

unattainable for major metropolitan areas like New York City to be in compliance with federal standards for smog pollution even though most pollution is generated by large upwind sources. The Cross State Rule would make polluters control pollution at the source rather than continuing to shift the cost burden onto local governments and local taxpayers.

This bill requires an unnecessary, duplicative, and biased study of specified air quality and hazardous waste regulations without assessing the benefits of environmental and public health standards. Impeding these EPA rules jeopardizes the health and well-being of the American people. I encourage my colleagues to vote against this legislative train wreck.

IN HONOR OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, which is celebrated September 15th through October 15th, and I am proud to honor the contributions of the Latino community to the diverse landscape of American life and culture. I would like to take a moment to recognize a few individuals for their impact on the Hispanic community and its progress in our Nation. Through their accomplishments in media and the arts, Jose Antonio Burciaga, Rosa Guerrero, Luis Jimenez, and Ramon Renteria have given a part of themselves to enrich the Hispanic community. On September 30th, these individuals are being recognized at the annual El Paso Community College's Hispanic Heritage luncheon celebrating 100 years of Latino art & media.

To begin, I would like to honor the life and career of the late writer and artist Jose Antonio Burciaga, a native El Pasoan, for his exploration of the complex Chicano identity in American society. With the tools of language and art, he illuminated and articulated issues of identity, discrimination, and alienation facing the Chicano community.

I would also like to recognize artist and educator Rosa Guerrero. Through her projects such as the International Folklore Dance Group and her film, "Tapestry," Rosa Guerrero has made it her life's mission to promote cultural diversity and understanding, beginning with some of the first intercultural programs in El Paso schools in the 1970s.

I would also like to remember the life of artist Luis Jimenez, whose powerful sculptures are on display nationwide in public spaces and museums, including the "Vaquero" at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. His creations, such as "Blue Mustang", which often depict the working man, are marked by vivid and fluorescent colors. They are purposefully striking yet accessible, often provoking strong reactions.

And finally, I would like to recognize journalist and columnist Ramon Renteria for his decades of bold, quality reporting on a wide range of cultural and social issues. His past honors include the Guillermo Martinez-Marquez national award for Latin American reporting and a Texas Headliner Award for his

feature story, "Separate and Unequal: The Story of Kelli, Veronica and School Finance," as well as the Ruben Salazar Award from Café Mayapan. As a veteran journalist, Ramon Renteria has brought unique insight and experience to important topics in education, politics, and border issues in our community.

I want to personally congratulate our honorees for their exceptional achievements and contributions to our community, Hispanic culture, and the rich tapestry of American life. They have left their mark on the Hispanic experience in America through the sharing of their cultural perspective and achievements in their respective fields. As the Hispanic community continues to grow in America, it is important to celebrate our roots as we grow in our journey as a part of this great Nation.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, RILYA

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, you would have been fifteen. Today, you would have been a freshman in high school. Today, you would have been the fine young woman you were meant to be.

You are not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, Rilya Wilson was a foster child of the Florida Department of Children and Families. She went missing on January 18, 2001, and was not reported missing until two years later. The resulting investigation culminated in the resignation of the DCF chief and the passage of a new law I championed in the Florida House of Representatives—a law improving the supervision of foster children and requiring the tracking of efforts to find missing children.

It was later shown that GERALYN GRAHAM, her caretaker, engaged in identity and Medicaid fraud by accepting payments during Rilya's disappearance. Today, GERALYN is in jail, and believed by many to have murdered our beautiful Rilya. Unfortunately, circumstantial evidence is the only evidence available to prosecutors, and I fear that GERALYN GRAHAM will walk free.

This must not happen. The laws governing the reporting of missing children simply are not strong enough. Failing to report a child you know is missing should always be a crime of the most serious kind.

Once more—Rilya, you are not forgotten. I will never sleep, I will never slumber, and I will never rest until we find you—until those responsible for your disappearance are brought to justice.

Many nights I dream that I will one day get to meet you. Every night I dream that you have grown into the fine young lady you were meant to be. Every night I dream that I will see you reunited with your loving sister, Rodericka.

I pray that it will be so.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF PHILANTHROPIST JACKIE LEE HOUSTON

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable lady and dear friend, Mrs. Jackie Lee Houston, a pillar of our community in California's Coachella Valley, and an inspiration to countless admirers and friends.

Today, our community will come together to celebrate Jackie Lee's life, a life of purpose and accomplishment that truly made our world a better place. I am deeply saddened that the Congressional schedule prevents me from joining in this celebration and I know that the memories of Jackie Lee will bring joy to all those attending; a fitting tribute to this gracious hostess who insisted that any event in which she was involved was done with grace and class—and a large measure of fun!

Born Jackie Lee McDonald on June 27, 1935, Jackie Lee grew up in Seattle, Washington, and went on to attend the University of Washington. It was there that she met her husband, Jim, with whom she would spend the rest of her life. Their love story is a classic romance, from their hard-working early days when a holiday was defined by how much gas they could afford for a weekend get away to the pre-eminent role they shared as leading desert philanthropists, they were simply inseparable.

Jackie Lee and Jim were blessed with three children, Tamara, Jaimi and Jim, and their family bond was unbreakable.

For a time, the Houstons made a life in British Columbia, visiting the Coachella Valley regularly in the 1960s. Although the Houstons maintained an active presence in the Coachella Valley for decades, they didn't move permanently to the Desert until 2001. Once there, they quickly made their commitment to their new home clear by purchasing a local television affiliate and establishing KPSP Channel 2 as a major media presence in our community. It is perhaps the most inspiring testament to her character and strength of will that Jackie Lee made such an enormous impact on her adopted home town in such a short period of time. Proud to be one of the few women in the country who owned a television station, Jackie Lee used her influence at the station to provide additional exposure to causes she deemed worthwhile—regardless of whether she was directly involved in them.

One cannot begin to estimate the number of lives that were touched and made better by the tens of millions of dollars Jackie Lee raised for and donated to worthwhile charities and causes over the years, saying once: "Giving is just a feeling of wanting to be proud of what you do." I will always be especially grateful for her work on the Palm Springs International Film Festival, and consider myself truly honored to have called her a dear friend.

Jackie Lee had the ability to take your breath away with a flair and creativity that set her parties and events apart from all the rest—and for that reason people flocked to the

Houston's home and social gatherings and always returned. She also quietly helped countless other individuals, helping families with furniture, clothes, or even mortgage payments.

We were all enriched by her life and devastated by her passing, and the void in our community will never be filled.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating the life and contributions of Mrs. Jackie Lee Houston, who passed away on September 14, 2011. Her legacy will live on through her many achievements, the countless lives she touched, and the enduring admiration and devotion of her loving husband, Jim. May God bless her, and God bless America.

PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern about today's vote in the U.N. General Assembly regarding Palestinian statehood.

This unilateral attempt by the Palestinians is not in the best interest of the United States. It is not in the best interest of Israel—our closest ally in the Middle East. And, in my opinion, it is not in the best interest of the Palestinian people. Any decisions regarding Palestine's statehood must come in conjunction with security for the Israeli people and multilateral talks with Israel.

Today, as the world watches the actions of the United Nations, I plant my feet firmly on the side of the Jewish State of Israel, and express my unwavering support for their country and security.

Israel stands as a beacon of hope in a region of the world where democracy and freedom are in short supply. With our continued friendship, we can ensure that Israel has the support and resources needed to continue on as a banner of freedom and democracy in the Middle East.

SUPPORT ISRAEL

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Israel and in my belief that a nuclear-armed Iran poses a dire threat not only to Israel, but to the entire world.

Israel is a crucial ally and friend to the United States. There is a long, rich, and productive history between our two countries. If Israel's sovereignty and ability to compete on a level playing field is being threatened, it is important for all levels of the U.S. Government to stand up and act. The partnership between our two democracies is strong and must remain so.

Palestinian leadership is attempting a push toward statehood through the United Nations but Middle East peace can only be achieved through direct negotiations. An agreement suitable to both Israelis and Palestinians must achieve real security and mutual recognition of each state's right to exist. That cannot be achieved through unilateral action.

As unrest continues in the Middle East, the United States must remain steadfast in its unyielding support of our friend and ally. Sadly, Israel is in a volatile region of the world where our shared values of self-determination and democracy are under constant attack. That is why I continually support vital security assistance to Israel and support legislation to impose sanctions on those aiding Iran's nuclear program. Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad can never, at any time, be allowed to obtain nuclear weapons.

Israel's security, and regional stability in the Middle East, is a vital U.S. interest. As a Member of Congress, I urge all branches of U.S. Government to remain consistent in emphasizing their support for Israel.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE AARON COHN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our Nation's longest serving juvenile court judge and one of Columbus, Georgia's most distinguished legal minds, celebrated military veterans and dedicated public servants, Judge Aaron Cohn. Judge Cohn, who has served as a juvenile court judge since 1965, will step down from that position at the end of this month. His longevity of dedicated judicial service and steadfast commitment to positively influencing generations of Columbus-area youth, are just a few of the many reasons as to why Judge Cohn has been an invaluable and irreplaceable pillar in Georgia's legal community.

A Columbus native, Judge Cohn was born on March 3, 1916. He is a graduate of Columbus High School and the University of Georgia. As a student at the University of Georgia, he epitomized the true meaning of scholar-athlete in that he was the Captain of the Bulldogs' tennis team, served as Vice President of the Inter-fraternity Council and was a member of the Blue Key Honorary Society.

Following his exemplary collegiate career, Judge Cohn was admitted to the Georgia Bar in 1938 and in 1940 he volunteered for the United States Army. He served under General George Patton in World War II and earned the Bronze Star for his patriotic service on behalf of our great Nation. As a Major in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, he bravely fought with U.S. armed forces across France and broke through German defenses at Metz.

One of the most defining and heroic moments of Judge Cohn's illustrious military career occurred when as a young commanding officer in the U.S. Army, he was among the first of the Allied troops to help liberate the Nazi Concentration Camp in Ebensee, Austria. Almost 40 years later in 1982, he was honored by the United States Holocaust Memorial Commission as an Official Liberator of the Concentration Camp at Ebensee, Austria. Additionally, he was cited by the City of Bettembourg, Luxembourg, for his service in the liberation of Luxembourg while with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

After the war, Judge Cohn diligently focused his efforts on working to prevent children from taking the wrong path, advocating civil rights and promoting religious tolerance. During the

initial years following his return from Europe, he worked as a successful lawyer and served as chief registrar for Muscogee County, Georgia where he was active in the desegregation of the voter registration process. When he became a juvenile court judge in 1965, his love of children and his determination to help the underprivileged led him to embark on a highly successful and rewarding judicial career.

A recent headline in the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer recently read "Judge Cohn is an icon of integrity." It is true that Judge Cohn is an icon of integrity but he is also so much more. His notable judicial feats and vast accomplishments are an accumulation of tangibly substantive deeds that have positively impacted the lives of countless families around the world.

I would be remiss if I did not also recognize the important role that Judge Cohn's late wife, Janet Ann, played in his numerous achievements by being a supportive spouse, close confidant and loving mother to their three children: Gail Cohn, Leslie L. Cohn and Jane Cohn Kulbersh.

Finally, Judge Cohn has been a pillar of integrity throughout his life. He has been a mentor for me and countless others; an adviser; role model and friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting a true American hero, outstanding legal scholar and one of Columbus, Georgia's most beloved figures, Judge Aaron Cohn, on the occasion of his well-deserved retirement.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,726,790,407,953.74.

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 \$4,088,364,661,659.94 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

MOTION TO CONCUR

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide explanation and clarification of the intended budget effects from the anomaly related to the U.S. Postal Service that is contained in H.J. Res 79, the Continuing Resolution (CR) for Fiscal Year 2012.

H.J. Res. 79 would postpone from September 30, 2011 until November 18, 2011 the payment due from the Postal Service, which is off-budget, to an on-budget account managed by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 requires the Postal Service to