

corporations, or the best freeway system, but because a humble wordsmith named George Condon picked words from heavens and brought a shower of stars upon this community year after year, ennobling us, making us lighter, making us wiser.

## COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2838) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2012 through 2015, and for other purposes:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chair, I would like the record to unequivocally show that I strongly support reauthorizing our Nation's Coast Guard but oppose final passage of H.R. 2838 due to the controversial ballast water discharge provisions that were included in the bill.

I represent a district in the Great Lakes region that contains over 60 miles of coastline on Lake Ontario, a body of water that sees its fair share of shipping. New York State is the entry point for commercial shipping into the rest of the Great Lakes from the Saint Lawrence Seaway and I have serious concerns about how and what international commercial shipping vessels discharge into New York waters on their way to the rest of the Great Lakes.

Each minute, 40,000 gallons of ballast water containing thousands of foreign bacteria, viruses, animals and plants, are discharged into U.S. waters. Globally, it is estimated that more than 10,000 marine species each day may be transported across the oceans in the ballast water of cargo ships. Ballast water has been identified as a common mechanism for the transfer of harmful invasive species that threaten the livelihood and recreation of the millions of residents who depend on them annually.

The Coast Guard is in the process of finalizing its rulemaking process for a national Ballast Water Discharge Standard (BWDS) that would act as a floor for regulation on this issue, not a ceiling, and would allow states to impose stricter standards if they determine their waters are at risk. Title VII of H.R. 2838 would preempt this process by setting a weak national standard for the regulation of ballast water discharged into U.S. waters and would prevent states from implementing stronger than national standards when necessary. During consideration of H.R. 2838, I offered an amendment to strike Title VII or H.R. 2838. While, the amendment failed by a vote of 161 to 237, it received strong bipartisan support.

Unfortunately, while I strongly support the Coast Guard, I cannot support legislation that restricts the ability of States to protect against the threat of invasive species. The ballast water provisions in H.R. 2838 restrict these very protections.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER "KIT"  
ST. JOHN ON THE OCCASION OF  
HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2011*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Christopher "Kit" St. John, who recently retired from his post as the executive director of the Maine Center for Economic Policy (MECEP).

Kit is the founder of MECEP and has served as its executive director since 1994. This non-partisan organization utilizes detailed research and analysis to promote sustainable economic growth throughout the state. As the face of MECEP, Kit has helped lead the fight to raise awareness on a wide range of issues affecting everyday Mainers. In these tough economic times, MECEP's advocacy for Maine's poor and under privileged has never been more important.

In the many years I have known him, Kit has proven to be one of the most thoughtful, intelligent, and hardworking people with whom I have had the honor of working. As executive director of the Maine Center for Economic Policy, an advocate at Pine Tree Legal Assistance, and as an activist representing low-income groups in Augusta, Kit has contributed a remarkable career to serving the people of this great state. His unshakable belief in the people of Maine and his vision for all that we can achieve together continues to inspire me in the work that I do.

I am glad to hear that Kit will not be going far. I hope that his wisdom and insight will be available to both decision makers and the public for years to come. While my staff and I will miss working with Kit, I wish him all the best in his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Christopher "Kit" St. John for his tremendous contributions and service to the people of Maine.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM PRICE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2011*

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 837, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

## HONORING THE AMITY CLUB ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DELAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2011*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to rise today to pay tribute to a very special community group, the Amity Club, as the membership gathers to celebrate its 75th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone for this outstanding organization.

During the first part of the 20th century, New Haven, Connecticut was home to the

largest per capita population of Italians, constituting almost half the population of the entire city. At this time, Italian immigrants established strong roots in New Haven, working hard and raising large families. Most of these immigrants came to the United States with only a rudimentary primary school education, yet they had much higher dreams for their own children. They understood that education was the cornerstone of success and it was one of their central reasons for immigrating to the United States. It was from this same commitment to education and success that the Amity Club was established.

In the early 1930s, Frank Rubino, an architect who had become a leading building contractor and real estate developer in New Haven, was an active member of the Kiwanis Club yet he was one of few Italian members—as was the similar case in most of the City's service organizations. He was deeply proud of his American citizenry but he was as deeply loyal to his Italian heritage. Though there were a multitude of small Italian clubs throughout the city, they existed more for social purposes. Frank soon became convinced that the city needed a strong, service-oriented organization, with its membership made up of professional and business men of Italian background who shared his passion for their Italian heritage as well as his pride in being an American citizen. In fact the name AMITY was proposed not only for its dictionary meaning of "peace and friendship" but because it also combined the country they called home, AM for America, and the country of their strong ancestry, ITY for Italy.

Central among their work would be to provide scholarships to deserving students so that they could secure a college education. As one of their first acts following its official recognition as an association, the Amity Club members formed the Amity Trust Scholarship Trust Fund. Over the years, it has consistently grown and its funds have helped thousands of young students earn their college degrees and pursue their dreams. In addition to these scholarships, Amity Club members have been involved in innumerable service projects throughout the city, all aimed at improving the quality of life for all residents.

Our communities would not be the same without the efforts of volunteers and service organizations like the Amity Club, who, for generations, have made a difference in the lives of others and worked to make our towns and cities better places to live, learn, and grow. I am proud to stand today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of the Amity Club and to extend my sincere congratulations to them on their 75th Anniversary. In all that they have accomplished and continue to accomplish, the Amity Club has not only met the expectations founder Frank Rubino had for the organization, they have far exceeded them.

## IN HONOR OF DR. JOHAN GALTUNG

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Johan Galtung, who is being honored by the American Muslim Alliance

Foundation with the Abdul Ghaffar Khan International Peace-BUILDER Award.

In 1930, Dr. Galtung was born in the city of Oslo, Norway. He received his doctorates in mathematics in 1956 and in sociology the following year. In 1957, Dr. Galtung moved to New York and began teaching at Columbia University in the Sociology Department. He returned to Oslo in 1959 and founded the Peace Research Institute Oslo, where he would serve as director for the following decade. In 1969 he took a position as a professor of peace and conflict research at the University of Oslo. He has since taught at universities around the world and is currently teaching courses in the Human Science Department at Saybrook University.

In 1993, Dr. Johan Galtung established the TRANSCEND Network for Conflict Transformation. TRANSCEND encompasses Transcend Peace University, Transcend Media Service, Transcend University Press, Transcend Peace Service, Transcend Research Institute, International Peace Institute and the Journal of Peace Research. Their mission is to bring about a more peaceful world by using action, education and training, dissemination and research to transform conflicts non-violently, with empathy and creativity, for acceptable and sustainable outcomes.

Dr. Galtung's contributions to international peace have earned him the Right Livelihood Award, Bajaj International Award for Promoting Gandhian Values, First Morton Deutsch Conflict Resolution Award, Norwegian Literary Prize Brage, Augsburg Golden Book of Peace, Eric Bye Memorial Prize, Korean Demilitarized Zone Peace Prize and in 1987, the Alternative Nobel Peace Prize.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Dr. Johan Galtung as he receives the Abdul Ghaffar Khan International Peace-BUILDER Award from the American Muslim Alliance Foundation.

## COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2838) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2012 through 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise regarding H.R. 2838, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act.

H.R. 2838 reauthorizes the activities of the U.S. Coast Guard and authorizes funding for the resources necessary to support the men and women who put their lives at risk every day to promote the safety and livelihoods of the people who use our country's waterways. The bill provides these resources in a fiscally responsible manner that advances the mission of the Guard while improving administration and reducing costs.

Our nation's waterways are the recreational and commercial arteries of the country. The safe and reliable movement of goods and people on our lakes, rivers and along our coast-

lines, helped to build the United States into the country it is today. Since its creation, the Coast Guard has played a vital role in America's economic and national security. The investments authorized by this bill will help to ensure the continued availability of the critical resources necessary for the Coast Guard to continue serving and protecting the people of the United States.

Despite its benefits, the bill has a major flaw. While the underlying bill enjoys bipartisan support, I share the Administration's concern about the Majority's insistence on attaching controversial "ballast water" language to the measure, whose effect would be to undermine the Clean Water Act and hinder states' efforts to control invasive species. For that reason, I will support the Dingell-Slaughter and Bishop amendments addressing this issue and will oppose final passage if they are not adopted.

## RECOGNITION OF THE STATE OF OHIO FOR DECEMBER 1ST AS ROSA PARKS DAY

**HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2011*

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ohio as the first state to designate December 1 as Rosa Parks Day with legislation to honor her life and legacy as the Mother of the Modern Civil Rights Movement.

In 2005, then-State Representative Joyce Beatty wrote, advocated for and won unanimous support to pass Ohio's legislation in the 50th-anniversary year of Mrs. Parks' courageous act of refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus to a white passenger. This act sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Modern Civil Rights Movement.

Ohio continues to honor Rosa Parks with an annual statewide tribute on December 1 entitled "The Power of One," which celebrates that historical day when she took a stand by staying seated. A partnership between the Central Ohio Transit Authority, The Ohio State University, the Ohio Historical Society and the Ohio Civil Rights Commission brings the tribute to life each year. It includes a Children's Assembly that welcomes 800 schoolchildren to learn and be inspired by her legacy. Ohio's leadership in honoring Rosa Parks ensures that young children will be reminded that she is a symbol for justice and civil rights, and that sometimes one person can change the world.

I am proud to recognize the great state of Ohio for commemorating Rosa Parks' legacy of inspiration and courage and our state's ongoing education of young people about civil rights.

(126th General Assembly)

(House Bill Number 421)

An act to enact section 5.2231 of the Revised Code to designate December 1 as "Rosa Parks Day."

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That section 5.2231 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 5.2231. The first day of December is designated as "Rosa Parks Day," in honor of the woman who helped usher in the modern civil rights movement on that day in 1955 by refusing to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

Jon A. Husted, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Bill Harris, President of the Senate.

Passed December 14, 2005.

Approved January 12, 2006.

Bob Taft, Governor.

The section numbering of law of a general and permanent nature is complete and in conformity with the Revised Code.

James W. Burley, Director, Legislative Service Commission.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State at Columbus, Ohio, on the 13th day of January, A.D. 2006.

J. Kenneth Blackwell, Secretary of State.

File No. 62

Effective Date 04/14/06.

(126th General Assembly)

(House Bill Number 421)

AN ACT

To enact section 5.2231 of the Revised Code to designate December 1 as "Rosa Parks Day."

Introduced by

Representatives Beatty, Reidelbach, Allen, Redfern, Ujvagi, Cassell, Harwood, Brown, Healy, Oelslager, Lana, McGregor, J., Miller, Gilb, Boccieri, Perry, Skindell, Evans, C., Carano, Chandler, Barrett, Hughes, Combs, Driehaus, Aslanides, Flowers, DeGeeter, Hoops, Hood, Strahorn, Peterson, Mitchell, Bubb, Smith, S., McGregor, R., Otterman, Stewart, D., Raussen, Book, Yuko, Patton, S., Fende, Hartnett, Mason, Wolpert, Woodard, Wagoner, Schaffer, Fessler, Calvert, Carmichael, Core, Raga, Schlichter, Smith, G., Koziura, Setzer, Blasdel Speaker Husted Representatives Blessing, Buehrer, Coley, Daniels, DeBose, DeWine, Dolan, Domenick, Evans, D., Faber, Garrison, Hagan, Key, Kilbane, Law, Martin, Patton, T., Sayre, Schneider, Seaver, Stewart, J., Sykes, Taylor, Trakas, Uecker, Walcher, Webster, White, Widener, Willamowski, Williams, Yates Senators Miller, Amstutz, Armbruster, Austria, Carey, Cates, Clancy, Coughlin, Dann, Fedor, Fingerhut, Gardner, Goodman, Grendell, Hagan, Harris, Hottinger, Jacobson, Jordan, Kearney, Malory, Mumper, Niehaus, Padgett, Prentiss, Roberts, Schuler, Schuring, Spada, Stivers, Wachtmann, Wilson, Zurz

Passed by the House of Representatives, December 13, 2005.

Passed by the Senate, December 14, 2005.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State at Columbus, Ohio, on the 13th day of January, A.D. 2006.

J. Kenneth Blackwell, Secretary of State.

## THE ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE ACT

**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2011*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan, bicameral Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2011. The ABLE Act is a much needed, long overdue, savings tool for individuals with disabilities.

I would like to thank my colleagues in the Senate, Senator CASEY and Senator BURR for their tireless efforts to introduce a companion bill in the U.S. Senate. I would also like to thank Representative MCMORRIS RODGERS for her pivotal role in crafting this meaningful legislation.

The federal government gives American families a helping hand in saving for the future. Accounts with special tax advantages