

school and decreases the amount of electricity that must be generated by other means, reducing pollution. While serving as a clean energy resource, the photovoltaic system is also used as an accessible, educational resource with students participating in an energy workshop using the new photovoltaic installation and online data logger. The system's connections to the science curriculum in areas of energy, electricity, and the environment serve as great additions to the school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the partnership of Rachel Carson Middle School and Dominion Power. Together, they have succeeded in taking a great step towards cleaner energy for the future. I extend my congratulations to the school and thank Rachel Carson Middle School and Dominion Power for their valuable efforts.

EASTERN WASHINGTON HONORS
RETIRING WASHINGTON FARM
BUREAU PRESIDENT STEVE
APPEL

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the extraordinary career of one of Eastern Washington's most exemplary leaders, Mr. Steve Appel. After devoting over 37 years of service to the Farm Bureau—the last 17 of which have been as Washington Farm Bureau's esteemed President—Steve has decided to retire. His career comes to an end with a long list of distinguished accomplishments and a record of success for the state of Washington.

As a third-generation family farmer, Steve grew wheat and barley in southeast Washington state and worked for decades to promote U.S. agriculture interests at home and abroad. A Washington State University alumnus, Steve leaves behind a distinguished career in Washington's agriculture community.

Steve was elected as Washington Farm Bureau president in 1994 and represents the longest-serving state President in the organization's history. His vision for the organization's growth was tremendous. In fact, in just the last five years, the Bureau experienced an 85 percent increase in membership alone. Under his leadership, Washington Farm Bureau pioneered the first-ever association health plan and industrial insurance safety and health program, which provide health insurance to rural Washingtonians in areas where such services were previously unavailable.

In addition to serving as the Bureau's President, Steve served as Vice President of the American Farm Bureau Federation—the world's largest general agriculture organization with over six million members—from 2001 through 2007. As the Pacific Northwest's first farmer to serve as an officer in the AFBF, he directed and implemented the organization's grassroots development process. Steve has also served on the Whitman County Planning Commission, Whitman County Soil Conservation Board, and the Eastern Washington Advisory Committee for the Washington Policy Center.

But his leadership extends far beyond his elected and appointed positions. He has testi-

fied on many congressional committees and remains extremely engaged in domestic and international trade issues. In his capacity as chairman of AFBF's trade advisory committee, Steve partook in a trade mission to Cuba and Mexico to advocate for advanced trade opportunities between the United States and Latin America.

While Steve is retiring as President of the Washington Farm Bureau, he will continue to serve as a vocal leader and member of the WFB Health Care Trust Board of Directors and the Board of Directors for Farm Bureau Bank. He leaves behind an indelible legacy in the agriculture community and will continue to play an instrumental role in the years to come.

Steve has been more than just a leader for the Farm Bureau; he's been a model for the state of Washington. When asked how he managed his success, he often says, "I live by something my dad said a lot: 'You do the best job you know how to do and leave the rest to the man upstairs.'" I congratulate Steve on his remarkable leadership and thank him for the profound differences he made—and will continue to make—in the state of Washington.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, let's start with what we know:

First, Iran is actively seeking nuclear weapons, and the international community has ratcheted up sanctions to prevent Tehran from getting the bomb.

Second, Iran is attempting to circumvent these sanctions, with Iranian nationals establishing front companies in other countries to get around U.N. restrictions.

Just this year, a grand jury indicted a firm established by Iranians but operating in Istanbul for allegedly procuring materials for Iran's ballistic missile program.

Third, we must be vigilant about companies that deliberately hide their ties to Iran.

But what about companies that don't even try to conceal their Iranian connections?

In October, this Congress passed H.R. 1904, the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act. This bill will allow Rio Tinto, a foreign company that does business with Iran, to obtain public land in Arizona so that it can mine for copper here in the United States.

But when Republicans in this chamber had a chance to join Democrats to ensure these business ties between Rio Tinto and Iran were severed as a condition of doing business on our land, every single member of the Republican majority voted no.

With the threat of nuclear weapons landing in the hands of Ahmadinejad, the stakes are simply too high to change the rules when the majority sees fit.

Vote yes on H.R. 1905 today, and we must insist on strong nuclear nonproliferation conditions in H.R. 1904.

DAVID MARVIN BLUMBERG'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor the celebration of David Marvin Blumberg's 60th birthday.

David was born on December 26, 1951 in Jacksonville, Florida. He is the fourth of five children born to Marvin Bernard and Mary Louise Blumberg. David obtained his Masters Degree of Public Administration in 1994 from the University of North Florida.

He was honorably discharged from his service in the USAF in 1974 after having worked as an instrument mechanic on the Minute Man 1, 2, & 3 missiles at Vandenberg AFB, CA.

David worked alongside his father at Marvin Blumberg and Sons from 1974–1982. He was certified as an FAA Air Traffic controller and worked in that capacity from 1982–2006.

Presently he is serving as an Air Traffic Safety Risk Management Facilitator and Instructor nationwide.

David is the proud father of Lauren, Will, Olivia, Nathan and Natalie. He has one grandchild, Walker Brooks Haas.

David plays the drums in a band comprised of other Air Traffic Controllers who raise money for charities and to date they have raised over \$650,000 for local and national charities.

David will be moving to Fort Worth, Texas to supplement the Federal Aviation Administration's Safety Risk Management staff.

His band Aire Traffic will be playing future benefit concerts to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and for the Joseph Sam's School for Special Needs Children in Fayetteville, GA.

Please join me in wishing David Blumberg a very happy 60th birthday.

PIPELINE SAFETY, REGULATORY CERTAINTY, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker. I support the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act. This bill has been improved since it was marked up by the Energy and Commerce and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees. I know that there are residual issues that some in the industry and some in the environmental community still have. No legislation will make everyone happy all the time, but I think my colleagues Representatives UPTON and DINGELL, have worked hard to come as close as possible with the legislation before us today. I thank them for their leadership and I am pleased that they have set an example of bipartisan legislating that we should all follow.

Pipeline safety is one that is particularly important to me. I represent parts of Houston and East Harris County, where virtually everyone either lives on, or in close proximity to, a

natural gas or oil pipeline. I also have thousands of constituents who rely on this industry for employment and their livelihood. I understand the need to pass a bill that addresses the dual priorities of ensuring safety along these pipelines and providing regulatory certainty for the operators in the years ahead.

There are problems with the bill, for instance, this bill may lead to an attempt by this Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, PHMSA, or future PHMSAs to regulate offshore gathering lines in the same way that onshore lines are regulated. While not prescribed by this legislation, the door is left open. It is important that PHMSA carefully consider how to regulate these lines and not take a one-size fits all approach. There are other tweaks that would have been nice, but this is a good bill and represents a bipartisan compromise.

Failure to pass a bill, or one side or another pursuing a partisan agenda over good policy, would have been far worse than the small problems I have with this bill. I commend Representatives UPTON and DINGELL for this bill and I urge my colleagues to support it.

RECOGNIZING ARIANNA
MCQUILLEN, RECIPIENT OF A
BUICK AND GENERAL MOTORS
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Arianna McQuillen, of Fairfax Station, on her selection as a Buick and General Motors Foundation Scholarship Recipient. She has been identified as one of 100 outstanding students from across the United States to receive up to \$25,000 in a renewable scholarship. She plans to attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology and specialize in robotics.

Arianna is very involved in our community, working on projects such as cleaning the Occoquan watershed, planting trees, preparing care packages for soldiers abroad and tutoring young students.

Her academic record is proof that she is a high-achieving student. She studied at Lake Braddock Secondary School, where her interests varied from math and science to art and the environment. She has won many awards in areas ranging from debate to art. She is a National Merit Scholar, a 2010 Beat the Odds Scholarship Recipient, an Advanced Placement Scholar, and a National Achievement Semi-Finalist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Arianna McQuillen's remarkable achievements and wishing her continued success as she pursues her degree at MIT.

HONORING SLOVAK EXPLOSIVE
ORDINANCE DISPOSAL (EOD)
MAJOR BARTAKOVICS AND EOD
TEAM

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Slovak Explosive Ordinance Disposal, EOD, Maj. Roland Bartakovics and the entire Slovak EOD team for their role in resisting an assault by armed insurgents on Camp Nathan Smith in Kandahar. I would like to recognize the Slovaks for their bravery during a failed enemy attack on the base.

The camp in Kandahar, which houses the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team, KPRT, was attacked by four armed insurgents with rocket-propelled grenades and small fire arms. The attack lasted nearly 11 hours, and was ended by the Afghan National Police supported by coalition forces, including the Slovak EOD team. Thanks to the determined professionalism of the Slovak unit, at no point did the attackers gain access to the compound.

I would like to offer my condolences to the families and loved ones of those killed and injured during the attack. The heroic leadership of the entire Slovak unit will forever be remembered. Their service and dedication has brought great pride to their nation, families and communities.

Echoed throughout Afghanistan, the KPRT reflects a productive civilian-military partnership. The United States stands with the Afghan people and their government in pursuing the mutual goal of a stable and prosperous Afghanistan. The United States owes a great debt of gratitude to Maj. Roland Bartakovics and the entire Slovak EOD team for putting themselves in harm's way in the pursuit of freedom.

MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND
JOB CREATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I voted to protect the Social Security Trust Fund by opposing H.R. 3630 and would like to take this opportunity to discuss my decision. This bill was a patchwork of many policies that were thrown together at the last hour and created a flawed piece of legislation that I could not support.

Primarily, the corner stone of this legislation—the extension of the payroll tax reduction—did not create jobs for the last year it has been in effect. Over the past five months, I have been vocal in my opposition to the President's unproductive plan. Since, I do support a long-term “doc fix” to ensure that doctors continue to accept Medicare patients, I do not support the \$17 billion cut from hospital payments, including those that are essential to help hospitals care for low-income Medicare patients. I do support the Keystone XL pipeline and efforts to reform unemployment insurance; however, these were not the central

issues of the legislation we considered yesterday.

Over the last several days, I have conducted numerous town hall-like meetings to discuss this legislation with constituents. As a result of these conversations with everyday West Virginians, it was apparent to me that breaking from both President Obama and even my own party on this bill was the right thing to do.

Washington just doesn't get it. This tax cut has been in effect for the last year and it clearly did not improve the economy. And at what cost? For the second year in a row, this bill would take another \$180 billion from Social Security with a promise to be paid back over the years, all to give the average West Virginia worker an extra \$30 in his or her paycheck every two weeks. That's not a jobs plan—it's a re-election plan. We have seen these same unsuccessful economic plans for the past three years, and for those three years they have failed miserably. Does it make sense to continue to make choices that we know from experience do not work?

I will concede that after spending most of this past year above 9 percent, unemployment has dropped to 8.6 percent. But the primary driver of this change is simply that 315,000 Americans simply stopped looking for work. Also, at this time of year, the retail industry increases their staff by almost 50 percent; those people will be back on unemployment benefits in February. Nobody can say that the payroll tax “holiday” has had a meaningful impact on the unemployment rate thus far, nor will it likely prove beneficial if extended for another year.

We've all been told that Social Security's finances are in trouble, yet President Obama's plan makes the situation worse. We cannot continue to send mixed messages to senior citizens and current workers. They need to be able to trust that Social Security will be there for them. If we do not stop extending this payroll tax cut, then Social Security will cease to be a guarantee and instead become another typical government program reliant entirely on politicians' whims.

That's not fair for our seniors or current workers who are currently paying into Social Security. So the question becomes, if not now, when we will stop raiding Social Security?

H.R. 3630 is just another temporary tax reduction that only produces more uncertainty for employers and fails to protect our seniors. Real structural reforms are needed to stabilize Social Security. Past experience shows that Congress will spend the next 10 years figuring out how to spend the money designated as offsets for today's bill on other projects. It won't be used to pay for the bill; I could not in good faith support a measure that will raid the trust fund without comprehensive reform to the system.

As Andrew Biggs, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, said, “People don't generally respond well to temporary tax cuts so it's unlikely you're going to see a strong economic response.” House Budget Committee Chairman PAUL RYAN has likened the payroll tax cut to “sugar-high economics.” And Chris Edwards, a tax scholar at the Cato Institute, said that the president's plan “is based on faulty Keynesian theories and misplaced confidence in the government's ability to micromanage short-run growth.” Perpetuating the president's failed economic policies,