

I would like to thank all the dancers, supporters, and organizers of this terrific event. This year's Northwestern University Dance Marathon, will take place from March 4th through March 6th, 2011. It is a great opportunity to spend time with members of the community on behalf of a great cause.

HONORING DELPHENIA DAVIS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, thirty-four years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve on the DeKalb Community Service Board; and

Whereas, Mrs. Delphenia Davis has served the citizens of DeKalb County as an Advocate for People with Disabilities and our community has been blessed through her service; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents as an Advocate, Teacher and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who want to advance the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mrs. Davis is formally retiring from the DeKalb Community Service Board today, she will continue to serve those in need because she is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Delphenia Davis on her retirement from the DeKalb Community Service Board and to wish her well in her new endeavors;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim January 28, 2011, as Mrs. Delphenia Davis Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, This 28th day of January, 2011.

UNITED NATIONS TAX EQUALIZATION REFUND ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 519, a bill that would prevent vital upgrades to security around the United Nations building and break America's promise to pay legally-mandated U.N. dues. This legislation does not—as my Republican colleagues claim—reduce the deficit. In fact, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office determined that “implementing H.R. 519 would have no effect on the federal budget.” Unfortunately, H.R. 519 would undercut America's global leadership at a time when international cooperation is urgently needed to safeguard America's interests. I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

The United Nations Tax Equalization Fund (TEF) compensates American employees of the U.N. for U.S. taxes paid. Surplus credits remain in the TEF until the U.N. is instructed

by the U.S. how they should be applied. The Department of State has instructed the U.N. to use \$100 million of these credits to increase security around the U.N. complex during the current U.N. building renovation, based on recommendations from the New York Police Department. As the host nation, the U.S. is responsible for the security of the U.N. Ignoring this problem, as the bill would have us do, endangers American lives, and the lives of our foreign guests. Under current law, the remaining \$80 million in credits will be applied to offset upcoming U.N. assessments for critical peacekeeping operations in Haiti and elsewhere. This reduces the need for appropriated funds and lessens the burden on American taxpayers.

If this bill is enacted into law, America would fail to pay its U.N. dues. Choosing to break promises the American people have made to the world could come at a high cost. With new competition on the world stage from China and other emerging nations, and during a time of hope and uncertainty in the Middle East, this is a terrible time to play political games with America's global standing.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 519, and preventing an ideological and imprudent assault on America's commitments to the United Nations.

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on a warm summer morning in 1972 I stood outside of the Military Entrance Processing Station in downtown Denver. I was a volunteer for military service, but many of those around me were conscripts—draftees as they were commonly called. As the line moved slowly forward I listened as many of them rehearsed what they would say once they got inside to convince the Army why they were unfit for military service.

The conscript Army that I joined in 1972 suffered from a fundamental lack of discipline and low morale. By 1976 conscription had ended and the last of the draftees had completed their military obligation—the U.S. Army was now an all volunteer force. Every year since then the Army has improved in the quality of its personnel, training, and professionalism. Today, it is a much smaller force but an extraordinarily elite one.

In late 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan and in 1980 President Jimmy Carter sought to demonstrate the resolve of the United States against the Soviet incursion. President Carter asked the Congress to reinstate the Selective Service System. Congress did so, and to this day all males are required by law to register with the Selective Service System within 30 days of their 18th birthday.

However, conscription has not been requested by our military as a viable option during the first Gulf War, the Iraq War, or for Afghanistan—despite periodic shortages of military personnel. And while many draft age males have failed to meet registration requirements, no one has been prosecuted for failure to comply with this law since 1986. We have a requirement on the books that isn't used and clearly doesn't merit enforcement.

The Select Service System was never meant to be permanent. Now, 31 years and over \$700 million later, and with Congress never having given serious consideration to establishing a conscripted force, it is finally time to end the registration requirement and dismantle the Selective Service System.

Today I introduce legislation to do just this. The bill will allow the President, if needed, to reinstitute national registration by executive order. Until then, my bill will end registration. It will do so without negatively affecting our defense capabilities and will save the taxpayers over \$24 million annually. It also releases military personnel currently working within the Selective Service System to more pressing duties on national security, and removes an obviously moribund and outdated program that was never more than a symbolic gesture.

INTRODUCTION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAID PARENTAL LEAVE ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, when the national economy suffers, families face significant financial challenges and pressures—making measures that protect their health and prevent unnecessary job loss more important than ever. Helping families stay afloat in these economic times is critical—even for families of federal employees. That is why I am introducing the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act, which would provide 4 weeks of paid parental leave to federal workers following the birth, adoption, or fostering of a child. Paid leave ensures that a new child does not further destabilize families who are struggling to make ends meet.

The federal government should be a leader in family-friendly workplace policy. As the nation's largest employer, with over 1.8 million employees across the nation—including 85% of those outside the Washington, DC area—the federal government can serve as a role model for other employers.

Nearly ten percent of the workforce is unemployed, and many more are underemployed. Millions of families that once relied on two incomes are forced to survive on one—or none at all. A sharp rise in male unemployment has increased the number of families entirely dependent on a woman's earnings. Without paid leave, the birth or placement of a child means that many working families are left with no income at all coupled with rising expenses associated with a new child.

This bill is a straightforward, cost-effective way to help families while rebuilding a strong national economy. As of January 2011, the United States is the only industrialized nation with no paid parental leave. We are in the company of Lesotho, Swaziland and Papua New Guinea by not offering paid parental leave.

In the 111th and 110th Congresses, this bill passed the House with bipartisan support. I hope that my colleagues in the 112th will support this measure. In a tough economy, parents should not have to choose between a paycheck and caring for a new child.

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE WORLD'S FIRST AIRMAIL DELIVERY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the world's first official airmail delivery, completed by Fred Wiseman on February 17–18, 1911. The private airman's pioneering voyage took him from Petaluma to Santa Rosa, California, a distance of only 14 miles, but a momentous step forward in the history of aviation and the United States Postal Service.

Wiseman was born on a ranch in rural Sonoma County on November 10, 1875, and he grew up fascinated by the mechanics of transportation—bicycles, racecars, and of course airplanes. In the spring of 1910, less than seven years after the Wright Brothers built the world's first successful airplane, one of Wiseman's own projects was already taking to the air. The Wiseman-Peters, as his final pusher biplane design was eventually known, was a local collaboration between Wiseman and a group of fellow aviation aficionados, as well as one of the first planes built in California to fly.

Throughout 1910 and early 1911, Wiseman practiced his flying, even taking part in an early 1911 air race in San Francisco. Then, on February 17, 1911, Wiseman loaded his plane with three letters, 50 copies of the Santa Rosa Press Democrat, and a bag of groceries, and he set out on his flight across Sonoma County. Total flight time was less than 20 minutes, but the journey included two forced landings and ultimately spanned two days. Wiseman's plane flew roughly 100 feet off the ground, reportedly at speeds of up to 70 mph.

Although Wiseman did not continue making airmail deliveries, he did go on to fly in several other air shows in 1911, and his Wiseman-Peters would be redesigned for use in future exhibition flights. In September 1911, the U.S. Postal Service would eventually hire its first official airmail pilot in New York.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the centennial of the world's first airmail delivery. Fred Wiseman's independent spirit and passion for adventure live on in Sonoma County, and we are proud to mark this milestone in our history.

HONORING PASTOR MICHAEL A. SHINN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, Pastor Michael A. Shinn is celebrating nineteen (19) years in Pastoral leadership this year at New World Harvest Church and has provided stellar leadership to the church on an international level; and

Whereas, Pastor Michael A. Shinn under the guidance of God has pioneered and sus-

tained New World Harvest Church as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless, fed the hungry and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Pastor Shinn is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our District and the world his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Pastor Michael A. Shinn as he celebrates nineteen years on his Pastoral Anniversary;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim September 26, 2010, as Pastor Michael A. Shinn Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, This 26th day of September, 2010.

HONORING PRESIDENT RONALD WILSON REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to an American hero. I was only eight years old when Ronald Reagan became our Nation's 40th President. I clearly remember the optimism and patriotism he inspired in me and an entire generation of Americans who grew up during the Reagan era. His Presidency was guided by a commitment to conservative principles. He won the Cold War without firing a single shot and presided over the greatest period of economic growth and prosperity in American history. President Reagan would have had his 100th birthday this week. I urge my colleagues and all Americans to use this occasion to reflect on his life and legacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes in the House chamber on February 8, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 26.

CONGRATULATING GIANT FOODS ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me

in congratulating Giant Foods on its 75th anniversary of service to the residents of the District of Columbia and the national capital region.

Throughout its 75 years, Giant, as it is commonly known, has been known for its high-quality food and customer service. Beginning in 1936, when the first Giant opened in the District of Columbia, our city has embraced its convenient neighborhood locations, bargain prices, and quality customer service.

We appreciate Giant's long presence in the District and its continuing service to our city throughout population growth and transportation and infrastructure development here. We are particularly grateful that Giant has always adapted to the ever changing needs of the community, offering pharmacies, BonusCard programs, which come with special product discounts, Peapod, a home-delivery grocery service, and Super Giant, a department store that offers bulk items at reasonable prices.

Giant has become such a focal point and meeting place for residents that my office frequents Giants in the District for my Government-to-Go program, which offers casework services in the community to assist District residents with federal concerns, saving them from having to visit my offices.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 75th anniversary of Giant Foods.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALEX SOLA

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Alex Sola.

Alex was born on January 18, 1930 in Daly City, California. Alex served in the U.S. Air Force for four years, serving as a crew chief at Tyndall Air Force base in Florida. This posting allowed Alex to proudly serve his country while also pursuing his passion for working on the P-51 Mustang aircraft. After his career in the military, Alex remained involved in the aviation field working as an air traffic controller.

In addition to his love for all things aviation, Alex enjoyed film. He earned a role in the 1987 film "Six Against the Rock," playing a prison guard, and he also made appearances in various TV programs.

Alex passed away January 19, 2011, at the age of 81. He is survived by his daughter Debra, her husband Don, and their two children, Theresa and Sarah. Alex lived a long and eventful life, and I am grateful for his service to America.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Alex Sola and in sending our thoughts and prayers to his beloved family and friends.