

It is my pleasure to commend Mrs. Andrianna Ferri on this great accomplishment. I praise her for a long life filled with generosity and caring for the well-being of others. I am honored to represent Mrs. Ferri in Congress. I wish her many more years of joy and happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
COLONEL JOSEPH P. RICHARDS,
USMC

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Joseph P. Richards, Commander, Marine Aviation Training Support Group 21, upon his retirement after more than 31 years of faithful and dedicated service to the United States Marine Corps.

Colonel Richards' long and distinguished career has been marked by his selfless dedication to duty and his unwavering love of country. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1980 and trained as an aircraft mechanic. Colonel Richards attended Westfield State College as a Criminal Justice major, graduating in 1985 before embarking on his career as a commissioned officer and Naval Aviator.

During his remarkable career, Colonel Richards served in a number of flying squadrons, deploying overseas with the 13th, 15th, 31st, and 24th Marine Expeditionary Units. On one such deployment, he participated in Operations Allied Force and Noble Anvil, supporting the air campaign over Yugoslavia in 1999. In addition to his operational experience, he has also served in a number of training billets, instructing new pilots and teaching officers at senior level schools. His record of accomplishment is well-documented and earned him command opportunities at every level from detachment to group.

Colonel Richards has served as Commander of Marine Aviation Training Support Group at Naval Air Station Pensacola since May 2009. His leadership and professionalism during his tenure have been nothing short of superb.

Colonel Richards' professional achievements have been rewarded on numerous occasions during his career. His personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and various campaign and service medals.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the career and accomplishments of Colonel Joseph P. Richards. His service to country and Corps has been exceptional. My wife Vicki and I wish him, his wife Susan, and three children—Matthew, Michael, and Meghan—all the best.

WELCOMING THE ORLANDO DEANERY
BOYCHOIR AND GIRLS
CHOIR TO WASHINGTON, DC

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome the Orlando Deanery Boychoir and Girls Choir to Washington, DC. An outreach ministry of the Cathedral of St. Luke in Orlando, the choirs are founded on European models and affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music in England. Students participating in the choirs develop the ability to create beautiful music and learn teamwork, professionalism, and respect for other cultures.

As representatives of Central Florida, the choirs serve our community, nation, and world. In addition to frequently performing in the greater Orlando area, the choirs have toured venues in the United States including Carnegie Hall, and abroad in many countries, such as Canada, Austria, Japan, and the Czech Republic.

Recently, the President Barack Obama recognized the choirs' talent and invited them to perform at the White House on Tuesday, December 20, 2011. The parents and directors of these choirs should be pleased with these exemplary students due to the discipline and dedication required to achieve this level of recognition.

On behalf of the citizens of Florida's 8th Congressional District, I am pleased to recognize the Orlando Deanery Boychoir and Girls Choir and congratulate the students for their hard work and accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING RETIRED SERGEANT
ELISHA LANGDON II FOR HIS
CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE
TO COMMUNITY AND COUNTRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, Retired Sergeant Elisha Langdon II. Mr. Langdon is a lifelong resident of the Mississippi Delta.

Sergeant Langdon was drafted to serve in United States Army after graduating from Alcorn High School. Sgt. Langdon served during the time of the World War II. While serving our great country, he spearheaded a protest letter to General Douglas MacArthur, Commander of the 8th Army, President Harry S. Truman, and the U.S. Department of Armed Services to abolish segregated armed services in the United States and overseas.

As a result of Mr. Langdon taking a stance against segregation, President Truman, prior to the Korean War issued Executive Order #9981 establishing equality of treatment and opportunity in the Armed Services for people of all races, religions, and national origins. This brought about the abolishment of all-black units in the United States.

Sergeant Langdon earned the rank of Sergeant and an Honorable Discharge after his tour of duty. Upon completion of his tour of

duty, he returned to the Mississippi Delta to continue his education at Alcorn State College in Lorman, Mississippi where in 1951 he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Vocational Agriculture, and then on to Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama where he received a Masters of Education in Vocational Agriculture.

Sergeant Langdon has broken many racial barriers. He became the first African American employed with the USDA Farmers Home Administration in Tunica, Mississippi, and in 1978 he was appointed as an United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Counselor, serving seven southern states and the island of Puerto Rico.

In 1989, Sgt. Langdon was also the first African American elected to the City of Ruleville's Board of Alderman. Mr. Langdon is married to late Ms. Everett Wims-Langdon and proud parents of one child.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in recognizing Retired Sergeant Elisha Langdon II for his dedication to serving our great country.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FROM
YOU CUT: SAVES UP TO \$1.2 BILLION
OVER TEN YEARS

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the federal government collects fees from coal mining companies to restore abandoned mining sites. Money from those fees is paid to states to restore abandoned mines within their state. However, several states have successfully restored all of their abandoned mining sites and now are permitted to use the federal mine cleanup payments for anything they want to spend it on. Effectively, for the states that have been "certified" as having successfully restored critical mining sites, the mine payments serve as an unrestricted federal subsidy. Several tribal governments also receive payments despite having already remediated all contaminated mining sites on their land. The Obama administration has proposed terminating these mine reclamation payments to states that no longer use them for their intended purpose.*

FROM THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Here's suggested text to reform the Abandoned Mine Lands program. It's more narrow than the Administration language that adds on whole bunches of bells and whistles, like advisory boards and councils and a competitive grant component without guaranteeing a net reduction in payments. CBO scored our draft language with an initial estimate of \$1 B. This language was in the Joint Committee's Republican proposal.

*FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED BUDGET
TERMINATION: UNRESTRICTED ABANDONED MINE LANDS
PAYMENTS

Department of the Interior

The Administration proposes to terminate mandatory payments from the Treasury to States and tribes that have finished restoring their abandoned coal mines. These payments can now be used for any purpose, and therefore do not contribute to the goal of addressing these hazards.

This proposal is modified from previous Budget proposals in 2010 and 2011 to competitively allocate the remaining funding to address reclamation of the Nation's highest priority abandoned coal mine sites.

FUNDING SUMMARY \$1.2 BILLION

JUSTIFICATION

Coal producers pay a fee on production to fund the reclamation of abandoned coal mines around the country. This abandoned mine land (AML) fee was created so that the coal industry as a whole would take responsibility for cleaning up abandoned coal mines, regardless of where the fees were collected or where the mines were located. However, the funds were authorized to be distributed by a formula based in part on the production volume in each state. Over time, as some States completed their coal reclamation sites and were "certified" as complete, the goal of the AML Program was increasingly distorted as "certified" States and tribes continued to receive the formula grant payments equal to half of the fees collected within their borders.

These payments to "certified" States and tribes may be used for any purpose, so they do not contribute to the original purpose of restoring abandoned coal mine lands. The Administration proposes to focus AML fees on coal mine reclamation by eliminating these unrestricted payments to certified States and tribes, saving approximately \$140 million in 2012 and \$1.2 billion over 10 years. This action will affect four States and three tribes, in addition to any States that become certified in the future.

Noncertified States will continue to receive payments, but the allocation process would be reformed to address the Nation's most hazardous sites each year. Instead of the current production-based formula, a new competitive grant program would be used to ensure that the Nation's highest priority coal sites are addressed before the AML fee expires.

In December 2010, the President's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform recommended this termination, eliminating payments to States and Tribes that have already been certified as completing this reclamation of abandoned coal mines.

THE LEGACY OF WARREN
HELLMAN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Warren Hellman: a community leader, a San Francisco legend, and an American success story. Sadly, Warren passed away on December 18th, surrounded by his loving family.

Warren was a tremendously successful businessman: at 28, he was the youngest partner in Lehman Brothers history; at 39, he became the firm's president. It was his business acumen that allowed him to pursue his true passion: philanthropy.

With his deep generosity, intellectual curiosity, and visionary dynamism, he changed the face of our city. His legacy will live on through his contributions to education, music, and civic life.

When Warren saw an opportunity to enrich our city, he acted upon it. He strengthened

and beautified Golden Gate Park. He worked to end homelessness. He supported the San Francisco Free Clinic, and he endowed aquatic sports at UC Berkeley, where he had played water polo as a student. Concerned about dwindling local news coverage in the Internet age, he helped form the Bay Citizen online journalism site. Warren served on the board of Mills College and University of California, Berkeley's Haas School of Business.

Warren was a lover of music, a lover of family, and a lover of life. The three-day concert he founded, Hardly Strictly Bluegrass, held each year in Golden Gate Park, has allowed hundreds of thousands of fans each year to enjoy the music that enriched his life. Warren was involved in every aspect of the festival, including personally recruiting musicians he admired. It is so fitting that Speedway Meadow, the site of the festival, was renamed Hellman Hollow just last week. I know this pleased Warren immensely.

With the passing of Warren Hellman, San Francisco has lost a beloved champion. But we can honor his memory and his enthusiasm by celebrating his many contributions.

Warren Hellman excelled at everything he did, including being a friend. I was proud to call Warren my friend. I hope it is a comfort to his wife Chris and the entire Hellman family whom he cherished that so many mourn his loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

HONORING PATRICK V. MURPHY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Patrick V. Murphy, an unheralded leader in law enforcement and an early advocate for community policing, for his distinguished service as the first public safety director for the District of Columbia overseeing both the police and fire departments during turbulent times. As well for his work in New York, Connecticut, and Detroit.

Patrick Murphy served as the District's first public safety director, transforming both the police and fire departments during his tenure. He is most well-known here for how he handled the historic rioting that took place in April 1968 in the aftermath of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The rioting here was as destructive as anywhere in the county, but Patrick Murphy used sound judgment while our nation's capital was in turmoil. Murphy said violence begets violence, ordering his officers not to shoot looters and rioters during the riots. Murphy said that he would rather resign than order the shootings of looters. While our city was experiencing unfathomable chaos and wanted justice, Murphy dispersed the mobs of residents gently, and with as few arrests as possible. Because of his efforts and that decision, fewer people were killed in the District of Columbia than in cities that had less widespread riots.

In less trying times, Murphy transformed how his officers interacted with District residents, establishing the "Cop on the Block" program, which allowed police officers to get to know personally the residents they served. This program would serve as a model nation-

wide as many cities turned to (community policing) tactics.

Patrick Murphy, the son of a police officer, was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. Before Patrick joined the Brooklyn Police Department in 1945, he was a Navy Bomber pilot in World War II. After the war, he came back home and decided to follow in his brothers' and father's footsteps and became a beat cop in the Red Hook District of Brooklyn. Patrick rose quickly through the ranks, becoming deputy inspector and later deputy chief, all while still attending college. Patrick moved to Washington, D.C., in 1965, during a time when race relations between police officers and residents were reaching a boiling point. He was first appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to the Office of Law Enforcement Assistance and later took the helm as the District's first public safety director, overseeing the local fire and police departments. He was a nationally recognized force in policing, and after serving the District, went on to become the police commissioner in Detroit and New York City.

In addition to his stellar career, Patrick Murphy was a wonderful husband to his wife, Martha E. Murphy; supportive father of eight, Gerard, Patrick Jr., Kevin, Paul, Mark, Sallie, Eileen, and Anne; and grandfather of 21.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in honoring Patrick V. Murphy for his accomplishments in law enforcement and his dedication to justice. Law enforcement in the United States is better because of his service.

HONORING WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY
TIGERS, THE 2011 NCAA DIVISION
III WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, on November 20, 2011, the Wittenberg University Tigers Women's Volleyball team won their first NCAA Championship. After ending the regular season with a 37-3, 16-0 NCAC record, the Tigers advanced through the post-season tournament to sweep the title in a 3-0 match against Christopher Newport University. This championship represents years of hard work and dedication by these volleyball players and their coaches. This achievement is also a reflection of the support these women have received from their families, Wittenberg University, and the Springfield, Ohio community.

Members of the 2011 Women's Volleyball team include Hallie Donathan (Tipp City, Ohio); Tessa Litman (Magnolia, Ohio); Hillary Monnin (Russia, Ohio); Katie Sumner (Dublin, Ohio); Ali Hock-James (Cincinnati, Ohio); Kiah Murray (Yorktown, Ind.); Hannah Riley (Minerva, Ohio); Miranda Sagle (Springfield, Ohio); Kimmie Dyer (Copley, Ohio); Kate Shoemaker (Vallonia, Ind.); Courtney Lauber (Zionsville, Ind.); Christine Simpson (Dublin, Ohio)

The Wittenberg University Women's Volleyball team was lead by Head Coach Paco Labrador and Assisted by Laura Jensen and Amy Cox. The team was also heavily supported by Athletic Director Garnett Purnell, and University President Dr. Mark H. Erikson.

Thus, today I ask my colleagues to join me and the constituents of the Ohio's Seventh