

from my home in West Orange, New Jersey—but from space far above that traffic on the New Jersey Turnpike, you have an entirely different perspective of life on our planet.

It's humbling to see the earth as God created it in the context of God's vast universe. Many of you may also know that my twin brother Scott is also an astronaut. And through this very difficult time, he has been aboard the International Space Station. It's a really tough place to be when your twin brother and your family, and the nation, is going through something that is so difficult. He was asked by several journalists what it's been like to be so far away and unable to return to his family during this time, and I think what he said bears repeating. Scott said, "What we do here in space is incredibly challenging. Our country faces a lot of challenges and the way we address those challenges is through teamwork. And I'd like to see more teamwork with more people not only in government but everyone in meeting the challenges our country faces. Hopefully if anything good can come from this, it's that we learn to work better together." Scott concluded by saying, "We are better than this. We must do better." My brother is right, I know we will do better, and I know that prayer must be part of that effort.

One morning when Gabby was still in Tucson at the Tucson University Medical Center, I was outside visiting that memorial that just sprung up on the grass in front of the hospital. It isn't a formal religious site but there is a lot of religious material that people left there on the lawn—Bibles, angels, prayers. And the people of Arizona have turned that place into a place of prayer, a pilgrimage site. On that particular morning there was no wind, there were candles burning on the lawn, hundreds of them, and it was like stepping into a church, a place with heaven itself as a ceiling. That reminded me that you don't need a church, a temple or a mosque to pray. You don't even need a building or walls or even an altar. You pray where you are. You pray when God is there in your heart and prayer isn't just asking, it's also listening for answers and expressing gratitude, which I've done a lot lately.

With that, I'd like to conclude with a prayer that my wife's Rabbi, Rabbi Stephanie Aaron who married us, said over Gabby's hospital bed on the first night when this happened on January 8. Rabbi Aaron said, and this is my prayer:

"In the name of God, our God of Israel, may Michael, God's angel, messenger of compassion, watch over your right side. May Gabriel, God's angel, messenger of strength and courage, be on your left. And before you, guiding your path, Uriel, God's angel of light, and behind you, supporting you, stands Raphael, God's angel of healing. And over your head surrounding you is the presence of the Divine."

Thank you. God bless you and please, please, please continue to keep Gabby's thoughts and prayers in your heart, it is really helping. Thank you.

Congressman Miller: I would ask that you all remain in your places to allow the President and the First Lady to depart. Thank you so much for coming Mr. President and thank you for bringing Mrs. Obama with you today.

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: Jeff, it's been quite a morning, and thank you again for being co-chair with me on this. Thank you and God bless you and now go and make peace.

## OPPOSITION TO H.R. 2417 "BETTER USE OF LIGHT BULBS ACT"

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2011*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I am compelled to rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2417, the "Better Use of Light Bulbs Act." I oppose the "Bulb Act" because it is costly to taxpayers, harmful to the environment and an impediment to technological innovation. In short, H.R. 2417, the "Bulb" act should be rejected. It is unnecessary and, to put it simply, not a bright idea.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a thinly veiled attempt to reverse the advances made by the "Energy Independence and Security Act," passed by the Democratic controlled 111th Congress. In fact, the original 2007 light bulb efficiency language was co-sponsored by Rep. UPTON, R-Mich., and then-House Speaker Dennis Hastert, III. Of the 95 Republicans who originally voted for the new energy standards in 2007, 55 of them remain in office, including the current chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee and several members of the Republican leadership. House Energy and Commerce Chairman FRED UPTON and Republican leaders CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, PETER ROSKAM and PETE SESSIONS. It was a good idea then and is a good idea now. I was proud to vote for that bill and oppose this effort to undo it.

Mr. Speaker, the "Energy and Independence Act" did not ban incandescent bulbs; it spurred innovation and economic growth. This growth is put at risk by H.R. 2417. In my home state of California, light bulb standards have spurred innovation and economic growth. It does this not by banning incandescent bulbs, but rather investing in innovative technologies such as advanced incandescent, compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs). These policies translate into significant cost savings for American households; H.R. 2417 does not.

Second, the energy efficiency standards threatened by H.R. 2417 translate into huge cost savings for Americans. The standards would save American families, businesses and the country more than \$12.5 billion annually, reducing Americans' energy costs by an average of 7 percent or about \$85 per household each year. In California, standards have already resulted in tens of billions of dollars in utility bill savings for its citizens.

Studies have documented that energy efficient bulbs would save the average California household \$125 a year, while the reliance on inefficient bulbs would cost consumers \$35.6 million in unnecessary and unreasonably higher electricity bills.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is harmful to the environment. The efficiency standards that H.R. 2417 would repeal have been shown to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Thus, it is not surprising that H.R. 2417 is strongly opposed by environmental groups like Environment America, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the Natural Resources Defense Fund. They understand the detrimental, long-term effects that a repeal of H.R. 2417 would have on our environment, and what that means for the quality of life of our children and families nationwide.

Efficient light bulbs decrease the level of harmful air pollution by 100 million tons of carbon pollution per year. That is the equivalent to the emissions of 17 million cars. H.R. 2417 would dismantle what have proven to be successful efforts at reducing harmful emissions associated with much-needed energy production and job creation.

Finally, and most importantly, H.R. 2417 will impede new job creation in America. The new standards that H.R. 2417 would repeal are already prompting manufacturers to build new U.S. plants. Nationally, more than 2,000 jobs have already been created at new factories across the country, including Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Carolina, Florida and my home state, California. We need to adopt policies that will create jobs, not jeopardize them as H.R. 2417 does.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2417 is a dim idea that should not see the light of day. Because I am focused on spurring innovation, conserving energy, protecting the environment and creating jobs, I strongly oppose H.R. 2417, and urge my colleagues to do likewise.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2011*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 22, and Monday, July 25, 2011, I was unable to be present for recorded votes due to a family commitment. I request the record show that had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 629 (on passage of H.R. 2551), "no" on rollcall vote No. 630 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 363), and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 631 (on approving the journal).

## TRIBUTE TO PIETRO SAMBI, APOSTOLIC NUNCIATO TO THE U.S.

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2011*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to inform my colleagues of the recent passing of The Most Reverend Pietro Sambì, who was the Titular Archbishop of Bellicastrum and the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, on July 27 at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. He was 73 years old.

Archbishop Sambì was born in Sogliano at Rubicone (Forlì-Cesena), Italy on the 27th day of June, 1938. He was a respected scholar who had doctorates in both theology and canon law and spoke Italian, English, French and Spanish. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Marino-Montefeltro on March 14, 1964, and began his distinguished career in the diplomatic service of the Vatican's Secretariat of State in 1969.

His overseas assignments included sensitive postings to Cameroon, Cuba, Algeria, Nicaragua, Belgium, India, Indonesia and Cyprus. In 2000, Archbishop Sambì led discussions with Israeli religious and political leaders

orchestrating Pope John Paul II's historic visit to Jerusalem. As the Papal representative to Israel in 2002, Archbishop Sambí reportedly helped end a 39-day standoff between Israeli troops and Palestinian militants, who had holed up inside the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

Pope Benedict XVI named Archbishop Sambí as the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States on December 17, 2005, and he was installed in early 2006. Shortly after his appointment, he toured the damage left by Hurricane Katrina. He was deeply involved in efforts to introduce Pope Benedict to American Catholics and he accompanied the Pope during his April 2008 visit to the U.S. and hosted him at the Apostolic Nunciature, where the Pope held a historic private meeting with five victims of clergy sexual abuse. In September of 2010, he presided at a Mass to mark the 13th anniversary of the death of Blessed Mother Teresa, which coincided with the U.S. Postal Service's issuance of a commemorative stamp in her honor.

Archbishop Sambí received numerous tributes and honors over the years, especially for his ecumenical activities and efforts to increase and secure access to religious sites in the Holy Land.

Like many of my colleagues, I had the honor of knowing Archbishop Sambí through my friend Luca Ferrari, the former Minister Counselor for Public and Legislative Affairs at the Embassy of the Republic of Italy here in Washington. The Archbishop was always willing to gently inform us on theology as well the critical international issues of the day. He was an amiable conversationalist and a good friend, and will be greatly missed by so many of us here in Washington, DC, as well by family, friends and colleagues around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by urging all of our colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Archbishop Pietro Sambí's service to international relations and understanding, and to express our condolences to his family for their loss. Thank you.

#### RECOGNIZING SAMUEL FLORES

##### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2011*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Samuel Flores for his dedication and contributions to the city of Seguin and south Texas.

Mr. Flores was born in San Marcos, Texas as the middle child of seven and raised during the difficult years of the Great Depression. During his early years, he lived the arduous life of a migrant worker traveling from California to Minnesota as the seasons changed. At the age of seventeen, he dropped out of school to serve his country and joined the United States Marine Corps. After six years of service, he returned to school. Flores earned a degree in education from Southwest Texas State University, as well as a Master's degree in school administration. After marrying Velia Flores and moving to her hometown of Seguin, Texas, he started working for Harlandale Independent School District where he resided for an accomplished 35 years of service.

Throughout his career in education, he taught mainstream and special education to elementary and secondary school students. He distinguished himself as the first Hispanic Principal for Harlandale Independent School District. He became Director for Special Education for six school districts and later on worked for the Seguin school district as the Attendance Officer. Even after his retirement in 2000, he continued to serve his community by becoming chairman of the Walnut Branch Restoration Project.

Aside from his teaching vocation, Flores dedicated a great part of his life to fighting against discrimination in public places. He founded the Seguin Bi-racial Committee during the 1960s. Thanks to his hard work and dedication, schools like Texas Lutheran University, now have a Mexican-American Studies program for the benefit of the students. He also assisted in founding the Seguin Boys Club, as well as establishing the Health Unit Project, the Walnut Creek Flood Project, and a new Seguin Post Office. Along with forming these vital programs and initiatives, Mr. Flores served as a member of the Seguin City Council from 1965–2000.

Mr. Flores' tremendous commitment to the Seguin education system and the overall community was honored by having part of Highway 46 in Texas dedicated to him. He was also recognized on the floor of the Texas House of Representatives with a resolution in his honor presented by Edmund Kuempel in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the dedication, accomplishments, and commitment of the late Samuel Flores.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2011*

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I missed roll-call 463 on June 22, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### HONORING U.S. ARMY SGT. JEREMY R. SUMMERS

##### HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2011*

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize U.S. Army Sgt. Jeremy R. Summers from Bracken County, Kentucky, who lost his life on July 14, 2011 in Paktika Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. His unit was attacked by enemy forces while he was on duty as a forward scout observer.

Sgt. Summers joined the Army after graduating from Bracken County High School in 2002. He was assigned to Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He served tours of duty in Korea and Iraq in addition to his service in Afghanistan. Sgt. Summers was a dedicated soldier and demonstrated great character in his serv-

ice. His dedication to defending our Republic was proven again when he recently reenlisted in the United States Army.

Sgt. Summers' life is yet another reminder of the high cost of freedom. Today, as we remember the life and accomplishments of this extraordinary Kentuckian, my thoughts and prayers are with Sgt. Summers' family and friends.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2011*

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I missed roll-call No. 598 on July 15, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. JOE MORTON

##### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2011*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the work of Alabama State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Joe Morton, who has been a leader in education for 42 years and will officially retire on August 31, 2011.

Dr. Morton grew up in Pleasant Grove and graduated from Hueytown High School. He then received his B.S. degree from Auburn University in 1969 and later his M.A. in 1973 and Ph.D. in 1974 from The University of Alabama.

Upon graduation from Auburn, he began a life of dedicated service to the field of education. He worked his way up from a school teacher to the superintendent of the Sumter County Board of Education. He is presumed to be the youngest person in the history of the State to be a local superintendent of education at the age of 27.

On July 13, 2004, he was selected by Governor Bob Riley to be the State Superintendent of Education. Along with a long-standing love of education, he has always held to the belief that Alabama students have the capability to compete with top students from around the world.

In order to engage students' interest in reading, he created and co-founded the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI). The ARI has since become a national model and has helped the National Assessment of Educational Process in 2007 achieve the largest gains recorded in Grade 4 Reading. In 2010, AMSTI was recognized by the Center for Excellence in Education as the model of laboratory education in the United States.

Other educational programs he helped create and co-found were the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) and the Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators and Students Statewide (ACCESS).

At the request of Governor Riley, Dr. Morton also chaired the Seat Belt Study Commission after a tragic 2006 school bus accident in Huntsville. The Commission's research into school bus safety and seatbelts is considered to be the most extensive in the country.