

Myra lived her life according to the Jewish principle of “Tikkun Olam”—to repair the world—striving each day to make our community, our country, and our world a better place for the less fortunate. Myra was the absolute embodiment of Tikkun Olam, living according to its values of justice, compassion, and peace.

Myra was a community leader and philanthropist without equal. Whether it was through the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation, the Robert K. and Myra H. Kraft Foundation, the Boys and Girls Club of Boston, or her alma mater Brandeis University, Myra’s tireless work gave a voice to victims, a stage for performing artists and a home to countless disadvantaged youth. Her love for Israel was rivaled only by her commitment to making Massachusetts and Boston beacons of social and cultural goodwill worldwide. She was guided by an incredibly strong moral compass and an unrelenting drive to help others.

Massachusetts has lost a hometown hero, and the Kraft family also has lost a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Kraft family and with all of those whose lives have been touched by Myra’s formidable and gracious spirit. We mourn Myra’s passing, while we know that her incredible legacy of acts of loving kindness will live on forever.

H.R. 2018, CLEAN WATER COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM ACT OF 2011

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2018, the so-called Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act. It would be far more accurate to title this legislation the “Dirty Water Act” due to the damage it would inflict on our nation’s waters.

This legislation severely weakens the Clean Water Act by prohibiting the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from challenging state water quality standards in cases when those standards threaten the quality of the nation’s waters. Further, the bill removes the EPA’s authority to protect water bodies and waterways from pollution resulting from mining, development and water resource projects. This unprecedented unraveling of federal authority would have very real and negative consequences for the country, especially my state of Minnesota.

Minnesota is known as the land of 10,000 lakes. It is the headwaters of the mighty Mississippi River and the longest shoreline of Lake Superior—the largest of the Great Lakes. Our quality of life is inexorably linked with the quality of our state’s rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands. Minnesota’s economy depends on clean water to support its multibillion dollar tourism and outdoor recreation industry, which sustains tens of thousands of jobs. In addition to the economy, responsible EPA regulation helps to protect the health of millions of Minnesotans who rely on the Mississippi River and other surface waters for their drinking water. Minnesotan’s strong commitment to clean water is best evidenced by passage of a state constitutional amendment in 2008 dedicating funding to protect and restore the

states’ waters—the first of its kind in the nation.

H.R. 2018 undermines the ability of Minnesota or any other state to protect the quality of its waters. This legislation eliminates Clean Water Act protections that prevent states from setting lax environmental laws and weak enforcement policies that send pollution flowing over its borders into neighboring states. Minnesota’s public health, economic vitality and quality of life should not be at the mercy of other states. H.R. 2018 is a serious threat to states’ rights and demands a full and public debate. Unfortunately, House Republicans are rushing this highly controversial bill to the floor without holding even a single Committee hearing.

The Clean Water Act is one of our country’s most successful environmental laws. For over forty years, Democrats, Independents and Republicans have worked together to protect and restore America’s waters using the authorities in this law. Members of Congress today have a responsibility to protect this important legacy. H.R. 2018 is an unprecedented attempt to dismantle the Clean Water Act and return to the days when waterways in America were so polluted they caught fire.

H.R. 2018 is the latest in a series of Republican proposals that benefit polluters, not American families, communities or the vast majority of American businesses that follow the law. I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation and put an end to the Republicans’ dangerous policy of regulatory retreat.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL JROTC INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR JUSTIN BLUM

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Justin Blum, of Florence, South Carolina. Lt. Col. Blum has been selected as the 2011–2012 National JROTC Instructor of the Year by the United States Army Cadet Command. It was because of Lt. Col. Blum’s distinguished work and long history with the JROTC that he was bestowed this great honor.

JROTC is a citizenship program devoted to the moral, physical and educational uplift of American youth. Originally the JROTC was a source of enlisting recruits and officer candidates into the United States Military. It has now shed some of its early military content, but the program has retained its military structure and the resultant ability to infuse in its student cadets a sense of discipline and order. Lt. Col. Blum has been with the JROTC for 16 years now, following his 21 year tenure in the United States Army before retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

During his time with United States Army, protecting our country, he was also fighting another battle. Lt. Col. Blum was fighting ulcerative colitis and a diagnosis of early stage colon cancer. He did not let this deter him in life. Being the resolute person that Mr. Blum is, there was no doubt in his mind that he would be able to return to a full schedule. After the surgery, Lt. Col. Blum, used his struggle to inform others that no matter what

you are hit with, you can overcome if you put your mind to it.

Lt. Col. Blum is the recipient of the 2011 Tony Snow Public Service Award, presented by the Great Comebacks Program. This program raises awareness of quality of life issues for people with Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, colorectal cancer and other diseases that can lead to ostomy surgery. Since receiving this award Mr. Blum has continued to work hard and his determination is shown again through being selected as the 2011–2012 JROTC National Instructor of the year. This is the second time Mr. Blum has received the JROTC National Instructor of the year award, also receiving the award in 2003. Being a two-time recipient, demonstrates his commitment and dedication to the JROTC, a program which is near and dear to my heart as a former educator and the grandfather of a JROTC student.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take the time and get to know JROTC instructors, like Lt. Col. Blum. Their devotion to uplifting American youth is worth our time and help. These instructors motto is, “Instruct Young People to be Better Citizens.” With this dictum we see the uplifting manner of the JROTC and why the instructors are such an influential part of America’s youth. Please join me in congratulating Lt. Col. Justin Blum of Florence, S.C. for being chosen as a the JROTC National Instructor of the year from a group of amazing individuals who are changing the lives of scores of young people every day.

GOP WOMEN SPECIAL ORDER

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, our nation’s budget is out of control. Two years ago, our nation experienced our first trillion dollar Federal budget deficit. Last year, we experienced our second trillion dollar deficit.

This year, our annual deficit is projected to reach over \$1.6 trillion—the largest in history. We are spending more than we can afford and in the process saddling future generations with a grim economic future. This is unacceptable.

It is also why my colleagues and I are here this evening. As women, we know the importance of creating and sticking to a budget.

The finances of many households are run by women.

We know that a family cannot wildly spend beyond its means. And yet this is what our government is doing on a daily basis.

Our government has acted recklessly with our financial security and prosperity. Just as our families and neighbors have had to tighten our belts during this recession, the Federal government must do the same.

Women have to juggle various household necessities while still remaining within their budget constraints. This is why Republican women support a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget to help reign in Federal spending.

It will help us start to get our fiscal house in order. A constitutional amendment will help ensure the future stability and solvency of our economy. Our grandchildren deserve nothing less.

LEGISLATION TO FAIRLY TAX
“REVERSE MORRIS TRUST”
TRANSACTIONSHON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would eliminate a tax loophole that puts at risk telecommunications services and workers in states across the country. The bill seeks to limit “Reverse Morris Trust” (RMT) transactions, a tax avoidance loophole that continues to be utilized by companies, including publicly regulated utility companies. RMT transactions regularly allow companies to avoid paying millions of dollars in taxes while having adverse consequences for consumers, workers and the Federal Treasury.

Under an RMT, a parent company can spin off a subsidiary that merges into an unrelated company tax free if the shareholders of the parent company control more than 50 percent of the voting rights and economic value of the resulting merged company. The result deprives the federal treasury of hundreds of millions of dollars. And all too frequently, the new entity incurs too much debt and lacks the capital needed to maintain services and perform system upgrades that it depends on to provide quality services to its customers and create good paying jobs.

The legislation I am introducing would restrict the benefits of the RMT transaction by removing an incentive for companies to sell off assets tax free by creating a spinoff company that assumes massive amounts of debt. The bill would help protect the interests of consumers and workers, while preventing this unintended loophole from resulting in the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars of federal revenues at a time when our federal deficit is soaring. Based on analysis from the Joint Committee on Taxation in the 111th Congress, closing the RMT loophole would raise approximately \$250 million over 10 years.

One recent RMT transaction provides a prime example of the dangers of this loophole. Despite objections from the public and Congressional members, Verizon utilized the RMT to avoid taxes on a similar transaction with FairPoint Communications in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont almost four years ago. As predicted, the result was unprecedented consumer complaints lodged with state regulators who were unable to reverse the negative consequences. On October 26, 2009, FairPoint declared bankruptcy, leaving the future of telephone service across all three states uncertain, and potentially putting at risk the compensation and benefits of thousands of employees.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to close this loophole that cheats the American public and helps large companies evade paying taxes by saddling smaller ones with debt.

THE 37TH ANNIVERSARY OF
TURKEY’S INVASION OF CYPRUSHON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the 37th anniversary of Turkey’s invasion of Cyprus to call upon the Government of Turkey to end its unlawful military occupation of the Island.

For 37 years, Greek Cypriots have had to live with the memory of being forcibly removed from their homes only to become refugees in their own country. For years, they endured a policy of systematic ethnic cleansing and, despite the insistence of the international community, to this day Cyprus remains under occupation. Forty-three thousand Turkish troops occupy a third of the island, making the area they control among the most militarized regions in the world.

For 37 years, it has been the goal of the international community to reunify Cyprus into a stable and prosperous country where Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots can live together in peace and security.

Attempts to reunify the country have undergone various levels of negotiation for over 45 years yielding few lasting achievements along the way. Even the occasional success has produced little of enduring material value.

For example, in 1979, the U.S. and UN applauded Turkey’s agreement to withdraw and handover the uninhabited city of Famagusta to its rightful inhabitants. Every year, the UN calls upon Turkey to honor its commitment, but, to this day, Famagusta remains in the hands of the Turkish government.

The U.S. and the EU and the UN have demonstrated their willingness to work with Turkey toward a lasting settlement in Cyprus that reunifies the country into a bi-zonal federation. By continuing its occupation, by closing its seaports to Cypriot-flagged ships, and by refusing to follow through on its promises, Turkey has continued to ignore the will of the international community.

So, on this 37th anniversary of Turkey’s illegal occupation of Cyprus, I ask my colleagues to join me in condemning the continued occupation and join me in calling for Turkey to withdraw its troops from the island.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. FRANKLIN
D. COLCLOUGHHON. JAMES E. CLYBURN
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man of great faith, who has been a tremendous blessing to the State of

South Carolina. The Rev. Dr. Franklin D. Colclough is retiring from the Presbytery of New Harmony after 23 years of faithful service and 42 years with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He is deserving of recognition for his lifetime of service to his community and spiritual guidance to his congregants.

Dr. Colclough began his ministry in 1969 after receiving his Master of Divinity at Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. He earned a Doctoral Degree in Ministry at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois.

His first ministerial position was as pastor of the Carmel Presbyterian Church in Chester, South Carolina and Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church in Blackstock, South Carolina from 1969–1971. In 1972 he accepted a call as the fourth, and youngest, installed pastor of the Goodwill Presbyterian Church in Mayesville, South Carolina. Goodwill was founded in 1867, and is the oldest African American Church in Sumter County, South Carolina and one of the oldest in the Sixth Congressional District. He served as Goodwill’s pastor from 1972 until 1988. It is worth noting that Dr. Colclough served only three churches in rural South Carolina during his 19 years as a parish minister.

In September 1988 he was called to serve on the staff of New Harmony Presbytery which is headquartered in Florence, South Carolina. Presently Dr. Colclough serves as the Head of Staff and Stated Clerk for New Harmony Presbytery.

Dr. Colclough has served on many boards including the Board of Trustees at Johnson C. Smith University Theological Seminary in Atlanta and the Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. He has served the Presbyterian Church at all levels including Member, Board of Pension, Moderator, Synod of South Atlantic, Stewardship Consultant for Mission 20/20, and member of the President’s Council, Montreat Conference Center.

While serving the church, Dr. Colclough also served 26 years as a Military Chaplin in the United States Army Reserve retiring in 1996 with rank of Colonel.

Dr. Colclough is married to Eddie Segars Colclough. They are the parents of four adult children, Franklin, Jr., Glenys, Shelley, Kriston and grandparents of a granddaughter Kellen and grandson Kriston.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in congratulating Rev. Dr. Colclough for his faithful service to his community and his state. I sincerely appreciate Dr. Colclough’s friendship and guidance over the last 19 years, and his generous advice from the first day I offered to run for Congress. He has been a true leader in the State of South Carolina, and while he will no longer serve in the Presbyterian Church on a daily basis, I am confident he will continue to be a guiding force in the community.