helps keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

This is why I am so optimistic about our country's prospects for the future. As Margaret Mead said:

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great and as they age, they will ensure she stays forever young.

THE MEK STILL WAITS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, almost a year ago to the day, on July 16, 2010, the U.S. Court of Appeals ordered the U.S. State Department to go back and re-evaluate the "terrorist" designation of the MEK. Since then, the State Department has stalled. At hearings and in letter after letter, Congress has asked for updates but the State Department just

plays the same tape over and over "we're working on it."

What exactly is taking so long? We haven't seen any new evidence. All the old evidence, classified and unclassified, does not describe a terrorist group, but a bunch of people that want to be free. They have given up their weapons, forsworn terrorism, and only ask that they can live in peace without being massacred by Iraqi troops or Iranian agents. Enough with the stalling. The State Department needs to get its act together and make a decision. If there is evidence of terrorism, show us. But if there is not, then take this group off the list today.

And that's just the way it is.

IN SUPPORT OF KOREAN WAR
MEMORIAL WALL

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to introduce—together with Representatives SAM JOHNSON, HOWARD COBLE, JOHN CONYERS, JR., and JOHN DINGELL—a bill to amend legislation authorizing the Korean War Veterans Memorial to permit the addition of a Wall of Remembrance. P.L. 99-527 stated as a priority ". . . to honor members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Korean War, particularly those who were killed in action, are still missing in action, or were held as prisoners of war." This bill seeks to further honor those who gave their lives to preserve freedom, not only for the Republic of Korea but for the entire non-communist world. To the 33,686 Americans killed in action this was not an abstract geopolitical issue, nor was it a "cold war." The Korean War, fought some 60 years ago, was a desperate fight to stop the spread of totalitarian regimes and signaled to North Korea that the United States would support our friends and allies.

The Korean War is sometimes referred to as the "forgotten war," a footnote between the Second World War and the Vietnam War. The sacrifice our young men paid to preserve our freedom should not be forgotten. This legislation will ensure that their deeds will be memorialized for all Americans to see on our National Mall. For, as the "greatest generation" of Americans fought World War II to save the world for democracy, the Korean War generation of Americans fought to save the world from communism.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 1995. It is an extraordinarily moving memorial. Our legislation will permit, through private sector contributions, a glass Wall of Remembrance to encircle the outer edge of the existing Memorial Pool. This wall will list the Americans killed in action by name, and will list the wounded, missing in action, and prisoners of war by number. It will also honor the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) that served alongside their U.S. comrades in American units to maintain our frontline combat strengths. Over 8,000 members of the KATUSA gave their lives for their country and ours. Their names were lost to history, but their numbers deserve recognition for the sacrifices that would otherwise have been American casualties. This bill

will also allow for the Wall of Remembrance to list the number of casualties of our Republic of Korea allies and the United Nations allies that served in support of maintaining the freedom of the Republic of Korea and its people.

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I was visited by a distinguished veteran of WWII and the Korean War, Colonel Bill Weber. Bill is a double-amputee of the Korean War and would have died of his wounds but for subzero temperatures that prevented him from bleeding to death. The sculptor of the Korean War Veterans Memorial used Bill's image to model one of the 19 soldiers. Bill spoke passionately and convincingly to me about the need to enhance the existing memorial with the Wall of Remembrance. As Bill said, "This is our final battle, and we must succeed for over 33,000 of our brothers who cannot speak for themselves and whose sacrifices remain largely unknown."

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring our Korean veterans by supporting this legislation.

IN HONOR OF MRS. ANNETTE
LANTOS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 80th birthday of Mrs. Annette Lantos, a praiseworthy individual and dear friend of mine, who has devoted her life to fighting for human and animal rights.

Born in Hungary in 1931, Annette came to the U.S. at the age of 16 after surviving the Holocaust. She graduated from high school and went on to receive her bachelor's degree and teaching certificate from San Francisco State University.

Annette was married to the late Congressman Tom Lantos for nearly 58 years. Congressman Lantos was also a survivor of the Holocaust, and shared his wife's commitment to human rights. Annette worked full-time in her husband's office for the nearly three decades that the late Congressman held office. She served as Executive Director of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, which was co-founded by Congressman Lantos, and helped her husband in co-founding the Congressional Friends of Animals Caucus.

Outside of Congress, Annette has worked tirelessly to help human rights victims and to further human rights causes. In 1977, she founded the International Free Wallenberg Committee to raise awareness of Raoul Wallenberg's humanitarian efforts in Hungary during World War II. Today, Annette is Chairman of the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice. She continues to uphold the Lantos legacy of furthering human rights throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing this remarkable woman as she celebrates her 80th birthday surrounded by friends and her wonderful family.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS IDENTITY THEFT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce bipartisan legislation to strengthen the federal criminal laws punishing identity theft.

Identity theft is a serious and growing threat. The Federal Trade Commission estimates that as many as 9 million Americans have their identities stolen each year.

Identity thieves use identifying information such as a consumer's Social Security number, credit card numbers, or other financial account information in order to conduct such fraud as opening up new credit cards and gaining access to bank accounts. The ramifications can be financially disastrous for citizens and can be extremely difficult to resolve. We must crack down hard on these criminals.

The fear of identity theft is also consistently cited as a reason many Americans are cautious about engaging in more transactions online. This is unfortunate because of the multitude of ways the Internet can help consumers shop, do business and communicate efficiently and at low cost.

The United States has many federal statutes targeting identity theft. However, some of these laws were weakened by a recent Supreme Court case.

18 U.S.C. 1028 and 1028A contain criminal punishments for certain identity theft violations when those violations are in connection with other federal crimes and state felonies. In 2009, the Supreme Court ruled that the language of those federal statutes require not only that the criminal use the identification documents of another person, but also that the criminal knew the documents were those of another actual person.

The context of that case was that an illegal alien had given an employer counterfeit social security and alien registration cards containing his name but the identification numbers of other individuals. He was charged with two immigration offenses as well as aggravated identity theft. The Supreme Court overturned the conviction on the aggravated identity theft count explaining that the language of the relevant statutes required prosecutors to prove not only that the defendant used identity documents that were not his own, but also that the defendant knew the identity documents were those of another actual person.

Identity theft occurs when someone intentionally and unlawfully uses identity documents that are not his own. Our federal statutes should reflect this reality.

Today, I am introducing legislation to amend these federal statutes to make clear that when an identity thief intentionally and unlawfully uses identity documents that are not his own, prosecutors do not need to show that the criminal also knew that the identity documents were those of another actual person.

This clarification will help prosecutors put identity thieves behind bars and will help safeguard American citizens from identity-related crimes. I urge the Members of the House to support this bipartisan legislation.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2354) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2354, the Fiscal Year 2011 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act.

The bill slashes funding for clean energy efficiency and research programs. It also makes steep cuts to flood control and environmental cleanup programs. In short, the legislation fails to protect our communities and it jeopardizes American innovation and job creation.

The last place to cut is in the area of investments in clean energy technologies. In my Silicon Valley District, innovation is the coin of the realm. I've seen dozens of burgeoning companies who are at the cutting edge of clean energy technology. Our nation has the capacity to lead the world in clean energy technology, and there are domestic industries poised for economic explosion if we help, not hurt them.

According to the Brookings Institution, the nation's clean energy economy, defined as goods and services with an environmental benefit, employs about 2.7 million people, more than twice the size of the fossil-fuel industry.

Investments today will lay the foundation for our future.

I oppose H.R. 2354 and urge my colleagues to do the same because hobbling our future is neither smart fiscally or policy-wise.

IN HONOR OF MR. IGNACY JAN
PADEREWSKI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ignacy Jan Paderewski—the second Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland, a highly acclaimed musician and humanitarian.

In 1919, after Poland had officially become an independent nation, Mr. Paderewski became its first Prime Minister. He was also the chief framer of the Polish Constitution. Mr. Paderewski also served as the Polish representative in the League Nations as well as Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

As a philanthropist, Mr. Paderewski used his personal home in Switzerland as a safe place for refugees from various countries during WWII. A popular pianist and composer, Mr. Paderewski was also known to be a strong supporter of the arts. He made substantial contributions to improving the lives of unemployed musicians and playwrights and he worked toward the construction of many concert halls and monuments.