

repay and this is one way that we can show our appreciation and admiration for their service.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE
INAUGURAL CONGRESSIONAL
VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR
THE THIRD DISTRICT OF
TEXAS—ROBERT “BOB” KINNE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to announce before my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the names of eleven distinguished military veterans and community servants who call the Third District of Texas home. For their selfless service and dedication to their neighbors and nation, the following individuals have been selected as recipients of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Robert “Bob” Kinne retired as a United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel in 1973 after 21 years of honorable service. A distinguished fighter pilot of exceptional skill, Kinne flew numerous combat missions over Vietnam.

During one run in 1966, he was involved in a midair collision over Hanoi. When several surface to air missiles were launched at Kinne and his wingman, the wingman lost sight of Kinne’s F-4 and collided with him at 8,000 feet. The plane was heavily damaged, but Kinne was able to recover after falling to about 2,000 feet. Against all odds, he made it back to Da Nang Air Base safely. For these and other missions Kinne has received three Distinguished Flying Crosses, eight Air Medals, a Bronze Star, and two Meritorious Service Medals.

Upon his retirement in 1973, Kinne joined the business jet community working his way up to head of aviation for the Associates First Capital Corporation. He flew around the world many times, and enjoyed transporting dignitaries including President George H.W. Bush.

Kinne now resides in McKinney, Texas. A member of the Red River Valley Fighter Association, National Air and Space Society, and Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Kinne contributes to our community by sharing his love of aircraft and flying with the next generation. He also assists numerous Boy Scouts with their badges, Eagle Scout projects, and those with plans for future military service.

It is my pleasure to name Bob Kinne a recipient of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
EDDIE CHARLES BROWN, JR.
HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND
WORLD CITIZEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Eddie Charles

Brown Jr., a consummate organizer, community activist and civil rights advocate. Mr. Eddie Brown Jr. began working in the areas of human and civil rights in the 1960s. Often working on behalf of others, Mr. Brown devoted his life to making a difference in society.

A native of Louisiana, Eddie Brown Jr. was born on August 19, 1941, in New Orleans and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to Thelma Warren and Eddie Charles Brown, Sr. He is survived by his wife, Valinda, and three sons.

Mr. Brown’s historical efforts to fight segregation and all forms of oppression as well as to empower Black people started in 1960 as a student at Louisiana’s Southern University. He and 16 other classmates confronted the University and staged a sit-in to protest the prevalent racial segregation that existed in Louisiana. After he and the others were arrested, expelled and banned from enrolling in any university in Louisiana, Eddie Brown’s life would be defined by his fight for justice, equality and human dignity on behalf of politically and socio-economically oppressed communities.

The expulsion from Southern University led Mr. Brown to Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1961, where he landed on the front line of the Civil Rights Movement. At Howard University, Mr. Brown became a leader and organizer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He fought to win constitutional rights for Blacks and all disenfranchised people.

Mr. Brown never held a job that was not directly concerned with human advancement. Highly regarded in white political and philanthropic circles for a selfless incorruptibility, he helped bridge the gap between both communities and was able to direct very significant financial resources into poor black communities.

As a staffer at the Citizen’s Crusade Against Poverty in Washington, D.C., in 1965, Mr. Brown developed information networks among community-based organizations to support anti-poverty legislation. In 1967, he organized efforts to improve the political and economic conditions of Blacks in the Mississippi Delta as the Executive Director and founder of the Mississippi Action for Community Education (MACE) and The Delta Foundation in Greenville, Mississippi. At MACE, he developed community-based enterprises producing Fine Vines blue jeans and establishing catfish farms in the Delta. In 1974, Mr. Brown raised funds and helped organize the Sixth Pan African Congress held at the University of Tanzania with delegates representing 52 independent states and/or liberation movements in Africa, the Caribbean, and other people of African descent.

As Executive Director of the New Orleans Area Development Project in 1976, he organized advocacy groups to work for reform by organizing communities to fight police brutality and creating parent-teacher committees for education reform. Mr. Brown went on to serve as President and CEO of the Southern Agriculture Corporation in the 1980s where he worked to organize and gain capital funding for small Black southern farmers. In the 1990s as Executive Director of the Voter Education Project in Atlanta, he continued his tireless efforts to register Blacks and poor people to vote and to fight legislation restricting poor and disenfranchised people of all color from voting.

From the 1990s through 2006, Mr. Brown shifted his focus to nations outside the United

States. As a senior consultant to the National Democratic Institute, Mr. Brown designed and implemented civic and voter education programs to prepare for national elections in Ethiopia, Namibia, Zambia, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe. As an international election observer for The Jimmy Carter Center, Eddie worked in Ghana, Zambia and The Dominican Republic. As a human rights activist in corporate board rooms, Eddie served on the World Council of Churches and Emergency Fund for Southern Africa raising funds for humanitarian relief; at the Center for National Security Studies monitoring American defense policies and budgets; and with the American Friends Service Committee, United States Department of Agriculture Citizens Advisory Committee Equal Opportunity and Atlanta Council for International Cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life and legacy of Mr. Eddie Charles Brown Jr., a global citizen and activist who found his lifework in the work that he loved.

STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO
H.R. 3463, THE TERMINATE ELEC-
TION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
CAMPAIGN FUND ACT, H.R. 3010,
THE REGULATORY ACCOUNT-
ABILITY ACT AND H.R. 527, THE
REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY IM-
PROVEMENTS ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, the current House rule provides for consideration of three separate pieces of legislation: H.R. 3463, the Terminate Election Assistance Commission and Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act, H.R. 3010, the Regulatory Accountability Act and H.R. 527, the Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act. I oppose all three ill-conceived bills, because they weaken our democracy by giving powerful special interest influence at the expense of the public. We should be focusing on legislation to create jobs today and these bills do nothing to create jobs or improve the sluggish economy.

The first bill, H.R. 3463, eliminates the Presidential Election Campaign Fund, which was established as part of landmark political reforms following the Watergate scandal. The fund is critical in ensuring that wealthy donors and corporations are not able to monopolize the political process. Critics of the Presidential Election Campaign Fund contend that it is outdated and fails to provide enough money for candidates to run modern campaigns. I recognize that the fund needs to be modernized, but strongly oppose its elimination. Instead, I introduced H.R. 414, the Presidential Funding Act, with Rep. David Price to reform the presidential public financing system and again make it an attractive and viable option for candidates. Our bill would bring available funds into line with the high cost of campaigns, enhance the role of small donors, adjust the program to today’s front-loaded primary calendar, and end the public financing of party conventions. Presidential campaigns should not be limited to candidates who can raise the most

money from corporations and the super wealthy.

H.R. 3463 also eliminates the important Election Assistance Commission, which was created in the wake of the 2000 presidential election to help states update their voting systems. The commission provides voting system testing and certification programs to ensure that every qualified citizen's vote is counted. Since the commission was created, it has greatly improved the accessibility and reliability of voting machines. The commission works to provide states with financial and informational resources to upgrade their voting and registration systems, train their poll workers, and improve access to voting machines for more than 37 million voters with disabilities. The Republican bill to turn back the clock on fair elections is opposed by a wide-range of public interest groups dedicated to protecting voting rights—including the League of Women Voters, Democracy 21, Common Cause, Americans for Campaign Reform, Brennan Center for Justice, Campaign Legal Center, People for the American Way, Public Campaign, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), Public Citizen, and U.S. PIRG. Congress should assist the commission with additional resources; it should not eliminate it.

The Republican leadership combined H.R. 3463 in a rule to pay for two other flawed bills, the misnamed Regulatory Accountability Act and the Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act. In contrast to their nice-sounding titles, these bills create unnecessary delays and additional red tape in federal rulemaking. These delays could be detrimental to public health and safety.

It is important to recognize that President Obama has implemented reforms to the rule-making process. In January 2010, the President signed an Executive Order that required agencies to determine if the benefits of proposed rules are justified considering their cost to society. He also directed agencies to consider input from affected public and private stakeholders and experts when developing rules and regulations. President Obama required an interagency review of repetitive rules and regulation between agencies that may prevent innovation in the private sector. In response to concerns from small business owners, President Obama requested departments and agencies to decrease unjustified economic burdens on small businesses through increased flexibility. This increased flexibility can include postponing compliance deadlines for small businesses, establishing different requirements for small firms and large firms, and providing partial or total exemptions for small businesses. I believe that the steps taken by the Obama Administration address many of the problems these bills seek to fix without creating additional layers of unnecessary bureaucracy and legal uncertainty.

In 1980, Congress passed the Regulatory Flexibility Act to require that federal agencies consider the potential economic impact of federal regulations on small businesses. The current law has worked well, but the Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act creates excessive requirements in federal rulemaking by subjecting 50 additional federal agencies to conduct small business peer review panels and additional costly analyses. The bill would create major delays in important rules. These delays could adversely impact rules that would

protect families from fraudulent practices in the mortgage industry or safeguard children from toxic toys among other things.

The so-called Regulatory Accountability Act adds more than 60 new requirements in the federal rulemaking process. These new requirements would prevent government agencies from addressing public health, consumer protections, environmental standards, workplace safety and financial malfeasance and many other important actions. The new requirements contained in these bills could prevent federal agencies from fulfilling their core missions under the law. If federal requirements are overly burdensome, Congress already has the oversight responsibility to address the problem. I stand ready to work with all my colleagues to eliminate any outdated unnecessary regulations that are not cost-effective.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HARLEM DOUBLE DUTCH CLASSIC

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Harlem Double Dutch Classic, which competition takes place every year at the world famous Apollo Theater. I also would like to recognize the National Double Dutch League and my good friend Mr. David A. Walker who passed away in 2008, and the rise of director Ms. Lauren Walker, Mr. Walker's daughter.

David A. Walker, the founder of the National Double Dutch League made Double Dutch into the game it is today. Together with Ulysses Williams, whom he met while working for the New York City Police Community Affairs division, were able to make the game into a competitive team sport that quickly gained momentum as a World Class Sport. By 1974 Double Dutch had gained enough popularity to have the first tournament of fifth through eighth graders, in which almost 600 students participated.

Double Dutch has since become a citywide, national and international sport. Community centers and school throughout the national have thousands of students compete to be champions of this wonderful sport. For 18 years, Walker served the American Double Dutch League as president, and later went on to form the International Double Dutch Federation, the National Double Dutch League, which we are honoring today, and the Dynamic Diplomats of Double Dutch team. Walker managed to create an approach to the sport that has spread throughout the world as the default method to compete. Double Dutch has risen and fallen in popularity over the years, but Walker was able to help the game stand the test of time and rise once again in its full glory.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to educate themselves on this important sport that has changed the lives of young girls and boys throughout the nation and the world. We must honor the man that has helped put our children's energies into safe pass times such as this, and David A. Walker was that man. I know that his daughter will carry on his legacy

and keep this incredible sport alive and thriving.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE INAUGURAL CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS—RICHARD D. OLIVER

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to announce before my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the names of eleven distinguished military veterans and community servants who call the Third District of Texas home. For their selfless service and dedication to their neighbors and nation, the following individuals have been selected as recipients of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Specialist Richard D. Oliver served our country in the United States Army from 1980 to 1983. During his distinguished military career, Oliver trained to perform decontamination of field units in the event of a combat nuclear exchange. He served with the 2nd Armored Division, 1st and 2nd Infantry. Later, he was stationed in Korea as a Demilitarized Zone Guard.

Having served with great distinction, Oliver was awarded the Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and Drivers Badge.

After leaving the Army, Oliver served as a volunteer firefighter for the City of Sachse, Texas for 10 years. He now serves Sachse as a Police Officer. The recipient of four Life Saving Awards, Oliver most recently put his skill and strength to work when he rescued a woman who was trapped in her burning vehicle.

He is the current Vice President and State Trustee of the Fraternal Order of Police, also representing that organization at the local Chamber of Commerce. With the support of his fellow officers, he is the driving force behind the annual Christmas food and toy drive for needy families. Oliver also assists families who need assistance with home repairs and maintenance through the Sachse Shares project. Last year, Oliver was honored by his hometown as outstanding citizen of the year when he was presented with the Spirit of Sachse Award.

It is my pleasure to name Richard D. Oliver a recipient of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.