

more say and that board members are more accountable is more important than ever. Everything possible must be done to keep the rail project on budget to keep the tolls as low as possible.

Virginia Governor Robert McDonnell wrote Representative TOM LATHAM and Representative JOHN MICA in strong support of these changes. I submit Governor McDonnell's letter for the RECORD as well.

Some interested parties have stated that the original 1986 law that established MWAA is a compact between Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia and that any changes to the structure of the board must be approved by all three localities. I want to state clearly that this is not true.

The independent and well-respected Congressional Research Service has told my office that the MWAA statute has been amended twice in 1991 and in 1996, specifically in response to court decisions involving the Board of Review. It is my understanding that neither change required the consent of MD or DC.

The Practitioner's Guide to The Evolving Use and the Changing Role of Interstate Compacts provides everything else necessary regarding the authority of Congress to enact subsequent legislation that has an effect on approved interstate compacts. Sections of this publication support the claim that Congress remains free to change federal laws, even if those laws have adverse effects on compacts that Congress has specifically consented to.

The relevant sections of the Practitioner's Guide to The Evolving Use and the Changing Role of Interstate Compacts are too long to include here today, but can be found on pages 43–47.

These changes to the MWAA board will improve its function, governance, accountability and transparency and provide greater input for those with a large stake in the successful completion of the Dulles Rail project. Washington Dulles International Airport and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport drive economic growth in northern Virginia and the entire Capital region. The MWAA board must operate successfully to ensure the success of both Dulles International and Reagan National Airports and the Dulles Rail, ensuring tolls on local drivers are kept to a minimum.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Richmond, VA, August 8, 2011.

Hon. TOM LATHAM,
House of Representatives, Rayburn Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN MICA,
House of Representatives, Rayburn Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMEN LATHAM AND MICA: I write you today to respectfully ask for your endorsement and support for changes to the Washington Metropolitan Airports Authority Board of Directors being proposed by Congressman Frank Wolf. As you are aware, MWAA, which was created through an interstate compact between Virginia and D.C., as authorized by Congress, maintains and operates Reagan National Airport and Dulles International Airport pursuant to a lease agreement with the federal government. MWAA is also responsible for maintaining and operating the Dulles Toll Road and the Dulles Greenway and construction of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Extension Project.

These facilities are all located within the Commonwealth of Virginia and have a tremendous impact on our economy and trans-

portation network. All funding for the airports, and the current metrorail to Dulles project, is provided by the Commonwealth or its subdivisions, and the federal government. Despite this fact, as chief executive I have no effective mechanism for effectuating a change or providing oversight when the MWAA Board takes action which may be adverse to the interests of the Commonwealth and its citizens. Neither do the other stakeholders in the District of Columbia, Maryland or the federal government. Each appointee to the MWAA Board serves for a period of six years and remains on the Board until a successor is chosen. Neither the federal statutes, nor the respective jurisdictional statutes enabling the interstate compact provide a mechanism for removing a Board member, since they do not currently serve at the pleasure of the Governor. This lack of oversight essentially allows members of the Board to potentially act in accordance with their own goals and directives for MWAA without consultation with or allegiance to the leaders and taxpayers in the Commonwealth and the other member jurisdictions.

Congressman Wolf is seeking changes to rectify this lack of oversight by providing the Chief Executives of each of the member jurisdictions and the President with greater authority in appointing and removing members to the Board. Specifically, members would serve at the pleasure of the appointing executive, and the appointing executive would be provided the authority to remove a board member at any time with or without cause. Furthermore, as referenced above, all of the facilities under MWAA's control are located within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Currently, however, Virginia only has five of the thirteen seats on the board. As such, the Commonwealth should be granted three additional seats on the MWAA Board, increasing the number of Board members representing Virginia and its interests from five to eight. These changes would provide me and future governors the ability to ensure that MWAA's policies and directives are in accordance with the best interests of Virginia's citizens.

I wholeheartedly support the changes proposed by Congressman Wolf, and, again, I respectfully urge you to do so as well. Should you have any questions or wish to further discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean T. Connaughton at your convenience.

Sincerely,

ROBERT F. McDONNELL,
Governor.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND ZIDDE HAMATHEITE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend M. Zidde Hamatheite for his profound dedication to his religion and for sharing his convictions with my community through prayer.

Reverend M. Zidde Hamatheite was born on January 11, 1971 to the late Archbishop M. Zidoneo and Rakal Hamatheite in Brooklyn, New York. He was taught at an early age to respect God and the people of God. It was because of his upbringing that he understood that he would pursue a career in prayer service.

Under the auspices of his Pastor, Rev. Alvin Barnett of West Baptist Church, Reverend Hamatheite learned the ways of the ministry until he turned 25. The Lord led him to accept the challenge as the Pastor of the Gethsemane Baptist Church in December 1995 as a result of his training.

After working in the Department of Education for several years and seeing the desperate need of the young people in this community, Reverend Hamatheite sought to rival against strongholds on the young people. He joined forces with the 73rd Precinct where he serves as Clergy Liaison, Police Chaplain, and Administrator for the Police Explorers Program. He and several members of the church also mentor youth for the Kings County District Attorney's Office in their Youth and Congregation in Partnership Program. Reverend Hamatheite saw the need to teach young men how to be real men so he developed a program that the Lord gave him, entitled, M.O.V.E. (Men of Valor Empowered), working with 12- to 17-year-old young men.

Reverend Hamatheite serves on several boards in my district: he is the Vice President of Bridging the Gap Ministries; first and former President of the Young Pastors, Ministers, and Evangelists Department of the Eastern Baptist Association; and the former Recording Secretary for the Moderator's Department of the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

Reverend Hamatheite now serves as the Pastor of the Wayside Baptist Church, where he was installed on July 18, 2011. Since arriving at Wayside Baptist Church, Reverend Hamatheite has implemented a new Visionary Theme, "Moving from Conformity to Transformation." During his first year as Pastor he established leadership classes for all leaders, reorganized the Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and under his pastorate many have come to give their lives to Christ.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Reverend Hamatheite for his passion for God's word and the diverse initiatives he has employed as Pastor of Wayside Baptist Church.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT BRUCE CHRISTMAS UPON RECEIVING THE 2011 WASHINGTON COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO AGRICULTURE AWARD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert Bruce Christmas for receiving the 2011 Washington County Extension Service Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award. Bruce and his family have dedicated their lives to the field of agriculture, and I am proud to recognize their achievements before the United States Congress.

Bruce was born to a farm family in 1933, becoming the fifth generation of Christmas farmers in the Florida Panhandle that stretches back to 1848. He graduated from Cottdale in 1951, received his associate's degree from Chipola College in 1953, and his bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in 1955. He maintained a thirst for learning by earning a Masters of Animal Nutrition in

1959 and a PhD in Poultry Nutrition and Management in 1972, both as a Florida Gator. Bruce also served his country as a member of the United States Army, both active duty and reserve, where he achieved the rank of Sergeant.

Of the 32 years of Bruce's professional service, 21 were spent conducting Research and Field Demonstration Trials. He began as the Assistant and Associate Extension Agent in Orange County, Florida and became one of the first assistants in Florida to be promoted to associate. Bruce then served as the Supervisor of the Florida Poultry Evaluation, continuing to work part-time even after his retirement.

Over the course of his career, Bruce authored roughly 150 scientific and informational publications on poultry, swine, and beef research studies. He has been a member of the Farm Bureau since 1960 and served on the Washington County Farm Bureau Board for nearly 20 years, 16 of which he served as president. Bruce has also served on the Florida Agriculture and Regional Agriculture Councils, as well as the Florida College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Board since its initiation. Bruce received the National Volunteer Service Award from the National Agriculture Alumni Association and has been inducted into the 4-H Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor Bruce Christmas on his success. My wife Vicki and I are proud to congratulate Bruce, his wife of 53 years, Addie Ann; his children, Stuart, Robert, Jonathan, and Scott; and his entire extended family on this truly special occasion.

NATIONAL RIGHT-TO-CARRY RECIPROCITY ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 822) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a national standard in accordance with which nonresidents of a State may carry concealed firearms in the State.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 822, the proposed National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011. I call on my colleagues to join me in rejecting this ill-considered and unwise legislation which will effectively force all states to accept the lowest-common-standard in concealed carry laws. Passage of this bill is reckless and undeniably a threat to public safety.

This law would add an unnecessary burden on police officers who risk their lives every day in traffic stops and other risky situations. It would make it nearly impossible for them to be able to determine whether the guns they encounter are legal or not.

The very likely and viable threats posed to public safety if this legislation passes are egregious. This legislation will do away with the strict gun laws each state has established according to its constituent composition and needs and empower dangerous individuals to carry concealed, loaded guns in states where they would not qualify for a local permit.

California has one of the most stringent gun laws in the Nation, and there is a reason for that. California had the highest number of gun murders in the Nation last year, 1,257, which is 69 percent of all murders that year and equivalent to 3.37 per 100,000 people in the state.

A very real example of what this legislation will do is a person convicted of domestic violence and not allowed to possess, let alone carry a concealed weapon in California, can cross state lines into a state that does not have the same restrictions, receive a permit for a gun, then cross states lines back into California and exact revenge against his victim.

Proponents against gun laws and restrictions constantly chime, "Guns don't kill people. People kill people." That may be the case, but a person with a gun can kill another much more easily than a person without one. FBI crime statistics based on reports to FBI bureau and local law enforcement show that in 2010, the latest year for which detailed statistics are available, there were 12,996 murders in the U.S.; of those, 8,775 were caused by firearms.

This dangerous bill will allow a resident of a state with strict concealed weapon permitting standards to simply go to and obtain a permit in a state with minimal standards, then head back home and carry a concealed weapon in a state that would have never allowed him to do so in the first place.

If ever you needed a concrete example of why this is such an ill-conceived and dangerous piece of legislation for both the public and law enforcement, consider the recent testimony of Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. The Police Commissioner testified that in 2005, a man named Marqus Hill had his concealed carry permit revoked by Philadelphia Police after he had been charged with attempted murder. Mr. Hill later traveled to Florida, got a new permit despite his record, used his Florida permit to carry a loaded gun into Philadelphia, and later shot a teenager thirteen times in the chest, killing him in the street.

Mr. Chair, the ramifications of such legislation do not stop there. It would also make it easier for gun traffickers to move loaded guns through urban city streets where police officers are already having a difficult time combating crime and violence. It will be nearly impossible for police to verify the validity of 49 different carry permits.

Policing our streets and confronting the risks inherent in even routine traffic stops is already perilous enough. Ambiguity as to the legality of firearm possession could lead to confusion among police officers that could result in catastrophic incidents. Congress should be working to make the job of law enforcement officers more, not less, safe.

Today, states establish standards for carrying concealed, loaded handguns in public places that include criteria beyond an applicant's ability to pass a federal background check. For example, at least 38 states prevent people convicted of certain violent crimes from obtaining carry permits, 14 states require applicants to demonstrate good character to obtain a carry permit, and about half of states grant law enforcement discretion to deny a permit. The National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity

Act would gut these standards and empower dangerous individuals to carry concealed, loaded guns in states where they would not qualify for a local permit.

We see firsthand the tragedies that can unfold when guns end up in the hands of criminals, the seriously mentally ill, domestic violence offenders and other dangerous people. Let us not forget the tragedy earlier this year in Tucson, Arizona. Statistics show that every year, more than 12,000 gun murders are committed in big cities and small towns throughout the United States.

States and localities should have the right to determine who is eligible to carry firearms in their communities. It is essential that state, local and tribal governments maintain the ability to legislate concealed carry laws that best fit the needs of their communities.

H.R. 822 is a dangerous piece of legislation that will create a very real threat to public safety. In opposing this reckless piece of legislation, I stand with the people of my home state of California. I stand with domestic violence prevention advocates. I stand with law enforcement across the Nation and our local police who risk their lives every day to protect the public. I will vote against H.R. 822 and I urge all members of the House to do likewise. For the foregoing reasons I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 822 and allow states to continue to decide for themselves and set their own standards regarding who can carry hidden, loaded guns in their communities.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3451

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I was proud to introduce H.R. 3451, a bill that would name the Federal Courthouse in Wheeling, WV after one of our country's leading and most respected jurists, Honorable Frederick P. Stamp, Jr., Federal Judge for the United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia.

Judge Stamp has served with distinction and honor since he was nominated by President George H.W. Bush and then confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 1990 and served as the Chief Judge of the Court from 1994 to 2001 before assuming senior status in 2006.

Born in Wheeling, WV, Judge Stamp received a B.A. from Washington and Lee University in 1956, and attended the University of Virginia School of Law before receiving an LL.B. from the University of Richmond, T.C. Williams School of Law in 1959. Upon graduation, Judge Stamp was a private in the United States Army from 1959 to 1960, and a First Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserves from 1960 to 1967. Prior to his nomination to the Federal Court, he was in private practice in Wheeling, West Virginia from 1960 to 1990.

Judge Stamp and his wife Joan are the proud parents of two children, Andy and Elizabeth.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege for me to introduce this legislation to honor my friend Judge Frederick P. Stamp, Jr., and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.