

more than the American dream—they represent the American economy. Small businesses account for 95 percent of all employers, create half of our gross domestic product, and provide three out of four new jobs in this country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1965, "To amend the securities laws to establish certain thresholds for shareholder registration, and for other purposes."

THE ENTREPRENEUR ACCESS TO CAPITAL ACT (H.R. 2930) AND THE ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR JOB CREATORS ACT (H.R. 2940)

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of today's legislation, which will modernize our securities laws to support capital formation at our nation's start-ups and small businesses.

Specifically, the Entrepreneur Access to Capital Act (H.R. 2930) will facilitate the technique of "crowdfunding", whereby internet-based platforms like social networks are used to raise small amounts of money from large numbers of people. Under this legislation, securities offerings are capped at a maximum of \$2 million with investments limited to \$10,000 or less. Additionally, this Administration priority contains important investor protections to keep bad actors from undermining the crowdfunding market.

Similarly, the Access to Capital for Job Creators Act (H.R. 2940) will allow small companies to raise capital more easily by removing restrictions against general solicitation and advertising to potential investors. While maintaining the "accredited investor" requirement for participation in these private offerings, H.R. 2940 will make it easier for legitimate businesses to find qualified investors to launch and fund their operations.

While I continue to believe this body should be taking up more comprehensive jobs legislation like the American Jobs Act, these initiatives both represent modest improvements to existing securities law and merit our support.

HONORING MONTFORD POINT MARINES FOR SERVICE TO THE COUNTRY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in honoring the Montford Point Marines for their great sacrifice and courage in becoming the first African Americans admitted to the Marine Corps, and their service to our country during multiple wars, including World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Their service to the country was great, which is why I voted in favor of H.R. 2447 to grant the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines. The Congressional Gold Medal is a prestigious honor that these men truly deserve.

After President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Fair Employment Practices Commission in 1941, allowing for equal opportunity in all branches of the armed forces, the first black recruits entered boot camp at Camp Montford Point in Jacksonville, North Carolina. The recruits were prohibited from training with white recruits in nearby Camp Lejeune, and the conditions during their training in the snake-infested swamps of New River were much more difficult than those of their white peers. These men dealt with unsanitary drinking water, inferior barracks made of cardboard, and freezing living quarters, all of which were unfit for any American, let alone the men and women that protect our country.

As a testament to the resolve of the Montford Point Marines, after completion of their training in North Carolina, the 8th Ammunition Company and the 36th Depot Company were deployed to Iwo Jima on D-Day during World War II, receiving praise from fellow officers for their actions under fire. In addition, Marines trained at Montford Point participated in the seizure of Okinawa and helped with clean-up of debris from the atomic bomb attacks in Japan.

After the announcement of U.S. victory in the war, nearly 17,500 of the 19,000 black marines were discharged from the Corps. A few of the Montford Point men remained in the service completing tours of duty in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Today, few of these men are still with us, but their legacy continues to inspire young men and women who strive for participation in the U.S. Armed Services.

I salute the Montford Point Marines for their endless determination to bring about change in the Marine Corps, and for their exceptional contributions to equality in this country. Their sacrifices opened doors for many individuals seeking to serve this country, and we are forever grateful for their accomplishments.

REAFFIRMING "IN GOD WE TRUST" AS THE OFFICIAL MOTTO OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. JAMES LANKFORD

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I hear many people say, that our country has never been more at odds or our rhetoric more divisive than now—I would strongly disagree. While I believe that our debate and tone should reflect respect for each person, regardless of the deep philosophical divide—I would remind us of a time in 1861 when our nation stood at the precipice of the Civil War and the oratory spilled over into bloodshed. During that dark moment in our nation's history, the Secretary of the Treasury ordered the Director of the US Mint to create a new inscription for the nation's coins: He wrote,

No nation can be strong except in the strength of God, or safe except in His defense. The trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins. You will cause a device to be prepared without unnecessary delay with a motto expressing in the fewest and tersest words possible this national recognition.

The Director of the Mint responded back with a variation of the phrase used in the Star

Spangled Banner, The Motto, "In God is our trust"—since it was a familiar hymn and indicative of the American people, but though he thought it had too many letters for a coin, so he recommended "God our Trust", it was later finalized as, "In God we Trust" and was first put on a two cent coin in 1864, near the end of the Civil War. Most coins then followed with that motto until 1907 when some coins were approved without the words, In God we Trust, but after a huge public outcry, it was added back in 1908.

This was not an isolated moment in our American story, it was a consistent theme of our American story.

As we struggled as a group of thirteen small colonies we penned, "We are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights. . . ."

As I already mentioned, Francis Scott Key watched the shelling of Baltimore in 1814 after the burning of Washington, DC thinking that this could be the decisive moment when our young nation would be wiped out, he wrote the Star Spangled Banner—which ends with "So this be our motto, In God is our Trust."

After fighting World War I and then in short order World War II, then immediately finding the world waging the Cold War against Communism in the 1950's, we declared again our national value, what defines our nation—how we are different than the rest of the world.

The Communists declared their confidence that man can solve every problem of mankind, the educated and benevolent heart and mind of a few leaders could fix all of man's inequities, if you would only put your trust in the government.

In 1954 and 1956 our nation declared again with a resounding voice by adding, Under God, to the pledge, In God we trust to all currency and declaring "In God we Trust" as our official national motto. The Francis Scott Key's poem, that became a song, that declared since 1814, "this is our motto, In God is our trust" finally actually became our official motto.

In a time of national crisis the nation, through its elected leaders declared again that as a free people, we do not put our trust in Congress, the President, the Supreme Court, in the creativity of people or anyone else. We expect that the nation's leaders will also be the nation's humble servants, but we do not put our trust in them.

We have a national optimism because we believe that this world and this nation was created with a purpose and that the creator cares for his creation—from our founding documents, we believe that all people are created equal and are given certain rights from God, including Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. We are different as American, we believe that our rights come from God, not men—our core value comes from something higher than ourselves. It is that belief that drives Americans to not give up in the struggle to restore our great Republic.

We have been through hard times before, war, depression, poverty and struggle, but in this world of chaos, debt, irresponsibility and fear it is wise to stop and reflect again on our hope and our trust—we must work with all diligence to do what is right—but we should also remember that at the end of the day, we will have this world and its problems in right perspective if we will work and put our trust in God. This is not an establishment of a religion, it is an acknowledgement of our history, our present and our future—we are a diverse nation, with all kinds of belief and some with no

belief—but a common theme has resonated through each national crisis, In God we Trust.

In this moment of national debate over the issue of our day, I encourage the continued support of this simple and historic national motto.

CIVILIAN SERVICE RECOGNITION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2061, "The Civilian Service Recognition Act of 2011." This bill authorizes the presentation of a United States flag at the funeral of federal civilian employees who are killed while performing official duties or because of their status as a federal employee. The bill affords the head of an executive agency the ability to present the United States' flag to an individual who was an employee of the agency and dies of injuries incurred in connection with such individual's employment with the Federal government, suffered as a result of a criminal act, an act of terrorism, a natural disaster, or other circumstance as determined by the President.

As a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I value the lives of all American citizens who devote themselves to the public cause. America has a longstanding tradition of honoring soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who have fallen in battle. The debt we owe our nation's armed service members, especially those who have fallen, cannot be quan-

tified. It is imperative that we recognize and fully appreciate the men and women who risk their lives each day for our freedom.

Just as we recognize our military for their bravery, we must recognize our civil servants for their dedication to this nation. Our country is made great on the backs of millions of federal employees. Much like the men and women of the Armed Forces, the individuals tasked with federal law enforcement and protection put their lives on the line every day.

In March 2011, Deputy U.S. Marshal John Perry died from a critical gunshot wound while attempting to apprehend a fugitive wanted for assaulting a police officer and drug possession in St. Louis, MO. Mr. Perry dedicated his life to federal law enforcement, and sacrificed his life to make the country safer for all Americans. Deputy U.S. Marshal John Perry was a brave and patriotic civil servant who certainly deserves the honor of the United States flag.

NASA employee David Beverly was employed by the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, where I represent the 18th Congressional District. On April 20, 2007 Mr. Beverly was fatally shot in the chest during a hostage ordeal inside the Space Center. An electrical parts specialist, David Beverly fostered innovation and space exploration for the benefit of all Americans.

I have met many Americans who are proud of the work our government does. These sentiments can only be attributed to the civil servants who are the first line of contact to the federal government. Federal workers offer themselves in service to their country. They serve their duties with great pride. Federal employees serve this nation because they believe in their sense of civic duty. Civil servants believe their work provides them with an opportunity to protect and build the nation for fu-

ture generations. They seek to serve their country rather than their own self-interests, and share in the belief that country comes first above all else.

Federal employees are our neighbors; they are husbands and wives, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters. They sacrifice time spent with their families. They work long hours to support and defend the Constitution. They pledge their allegiance to this land of freedom and opportunity. They take the initiative to develop new and innovative programs, techniques, and tools to improve the way the federal government serves its citizens.

In my home state of Texas, approximately 190,000 people work for the federal government. Houston employs approximately 30,000 federal workers. They represent the values that we hold dear to our democracy. These values are grounded in patriotism dedicated to making this nation realize its loyalty to its citizens.

These civil servants make a positive difference in the lives of Americans. They play an essential role in addressing challenging and critical national issues. They create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. They help keep terrorists and their weapons out of the U.S. as well as secure and facilitate trade and travel while enforcing immigration and drug laws. These federal agencies care for our troops when they return from battle. The agencies make sure our borders are safe. They make sure the air we breathe and the water we drink are clean. I am extremely proud of the work that these federal employees do. I want them to know that I support them and will forever be indebted to their great deeds.