

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING STEPHANIE SCHEIB

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 11, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stephanie Scheib. Stephanie is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Stephanie's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Stephanie has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Stephanie can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Stephanie Scheib for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REMOVING EXCESS LITIGATION INVOLVING ENERGY ON FEDERAL LANDS ACT

**HON. PAUL C. BROUN**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 11, 2011*

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Removing Excess Litigation Involving Energy on Federal Lands Act, RELIEF Act. This legislation would help streamline judicial procedures for causes and claims regarding the leasing of Federal lands for the exploration, development, production, processing, or transmission of oil, natural gas, or any other source or form of energy.

Excessive legal challenges have significantly delayed and in many cases prevented energy resources from reaching the American public. These oftentimes frivolous legal challenges have helped contribute to our nation's economic turmoil and skyrocketing energy costs.

The RELIEF Act would not take away anyone's "day in court;" instead, it will simply streamline the process for all parties involved. This legislation would require that all claims be filed within 60 days of an action or decision and that any proceeding be resolved within 180 days of the claim being filed and gives precedence over other court proceedings. In addition, it requires that all appeals from the District Court be reviewed by the Supreme Court and that any proceeding be resolved within 180 days of the claim being filed. To

deter frivolous lawsuits, it also requires that any person seeking judicial review of any action under this Act shall pay the prevailing party's legal fees and other expenses, unless the Court finds that the position of the person was substantially justified or that special circumstances make an award unjust.

As the economic downturn continues and energy prices soar, our nation must do everything in its power to access the abundant natural resources with which we have been blessed. I believe this legislation can play an important part in our nation's economic recovery by alleviating current energy costs, while also helping to ensure our energy future.

HONORING THOMAS PATRICK O'ROURKE

**HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 11, 2011*

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Thomas Patrick O'Rourke, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, son and brother and to mourn him upon his passing at the age of 75.

Born on February 22, 1936, Thomas O'Rourke was the youngest of six children born to James and Mary O'Rourke and attended both Detroit Catholic Central and St. Cecelia before graduating from St. Cecelia in 1954. Having honorably served this great nation as a member of the United States Army, SPC 4 Thomas O'Rourke was honorably discharged on September 30, 1962. Thomas married the love of his life, Mary Ellen on May 3, 1974. A dedicated and loving father to their four children, Thomas embodied the truest spirit of the Irish enjoying the boundless conversation and camaraderie the Gaelic League and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He was affectionately known as "Mr. Notre Dame" among his friends at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post where he was an active member.

On March 7, 2011, Thomas O'Rourke passed from this earthly world to his eternal reward. Thomas will be deeply missed by his wife of 36 years, Mary Ellen. He will long be remembered as a father devoted to his beloved children Katie, Molly, Tom and Erin. Thomas O'Rourke leaves a legacy in his grandchildren, Ella, Aidan, Jack, Megan, Danny, Colleen, Maggie and the impending James, due in July. He is survived by his sister, Marge. Preceded into eternity by his parents, James and Mary as well as his brother James and his sisters Marie, Dorothy and Jane, Thomas was a wonderful man, kind to all he encountered. He will be truly and sorrowfully missed.

Mr. Speaker, during his lifetime, Thomas O'Rourke enriched the lives of everyone around him. There is no doubt that Thomas was a beacon of joy, hope and inspiration to those who knew him. As we bid farewell to

this exceptional man, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and honoring his life and his service to our community and our country.

STATEMENT ON H.R. 998, THE "STUDENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT"

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 11, 2011*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a proud cosponsor of the "Student Non-Discrimination Act," SNDA, introduced today by my friend Congressman JARED POLIS of Colorado.

I commend Congressman POLIS for his commitment to creating and fostering a safe educational environment for all students. The legislation we introduced today would assure equal protection for lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, LGBT, students.

As an educator for over 30 years, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating impact bullying and harassment has on students emotionally, socially and academically. These problems are pervasive and persistent in our schools. The hostile environment created by harassment and bullying not only deprives students of the opportunity to receive a quality education, but also contributes to academic underachievement. Furthermore, bullying and harassment can, and have, led to life-threatening violence and suicide, as evidenced by several nationally reported incidents including cases in New Jersey, Philadelphia, New York and across the United States.

Existing federal civil rights statutes that address discrimination do not cover sexual orientation or gender identity, thus LGBT students are vulnerable to discrimination, harassment, and bullying. Furthermore, there is no recourse or legal protection when the rights of LGBT students are violated.

The Student Non-Discrimination Act is a positive step toward achieving equal protection for LGBT students. It will do this by prohibiting discrimination in public school based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. These steps will provide LGBT students a safe environment free from discrimination to learn and succeed in school.

The SNDA has goals similar to legislation I supported as chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus including the Safe Schools Improvement Act, which helps schools and school districts develop and improve anti-bullying and anti-harassment initiatives. We need all of this and much more, until our students are safe enough to study without the strain of discrimination or fear of bullying and harassment.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of the Student Non-Discrimination Act and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation to ensure that all our students have access to a quality education free from fear.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING LYNESIA TAYLOR

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 11, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lynesia Taylor. Lynesia is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Lynesia's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Lynesia has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Lynesia can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Lynesia Taylor for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

HONORING LINDA PASTO AS A 2010  
GREAT COMEBACKS AWARD RECIPIENT**HON. RICHARD L. HANNA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 11, 2011*

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I pause today to recognize Linda Pasto, R.N., of Ithaca, New York. Linda has been selected as a 2010 Great Comebacks Award recipient for the East Region. This program honors a group of individuals who are living with varied intestinal diseases and/or recovering from ostomy surgery. It seeks to raise awareness of the quality of life issues confronting more than 700,000 men, women and children throughout our country affected by the very conditions that can result in an ostomy.

Every year on the first day of September, Linda throws a party. It's not for her birthday, but for what she considers her rebirth—the day she received her ostomy. After 10 years of flare-ups, hospitalizations and weight gain from medication due to Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, Linda opted for ostomy surgery. At age 51, Linda's life began again. Now she uses her newfound zest and enjoyment for life to help others who are dealing with intestinal diseases.

Since her surgery, Linda went from struggling with everyday activities, including her duties as a nursing instructor, to playing with her grandchildren, traveling abroad and even going on a 3-hour kayaking trip in the Adirondack Mountains.

The Great Comebacks Program is sponsored by ConvaTec, a leading developer of ostomy and wound care products, in partnership with the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, the United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc. and the Intestinal Disease Education and Awareness Society. Each year, Great comebacks presents regional awards to 12 individuals through the United States who have struggled with a chronic intestinal condition

and have exhibited extraordinary strength and courage for managing to live full and productive lives despite daily struggles.

I urge my colleagues to take time to meet with some of the Great Comebacks award recipients. Their personal stories, like Linda's, are inspiration and will heighten your awareness about some of the huge strides being made by people living with intestinal diseases or recovering from ostomy surgery.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INDIGENT  
FUNERAL EXPENSE REIMBURSE-  
MENT ACT OF 2011**HON. PAUL C. BROWN**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 11, 2011*

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Indigent Funeral Expense Reimbursement Act of 2011. This common sense legislation would allow for up to a \$3,000 federal tax credit for the providing of individual funeral services. Additionally, this legislation would not usurp existing state tax incentives for the funeral services of indigent individuals, but instead would supplement them.

Funeral homes respectfully and diligently provide the last measure of care for those in our society who have passed away. Oftentimes the family of the deceased or the deceased's estate takes care of the funeral expenses. However, in some cases, most especially in the case of indigent or unclaimed deceased individuals, the means to pay for these solemn services simply do not exist. Typically, cities, counties and states are left to cover the bill, and states often have tax credits or tax deductions available to funeral homes that provide services for indigent care. However, in these trying times, these state tax incentives are among the first cuts being made.

Across the country, because of an influx of the number of deceased individuals and their families now befitting indigent status, funeral homes and mortuaries are being forced to shoulder the financial burden of providing the last service of a person's life. This straightforward tax credit would simply remove the financial burden and allow funeral homes to provide the care and services that they are trained to provide.

HONORING MEGAN HOTTEL

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 11, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Megan Hottel. Megan is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Megan's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Megan has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the fu-

ture. This is an accomplishment for which Megan can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Megan Hottel for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL  
EACH ONE, TEACH ONE'S 44  
YEARS OF SERVICE AND TO CELE-  
BRATE THE 70TH BIRTHDAYS  
OF ITS FOUNDING FATHERS, BOB  
MCCULLOUGH AND FRED  
CRAWFORD**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 11, 2011*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Children of the Founders in recognition of National Each One, Teach One's 44 Years of Service and to celebrate the 70th Birthdays of its Founding Fathers, Bob McCullough and Fred Crawford.

The National Association of Each One, Teach One, Inc.—“Where Knowledge is Power,” is a non-profit (501c3) youth developmental & mentoring program, which uses sports as a vehicle to motivate youngsters to pursue higher education and explore various careers. They conduct college tours; provide guest speakers from public, private and the entertainment sectors, while fostering self respect, community awareness and self empowerment.

“Each One, Teach One,” was a motto coined by Holcombe Rucker, who organized basketball tournaments as way to help keep kids off the street and out of trouble through life lessons. Born and raised in Harlem, Holcombe Rucker played guard at Benjamin Franklin High School in East Harlem before dropping out to serve in the United States Army during World War II. Upon his discharged from the Army, Rucker earned his General Equivalency High School Diploma and was hired as a Playground Director in Harlem for the New York City Department of Parks.

The Playgrounds and Parks would double-up as his office and meeting place, where people, whether they liked basketball or not, would come to Rucker for advice and words of wisdom. The word was that he spent more than half his day—thirteen to fifteen hours—at the park, beginning around 8:30 am. He even ate dinner there, which consisted of his favorite meal—Chinese food, vegetables with rice and brown gravy and was followed by a cup of coffee and a cigarette.

In 1962, Rucker would prove the importance of education and enrolled at the City College of New York, CCNY. While taking night classes, Holcombe took his work ethic and thirst for education and completed a four-year Bachelor of Arts degree in only three years. He used the degree to teach English at Junior High School 139 in Harlem. In 1965, Holcombe Rucker passed due to cancer complications at the young age of 38 years old. Before he died, Rucker would set the standard for years to come.

Over the years, Holcombe Rucker would help youth to obtain over 700 intercollegiate