

freedom in Turkey, a longtime friend and ally of the United States.

The value we in America place on freedom of religion goes to the very heart of American democracy, and we have a strong interest in promoting religious freedom globally. As with other indicators of democracy and human rights, nations that respect religious tolerance generally enjoy greater economic prosperity and social stability. While I support this resolution and encourage further progress on religious freedom in Turkey, I also believe we must seek to support these standards in an even-handed manner.

I would like to emphasize the importance of U.S.-Turkish relations. From Turkey's critical support in Afghanistan and elsewhere, as a uniquely positioned NATO ally and their substantial humanitarian contributions in response to famine in the Horn of Africa to Turkey's efforts in support of the Syrian people as the Assad regime's brutality intensifies, Turkey continues to be a strong partner in addressing some of the world's most vexing problems. As revolutionary calls for democratic governance sound throughout the Middle East and North Africa, we must continue to work closely with Turkey, whose position as a democratic, majority Muslim country can play a positive role in transitions in the region.

Moreover, I would like to acknowledge the positive steps that the Turkish government has taken to address issues of religious freedom and tolerance. This August, the Turkish government issued a decree inviting non-Muslims to reclaim churches and synagogues that were confiscated 75 years ago and has eased some citizenship requirements on Orthodox clergy. Unfortunately, H. Res. 306 omits recognition of these important commitments. While issues remain, particularly with regard to the Ecumenical Patriarch, I am encouraged by the efforts that have been made and hope for further progress.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Turkey and Turkish Americans, I look forward to the ongoing alliance between our countries.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRISCO FIRE CHIEF MACK BORCHARDT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Fire Chief Mack Borchardt for his dedicated service to the Frisco Fire Department and to the people of the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

Chief Borchardt first became a volunteer Frisco firefighter in 1973; at that time, Frisco had an all-volunteer fire department. In November 1987, Chief Borchardt became Frisco's first fulltime fire chief. Through his leadership, diligence, and organization, the Frisco Fire Department now has more than 140 fulltime department members.

Under Chief Borchardt's leadership, the Frisco Fire Department has expanded to become an outstanding example to departments nationwide. They are one of the select few departments in the country that have an ISO 1 rating, which is a testament to their superior standards and procedures. The Frisco Town

Council recognized Chief Borchardt with a resolution proclaiming December 2011 as Aubrey "Mack" Borchardt Month in Frisco. His service to his community, society, and peers throughout the past 30 years is indeed an inspiration.

I am honored to represent the city of Frisco and many of its residents in the United States Congress. I, along with his family, friends, and the citizens of the 26th District celebrate his tireless commitment to his community. Please join me in recognizing and thanking this exceptional community leader for his selfless commitment to our society.

CONGRATULATING VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, RECIPIENT OF THE 2011 ASPEN PRIZE FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Valencia Community College on earning the inaugural Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence recognizes extraordinary accomplishments in community colleges, applauding those that serve as models for elevating community college education.

Valencia Community College was selected by the Aspen Institute after a competitive, year-long process during which 120 of the nation's top community colleges were judged based on student performance and graduation rates. Of Valencia Community College's full time students, more than half graduate or transfer within three years. This is well above the national average of 40%.

Founded in 1967 as Valencia Junior College, Valencia Community College's goal was to make its students successful, both in the classroom and in their personal and professional lives. Today, Valencia Community College is the third largest community college in Florida, educating more than 50,000 students each year.

This is not the first time Valencia has been recognized for excellence in education. Indeed, Valencia has a long history of national distinction. Valencia was recognized in 2009, with the inaugural Leah Meyer Austin Institutional Student Success Leadership Award; in 2007, by the New York Times as a leading community college; in 2001, by TIME Magazine as one of the nation's best schools at helping first-year students to excel; and in 1998, the National Alliance of Business named Valencia the Community College of the Year.

On behalf of the citizens of the State of Florida, I am pleased to congratulate Valencia Community College's President, Dr. Sanford Shugart, and Valencia Community College's Administration, Board of Trustees, and faculty for pursuing excellence in community college education, both nationally and as a critical part of Florida's education system. May their hard work and dedication inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

TO HONOR PFC BRENDAN MARROCCO, UNITED STATES ARMY, WITH A POEM: "STATEN ISLAND STEEL"

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. GRIMM.

STATEN ISLAND STEEL

All in the shadow of liberty . . .
All in this most Gotham of all cities . . .
There grew up to be, one of our nation's finest sons so indeed . . .
As strong, as strong . . . as strong as can be!
Army Strong that's who he!
Whose heart and soul, makes our Lord so complete . . .
Whose courage so makes even the Angels up on high so weep!
Because . . .
Some Steel,
cannot so be crushed!
Some Steel,
will not so rust!
Some Steel,
cannot so be bent!
Some Steel . . .
cannot so be broken!
As if this Steel was Heaven sent!
All in how,
his heart of Steel has so spoken . . .
So very deep down inside,
all in what Rocco is invoking . . .
That which so brings such tears to eyes . . .
Which against all odds somehow kept hope alive!
To So Teach Us . . . To So Reach Us . . . To So Beseech Us!
Because, The Greatest Steel In This World . . .
Comes from Staten Island, my little boys and girls . . .
Yea, The Stronger than anything known to man!
Staten Island Steel . . .
Move over Superman, you're just a comic book . . . Rocco is real!
And Batman this is not your city anymore!
Brendan Marrocco, "Rocco" . . . Aka . . . Staten Island Steel!
Because, Rocco you have the word hero stamped all across your chest!
As you Rocco put the B . . . In Be The Best!
All found in your heart of gold, and your life's quest . . .
For Army Strong is your life's song!
Brendan, You Rock . . . all night long . . .
And when we gaze upon his heart, we feel the burn!
And now more Steel has so been forged!
The Bear! PFC Bryan Dilberian a 10th Mountain Man . . .
A Brooklyn Man, a Real Beastie Boy who stands!
A question asked, "in New York, what are you putting in that water man"?
This Christmas and Hanukkah, remember all of those men and women . . .
Who upon them this our Nation do so depend . . .
Who with hearts of Steel, all for us so live and die . . .
As across this nation families cry . . .
Separated by death and distance, who this holiday season so miss this . . .
And men like Rocco, who with hearts of Steel . . .
Who to all of us so reveal!
That word Hero, Brendan Marrocco . . . Staten Island Steel!

REMEMBERING REVEREND
WILLIAM KELLER

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the life and ministry of Reverend William Keller.

Reverend Keller faithfully served as a pastor for nearly 70 years in both Illinois and my home state of Indiana. While attending Olivet Nazarene College in 1943, he founded the East Side Church of the Nazarene in Kankakee, Illinois. He later continued his education at both Ball State University and Liberty University.

Reverend Keller was a dear friend of mine, and I mourn the loss of this great public servant. His record of achievement in his community and around the country is extensive and includes serving as Executive Chairman for World Wide Pictures, attending Billy Graham's School of Evangelism, and participating in the Conference on Evangelism in Amsterdam among others. Reverend Keller was also a member of the planning committee for the Leighton Ford and the Lowell Lundstrom Crusades in Muncie, and he organized several open air festivals.

In 1953 he founded the William C. Keller Construction Co. that built churches, office buildings, service stations and residential housing, and Reverend Keller also developed the Keller West Addition in Muncie.

Beginning in 1969, Reverend Keller served as President of the Delaware County Evangelistic Association. Among his many involvements, he was also a member of the Board of Social Concern for the National Association of Evangelicals; past Governor and Lt. Governor of Division H, District 11 of Toastmasters International; past chairman of the steering committee of National Issues Forum; and he served several years as a volunteer Probation Officer and court appointed Special Advocate for children.

I offer my most sincere condolences to his bride of 73 years, Irene; their six children: Martha Lovern, Harold Keller, Dave Keller, Paul Keller, Don Keller, and Bill Keller, Jr.; fifteen grandchildren; twenty-two great grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; and his siblings Charles, James, and Reba. While the loss of Reverend Keller's selfless work in the community will be deeply felt, heaven is richer with his passing.

MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND
JOB CREATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3630, the GOP Tax Extenders Package. This bill does nothing to create jobs, support the middle class or stimulate our economy. Instead, the Republicans have decided to play politics at the expense of ninety-nine percent of American families.

As we wrap up this year's legislative business, individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits, physicians anxiously awaiting certainty that they will be adequately reimbursed for treatment they deliver to Medicare patients and millions of middle class families facing a tax increase are depending on us to put politics aside and act responsibly. Unfortunately, the GOP Tax Extenders Package is mere political theater that takes an irresponsible approach to solving these issues.

Mr. Speaker, President Obama called on Congress to extend the payroll tax deduction in order to save working Americans an average of \$1,500 over the next year. If Congress does not act by the end of the year, American families making an average of \$50,000 per year will see their taxes raised \$1,000. At a time when the average American is struggling to make ends meet, it is essential that we extend the payroll tax cut to ensure that middle class American families can spend the money they've earned. Lowering the rate Americans contribute to Social Security out of their paychecks will help stimulate consumer spending, create jobs and revive our economy.

While the Republican bill we are considering today extends the current payroll tax cut by two percent and addresses the SGR "doc fix" for two years, there are a number of ideological poison pills attached to this bill that simply make this measure unacceptable. First, the bill cuts Medicare provider rates by over \$21 billion and significantly increases the number of Medicare beneficiaries required to pay higher premiums for services they need.

Second, the bill would cut over \$21 billion from Affordable Care Act programs, which will increase the ranks of the uninsured by 170,000 Americans. Although we are making progress in ensuring that more Americans have access to quality and affordable health insurance plans, the Republicans are recklessly attempting to roll back provisions of the Affordable Care Act that have proven successful at increasing access to healthcare. The Prevention and Public Health Trust Fund, an essential piece of the Affordable Care Act tasked with promoting healthy lifestyles and prevention treatment to keep Americans healthy, would suffer a deleterious \$8 billion cut.

Further, this bill would roll back the amount of time benefits are provided to recipients of emergency unemployment compensation. The current program allows beneficiaries to receive unemployment compensation for up to 99 weeks; however, the Republican Tax Extenders Package would lower that amount of time to 59 weeks. As we are all aware, the current job market is extraordinarily bleak. With the unemployment level in my district hovering around twenty percent, shortening the length of time benefits are provided would have a devastating impact on those who rely on unemployment compensation as their main source of income.

Mr. Speaker, cutting back emergency unemployment compensation from 99 to 59 weeks hurts the most vulnerable members of our society. That is why I submitted an amendment to this legislation that would extend current unemployment benefits for 2012, if the implementation of subtitle B of title II is found to have a disproportionately adverse effect on workers aged 55 and older by the Secretary of Labor. Had my amendment been made in order and adopted, it would have provided

much needed relief to job-seeking seniors in this tough economic environment.

Time is running out. Republican brinkmanship on must-pass legislation continues to damage job creation and create uncertainty for businesses and the markets. In their Pledge to America, House Republicans promised to focus on jobs and keep extraneous and controversial provisions out of must-pass legislation. This bill is yet another example of their broken promises to the American people.

For all these reasons I cannot support H.R. 3630, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE ADKINS BROTHERS
FOR ONE HUNDRED FOUR
YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, in southern West Virginia, "family" has a very special and sacred meaning. Its definition goes far beyond the traditional; more than a group of individuals related by blood or marriage. It is an ideal that transcends all West Virginians; an institution protected, trusted and revered by all. It is the core thread woven into and throughout the fabric of the values we treasure most.

Today, I rise to honor a family of West Virginians from the Logan County community of Pine Creek, in the coalfields of southern West Virginia. They are nine brothers, nine of the eleven sons of the late Olive and Oscar Adkins, who collectively served in our Nation's military for more than 100 years. This is truly a "band of brothers" for which our Nation owes a debt of gratitude.

Shakespeare outlined the honor and drew distinction for the Band of Brothers in the famous St. Crispin's Day speech, a motivational speech delivered to troops about to enter battle in Act IV of the play, Henry V:

Old men forget; yet all shall be forgot, but he'll remember with advantages what feats he did that day. Then shall our names, familiar . . . as household words . . . be in their flowing cups freshly remembered.

This story shall the good man teach his son . . . from this day to the ending of the world, But we in it shall be remembered—we few, we happy few, we band of brothers; For he today that sheds his blood with me; shall be my brother . . .

Fate was kind to the nine Adkins brothers. None were seriously injured, and all returned home safely, although many who served with them were not so lucky. All the Adkins brothers were honorably discharged, and all were proud to serve their country. The pride in this remarkable record of military service is shared by their parents, two other brothers, Hobart and Robert, and four sisters, Madeline, Ruth, Lyndell, and Iris.

The nine who served include Harvey, who was in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1943 to 1946; Jason, who was in the U.S. Army at the end of World War II in 1945 and 1946, then again from 1952 to 1955 during the Korean Conflict; Leon, who served in the Air Force from 1948 to 1952 in the Korean Conflict; Billy, who served in both the Army and Air Force from 1948 to 1954; Lowell, who