

students. They are responsible for assisting teachers in a variety of ways to implement the instructional program. They work directly with children in small groups or on a one-to-one basis, and through this close interaction, they foster strong bonds that motivate pupils to develop the knowledge needed to provide a solid educational foundation.

Mrs. McKinnie and her husband, Albert, have three sons and one daughter, and her time outside the classroom is spent enjoying quality time with her family. She is currently enrolled at Chipola College, where she is pursuing a degree in Exceptional Student Education.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Tiffany McKinnie for her accomplishments and her continuing commitment to excellence at Roulhac Middle School. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. McKinnie, and we wish her all the best.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York, the Honorable CAROLYN MCCARTHY, to provide needed funding for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS. The intent of the amendment is for the Department of Justice to use \$20 million appropriated in the State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance account to provide grants to States and tribal areas to implement the NICS Improvement Amendments Act, Public Law 110–180.

Representative MCCARTHY and I have worked together to improve the national instant check system since 2002. It was obvious to us at the time that the National Instant Check System was not working as Congress had intended it should. However, it was the tragedy of Virginia Tech that spurred Congress to act unanimously to update the instant check system. The perpetrator of that violent attack was adjudicated a danger to himself and others—therefore, legally prohibited from possessing a firearm—but was able to pass a background check because his name was not in the NICS database.

It is estimated that there are still millions of qualifying records that should be in NICS but are not. A study by the National Center for State Courts found there should be roughly twice as many mental-health records in NICS as there currently are, based on responses from 42 of 56 States and territories.

At the time we enacted the NICS Improvement Amendments Act, we found that there were two primary reasons there were delays in NICS background checks: the lack of updated and available State criminal disposition

records and insufficient automated access to records pertaining to mental illness, restraining orders, and misdemeanor convictions for domestic violence.

The NICS Improvement Amendments Act sought to address these inadequacies by authorizing grants to States and tribal areas to upgrade their electronic records and technologies, enhance their capacities to perform background checks, supply accurate and timely criminal history disposition records, and improve reporting and transmitting to the NICS database. This amendment would allow the Department of Justice to continue making these grants. Adequate funding for NICS must be part of the equation to improve it. Between FY 09 and FY 11, the NICS Improvement Amendments Act authorizes appropriations of over \$900 million. Yet, in FY 09 and FY 10, just \$30 million has been appropriated.

Mr. Chair, all Members of Congress can agree that we must confront our budget and deficit. However, at a time when States' budgets are more strained than ever, the federal government must be ready to help protect public safety, enforce the laws on the books, and in turn, serve our national interest.

Funding for NICS is not only an important tool to keep firearms out of the hands of criminals and those mentally unfit to possess them, but also to ensure individuals' Second Amendment rights are protected, as States are required to remove obsolete or erroneous records from the database. This common-sense amendment is supported by the National Rifle Association, an organization whose top priority is protecting the Second Amendment rights of Americans. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

HONORING MINNIE B. YOUNG

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Minnie B. Young. Mrs. Minnie B. Young was born on March 11, 1937, outside of Leland, Mississippi. She is the youngest of five children. Mrs. Young was married twice; both husbands are deceased. Mrs. Young is the proud mother of five children.

Mrs. Young attended elementary school in Dunleith, MS, then on to Abraham Lincoln Attendance Center in Leland, MS.

In 1965, Mrs. Young and others went on a strike for a pay increase from A.L. Andrew Plantation, located in what was then Tent City, MS. It was called Tent City because they lived in tents. However, there were no raises and the strikers eventually quit their jobs at the Plantation. The strikers then changed the name of the town from Tent City to what we now know as Strike City in 1966. Also, she was one of the marchers in Greenville, MS, during the Civil Rights Era in 1966.

Mrs. Young worked in the Head Start program from 1966–1980. She went from Head Start to Witte Memorial Hospital, in Leland, MS, from 1980–1985.

Mrs. Young enjoys writing poems. She considers this a hobby, which she has been doing since she was a little girl. Both she and her daughter, Maxine Johnson, call themselves

“Strike City’s Finest Poets.” They published a book of poems called Real Talk. Mrs. Young considers herself a religious poet. Today, she still writes poems, mostly for her church, Greater St. Matthew M.B. Church, located in Strike City, MS.

HONORING THE CHELSEA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSI- NESS LEADERSHIP AWARD WIN- NERS

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce, 2010 Business Leadership Award winners. The Large Business Award winner is Cleary’s Pub and the Small Business Award winner is True North Jerky Co. These annual awards are presented by the Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce and the Ambassador Club of the Chamber.

The formal presentation of each award will be during the February 17, 2011, Annual Meeting for the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce. Each of these award winners was judged in several areas that include; displaying innovative ideas and services, demonstrated leadership in the Chelsea business community, support of the Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce, and contributing to the economic impact of the City of Chelsea.

Cleary’s Pub is owned by Pat Cleary, Meg Boomer, and Joan Henry. This brother and sister team of owners has been in business for 20 years in their familiar Main Street location in downtown Chelsea.

True North Jerky Co. is owned by Phil and Jennifer Tolliver. Phil and Jennifer also are the franchisee for Bearclaw Coffee Drive-Thru located adjacent to the Jerky Co.

These local businesses in the 7th Congressional District have established themselves as true leaders and entrepreneurs who continue to spur economic growth even during these tough economic times.

I would like to commend and congratulate these businesses owners on their successful business ventures that have contributed greatly to the City of Chelsea, Michigan, and the 7th Congressional District.

HONORING JOHN DAVID MERCER FOR HIS HEROIC ACTION IN SAV- ING LIVES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of the House the heroic efforts of a constituent of mine whose quick thinking saved lives during a recent pre-dawn Mobile, Alabama motel fire.

On the early morning of December 21, 2010, John David Mercer, a staff photographer with the Mobile Press-Register, was driving home after shooting the historic lunar eclipse when his eye caught sight of another target. While glancing over at the battleship USS Alabama, a local landmark, Mr. Mercer noticed

thick white smoke billowing from a nearby motel roof. He quickly headed to the building in hopes of capturing some news photos when he realized no one else was aware of the blaze. At that point, he alerted the motel manager, sounded the fire alarm and sprinted upstairs to awake the motel guests. At one point the flames reached 40 feet in the air, yet Mr. Mercer continued to knock on doors.

Fire and police soon arrived and the motel was fully evacuated avoiding any injuries in the fire. The motel owner credited Mr. Mercer with saving lives and helping to prevent further damage to the building.

For his heroic action, Mr. Mercer was presented the Citizen Valor Award by the Mobile Fire-Rescue Department. Additionally, he was given the National Press Photographers Association's Humanitarian Award.

A recent Press-Register editorial honoring Mr. Mercer said it best: "These days, the title 'hero' is tossed about too casually and too often. However, we consider it fitting in this case. John David Mercer is a hero because he got into the game when he didn't have to, and because he placed the welfare of others above his own without being asked."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my voice to those who have praised Mr. Mercer's selfless act on that early December morning. He truly deserves to be called a hero.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Department of Defense Mentor-Protégé Program. This successful program was created in fiscal year 1990 to develop the technical capabilities of small disadvantaged businesses by allowing major contractors to transfer and develop technology with them. The Mentor-Protégé Program has been essential to diversifying our defense supplier industrial base by expanding the number of qualified small businesses that can realistically compete for DOD contracts.

Current estimates show that protégé businesses make up 12 percent of all small disadvantaged business awards from DOD. However, a sunset clause in the original bill set the program to expire in 2010, and language extending the authorization to 2015 was removed from the FY11 National Defense Authorization Act. At a time when our small businesses and defense industrial base are both struggling, this program, which has a successful track record, is a critical tool for keeping our defense industrial base and our national security strong. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House to ensure we reauthorize this critical program in fiscal year 2012.

HONORING MR. AND MRS.
WILFORD AND MARIE NORTON,
COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Mr. Wilford Norton, Sr., and Mrs. Marie Norton of Rolling Fork, MS, who were instrumental in the Civil Rights Movement during the origin of civil rights in Mississippi. Both Mr. and Mrs. Norton played significant roles in the success of voter registration and equality for local citizens in Sharkey County and surrounding counties. In 1965–66, Mr. Wilford and Marie Norton worked hand in hand with the late Mr. Sidney Alexander, Sr. (who was a strong advocate for civil rights) and other brave and resilient citizens to ensure all eligible and those that were of age were registered to vote. They spent many hours traveling throughout the counties visiting families to encourage them; this was during an era when many families were afraid of consequences and feared their safety. With much persuasion and long hours of labor, voters were registered.

In 1964, Marie and Wilford Norton also assisted in housing white students who traveled from Massachusetts and Ohio to assist the community in organizing the Head Start Program and other community programs. During this time the Nortons resided at 507 Magnolia Street, a small house with only three bedrooms. The Norton children sacrificed their beds for the comfort of their guests.

Shortly after the Massachusetts and Ohio visitors departed Rolling Fork, the Ku Klux Klan burned a cross in the center of the field that stood across the street from 507 Magnolia Street. During this time (1964 or 1965) the field was vacant with no houses. The burning cross was center field directly in front of the Norton's home and center to the newly organized Head Start Center (Ms. Francis Alexander's home until her passing) adjacent to Magnolia Street on Poplar Street. This did not deter the Nortons or the Alexanders in the cause for justice and equality; their will to end bigotry and injustice continued strong in both families.

This was a time when some in the community were making it known that they wanted an end to inequality and made a stand as they formed Picket Groups; the Norton and Alexander children 10 years of age and above were taken out of school to assist in a week-long of picketing all local merchants in Rolling Fork; they were joined by a few other Rolling Fork families and families from surrounding counties. In 1966, two of the Norton girls were amongst the first to integrate the former Fielding L. Wright School (currently Rolling Fork High School) in Rolling Fork. Though this was not an easy transition for the participating Norton children and others, it was a sacrifice that families made to end segregation in the public school system.

In 1963, Mr. Wilford Norton, Sr., joined Mr. Sydney Alexander, Sr., and a few other men of Rolling Fork, MS, with much support from their wives to participate in the March on Washington with Martin Luther King, Jr., that occurred on August 28, 1963, to rally for freedom, jobs, justice and equality for all at the

Lincoln Memorial where Dr. King gave his awesome "I Have a Dream" speech. Mr. Norton could not have been any prouder when he returned to his family; he told of how this was one of the most incredible events and days of his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 33 regarding H. Res. 72, "Directing certain standing committees to inventory and review existing, pending, and proposed regulations and orders from agencies of the Federal Government, particularly with respect to their effect on jobs and economic growth." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1. While I agree with my Republican colleagues that we need to address our nation's deficit, the budget cuts being proposed would do more harm than good for our economy. Specifically, the legislation's cuts to science and technology research would impair our ability to compete globally.

H.R. 1 would dramatically reduce investments in the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST). These agencies conduct cutting-edge science and technology research that keeps America innovative and competitive. The budget cuts will not only create significant job losses today but also stagnate our economic growth in the future.

As a resident of Silicon Valley, I know firsthand what investments in science research and development can do for our economy, and I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 1.

HONORING MR. ROBERT COTTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert L. Cotton of Sallis, Mississippi. Mr. Cotton has always