

two enemy combatants. He then exposed himself to enemy fire and was shot three times while dragging the wounded Marine to safety. As other Marines rescued Rodriguez and his colleague, he told them how to treat his wounded colleague. Later, while still seriously injured, Rodriguez assisted other medics in treating the wounded.

The Silver Star is the third-highest military decoration members of the armed forces can receive, and is only given to soldiers who perform "with marked distinction" and demonstrate gallantry in the face of considerable military adversity. The bravery Petty Officer Rodriguez displayed shows his exceptional dedication to the armed forces and to his fellow soldiers.

In reflection of the Silver Star he was recently awarded, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring the incredible actions, courage and selflessness of Connecticut native, Petty Officer Amilcar Rodriguez.

CIVIL RIGHTS ABUSES IN CYPRUS

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the lives lost to date on Cyprus, and in recognition of the continuing conflict and civil rights abuses taking place on the island.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus in response to a Greek led coup, bringing to life a conflict that had long remained dormant. On that day, Turkish armed forces took control of the Northern portion of the island, and continue to occupy nearly 37 percent of Cyprus' territory today.

The continuing occupation has resulted in segregation and division of Greek and Turkish Cypriots, preventing the diverse and peaceful communities that once existed from returning, and inhibiting any communication or peaceful solution to the current crisis.

To date, more than 160,000 Turkish mainland settlers have emigrated to Cyprus, creating an imbalance in the population. In addition to that figure, the continued presence of 43,000 Turkish troops in Cyprus has contributed to tension between either ethnicity.

During the course of this conflict, more than 200,000 Greek Cypriots have been forced from their homes; 520 Greek Orthodox churches have been vandalized; 15,000 ecclesiastical items have been lost or stolen; nearly 60,000 Cypriot artifacts have been illegally transferred to other nations; and the property of displaced Greek-Cypriots, including homes and business, has been commandeered by mainland Turkish immigrants. These human rights violations, historical defacements, and cultural destruction of the Cypriot legacy must be stopped.

Mr. Speaker, this House and the United Nations have consistently passed resolutions calling for protection of the Cypriot people, restoration of property rights, and the return of stolen historic and religious artifacts. It is critical that a peaceful solution to this standoff is reached, so that all Cypriot people can return to their homes, and rebuild the vibrant, diverse and accepting communities that once existed there.

I urge all parties involved to join in negotiating a settlement that will prevent further devastation and restore peace and security to the island of Cyprus.

TRIBUTE TO THE WOUNDED WARRIORS AT WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute poem to the brave men and women who were wounded while serving our country—our Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center:

100 Years . . .
Throughout all that heartache . . .
And all those most swollen tears . . .
And all of that most courageous courage, so
seen here . . .
From battlefields of honor bright!
From far across those distant shores, those
fights . . .
From deep blue oceans of yore . . .
And all of those heroes, up in those air wars
. . .

Who on land, air and sea . . .
Army, Navy, The Air Force, Coast Guard and
the United States Marine Corps . . .
Have all brought their Brothers and Sisters
In Arms, to Walter Reed . . .

To Heal!
To rebuild where none lies left!
With but only their fine hearts to bless . . .
As it was all here, that they so received . . .
But The Very Best, at Walter Reed!
Doctors and Nurses and Therapists, Soldiers
and Social Workers on this great list
. . .

Who have but faced the worst, who have but
passed that test!
Cheating death, with but only their most
courageous quests . . .
With years of training and devoting, to com-
plete their most noble of notions!
But to heal only our very best!
With only their skills and most courageous
hearts, no less . . .
Against All Odds, they would not rest . . .
This Battle, Their Valiant Quest, to win that
night so yes!

Day In and Day Out . . .
As their fine hearts to them, so shout . . .
Not to give up, nor give in . . .
For this is how miracles all begin!
All out here on the cutting edge . . .
As their fine hearts are but all so pledged
. . .

So pledged, but to heal!
To an oath so true, so real!
To Men and Women without arms and legs
. . .

Who without eyes and faces, as to them so
pray . . .
And yet, with the stress of each new day . . .
How stoically, all of them have made their
ways . . .
But, a thank you is all they ask . . .
As they've seen all of those Mothers crying
. . .

Out in the halls, with all that pain and
heartache . . . asking why then?
Surely, there is no denying . . .
Holding a young man's hand, until he lays
dying . . .

As their fine hearts and souls, so trying . . .
And yet, they go to work each day . . .
Asking not much more, then to win those
battles great . . .
To save our most precious heroes, all in their
light!

With the Gift of Life, they ask but for one
more night!

As each and all, are but quiet heroes in God's
eyes . . .

As it's in private that they now so cry!
As they go out all about their jobs each day
. . .

Attention, to themselves, they'll not pay
. . .

As it's to save precious life, for which they
pray!

And when that light once again begins to
shine . . .

They must now draw a new battle line!
To rebuild . . . to somehow instill . . .

With Hope, the very will . . . all in a fine
hero's heart to live!

And somehow to start all over again!
To ready them to rejoin that fight, or to try
to start a brand new life . . .

As it's clear, that they've done as much to
help win all those wars!

At Walter Reed, have come . . .
Such magnificent men and women, our
daughters and sons . . .

Who to death will not heed!
All because they so believe!

All those lives, and all those stories . . .
And all of those children who'll now know
the glory . . .

That glory of having a Mom and Dad, and
who one day may grow up to be . . .

An Angel, saving lives at Walter Reed!

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,342,830,116,551.28.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,704,404,370,257.48 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING THE BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Madison, located in Morris County, New Jersey as they celebrate their 165th Anniversary.

Bethel was the first African-American Church in the Borough of Madison, New Jersey. Its beginnings date back to 1846 when informal gatherings first took place. After being deeded property in 1850, Bethel emerged 35 years later in 1885. Bethel Madison is a testimony of growth and constancy, thriving throughout the many decades. It has been witness to over a century and a half of American history. The church has seen its fair share of hardships, but it has managed to survive and thrive.

Today, Bethel's unassuming, traditional structure remains, but what takes place inside

reflects the church's modernity. Led by Reverend Teresa Rynn Rushdan, the congregation is alive and vibrant as sermons and music professing God's love echo throughout the church each week. Bethel serves the community through numerous programs aimed at feeding and clothing the needy. The church also hosts a variety of community events that allows their followers to connect with each other and the rest of the Madison community.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church is a place where anyone is welcome to find God. It is a church that welcomes new followers with open arms, regardless of race. Though they are distinguished by the name African, they are a multicultural church. Bethel is truly an embracing ministry devoted to its followers and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church as they celebrate their 165th Anniversary.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF USPS LETTER CARRIER ED PYRZYNSKI

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long and distinguished career of Ed Pyrzyński. For over 40 years, he has served as a letter carrier for the United States Postal Service (USPS), and has tirelessly worked to represent and protect the interests of his fellow USPS employees.

The son of Ed and Mary Pyrzyński, Mr. Pyrzyński began his career as a letter carrier for the USPS in 1970. His work was driven by his strong belief that the great service offered by the USPS should be brought to every home and business. Mr. Pyrzyński was also dedicated to ensuring that the most important issues faced by USPS employees were well-represented and considered. In the early 1980s, he became involved with the National Association of Letter Carriers, and was elected as a union steward for the Kedzie Grace Station. Through his work, he helped to promote cooperation between local employees and management by forming committees, organizing station and community events, and identifying various issues for joint resolution.

In the 1990s, Mr. Pyrzyński attended Wright College and Northeastern Illinois University, and graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in training and development. He also began his work with the Illinois Letter Carrier Association, and later became the legislative liaison for the Illinois 5th Congressional District. In this capacity, he worked closely with my district office and traveled to Washington, D.C. in presenting the most salient issues faced by USPS letter carriers and other working Americans.

Today, Mr. Pyrzyński continues his work for the National Association of Letter Carriers by reconciling employee grievances. He was previously involved in the NALC's Dispute Resolution, a joint effort by USPS employees and management to promote accord in reducing the number of cases that go through costly arbitration resolutions. As he retires from his long and illustrious career, I am certain that Ed looks forward to moving to Arizona with his

wife Laura, and spending more time with his family including his sons Jason, Seth, Travis, and Jeremy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Ed Pyrzyński and his commitment to the many businesses and residents in the Chicagoland area, and to the interests of its employees. His tireless service and dedication will be missed, and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JOE SNEDEKER

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge a local television personality and educator who has parlayed his regional fame and physical endurance into a community-wide fundraising effort for severely mentally and physically handicapped children in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Joe Snedeker was born at St. Joseph's Hospital in Carbondale, Pennsylvania, on February 19, 1966. At an early age, Joe showed an aptitude for science. After graduating from Millersville University, Joe got a teaching job at Carbondale Area High School. Between teaching; marrying his wife, Dawn; and raising three children, Joseph, Luke, and Aleah, Joe worked at a local television station on weekends. As a sign of his lifelong commitment to education and learning, Joe recently finished his master's degree in Biology/Environmental Science from East Stroudsburg University.

In 1999, Joe was hired full-time at WNEP-TV. Over the last several years, hundreds of thousands of residents in Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania have tuned in to Joe to find out what the daily weather forecast would be. Joe not only provides the weather forecast, but he also seeks to educate viewers about basic scientific principles.

Fourteen years ago, Joe, an avid cyclist, initiated an annual charity bike ride. For several days each summer, Joe pedals from location to location, raising money for severely mentally and physically handicapped children at St. Joseph's Center in Dunmore, Pennsylvania. Over the years, Joe has started his ride as far away from Northeastern Pennsylvania as Atlantic City, New Jersey; Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts; Cleveland, Ohio; and Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

Thousands of miles pedaled adds up to well over a million dollars raised—money that supports the outstanding work of the dedicated staff, administration, and volunteers at St. Joseph's Center, an independent Catholic agency sponsored by the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary that strives to provide individuals and families who have special needs the opportunity to develop their abilities and potential to the fullest extent possible.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Joe Snedeker for his charitable work on behalf of the mentally and physically handicapped children at St. Joseph's Center in Dunmore, Pennsylvania. Thousands of people—from the families of those children, to the staff and administration of the center, to Joe's devoted viewing audience—join me in congratulating him and wishing him many years of happy pedaling.

H.R. 1938, THE NORTH AMERICAN- MADE ENERGY SECURITY ACT

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. UPTON. Madam Chair, I submit the following exchange of letters.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2011.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Longworth House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1938, the North American-Made Energy Security Act. The Committee on Energy and Commerce recognizes that the Committee on Natural Resources has jurisdiction over H.R. 1938, and I appreciate your effort to waive the Committee's right to take action on it.

I concur with you that foregoing action on H.R. 1938 does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Natural Resources with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future, and I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or related legislation.

I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and I will include our letters on H.R. 1938 in the Congressional Record during House floor consideration of the bill.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, July 24, 2011.

Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Rayburn House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: I write concerning H.R. 1938, the North American-Made Energy Security Act, which is expected to be scheduled for floor consideration the week of July 25, 2011.

As you know, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure was listed as the Committee of primary jurisdiction when H.R. 1938 was introduced on May 23, 2011. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, the Committee will forgo action on the bill.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 1938 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. Further, I request your support in the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

As you are aware, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is the Committee of primary jurisdiction on any legislation to reauthorize federal pipeline safety programs. As such, our agreement to forego consideration of H.R. 1938 is also conditional on our mutual understanding that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will not take any Full Committee action on legislation related to the reauthorizing of the federal pipeline safety programs until