

boards of the Bloomsburg Chapter of the American Red Cross, the United Way of Columbia County, and the Columbia-Montour Business & Educational Partnership. Currently, Mr. Diehl serves on the boards of the Millville Mutual Insurance Company, the Millville Community Alliance, and the Pennsylvania Bankers Association. He is vice chairman of the Columbia Alliance for Economic Growth, and the president and CEO of First Columbia Bank & Trust Co. and CCFNB Bancorp.

Mr. Diehl has always been dedicated to his community. In 1995, Mr. Diehl was the co-chair of the Little Fishing Creek Swimming Pool Renovations. In 1999, he was the co-chair of the Columbia County United Way Campaign. Mr. Diehl has always enjoyed coaching the youth of our community. He has held coaching positions with Millville Boys Varsity Basketball, Millville Boys & Girls Junior High Basketball, Millville Boys and Girls Elementary Basketball, Little League, and AYSO Soccer. Mr. Diehl is an active member of Millville United Methodist Church, serving on various committees and acting as a Sunday School teacher.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Diehl has been an active and dedicated member of our community. He has taken a role as a humanitarian and mentor. His service has helped many of his neighbors and guided many of our youth. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Lance O. Diehl on being named the Columbia-Montour Council of the Boy Scouts of America's 2011 Distinguished Citizen.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to call attention to a significant conflict of interest within the Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee (TPSAC)—a conflict that can and should cast doubt on its recent report to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding the effect of menthol cigarettes on the public health.

Last year, I submitted a statement for the Record referencing a Boston Globe article entitled “FDA Lax on Conflicts of Interest,” and I’m saddened to see that this problem continues to this day at the FDA. Since the FDA announced the nine voting members of TPSAC, questions have surfaced regarding financial and ethical conflicts of interest among several of the members. Rather than investigate the alleged conflicts and eliminate the shadow of doubt looming over the committee, the FDA has stood idly by as these conflicts have festered and threatened to undermine the very purpose TPSAC was formed to serve.

Several members appointed to TPSAC have substantial financial interests at stake in the decisions rendered by the Committee. One member is an active consultant to drug companies that manufacture smoking cessation products. Another member stands to make money on a patented new smoking cessation drug. Both of these members have also testified against tobacco companies in several legal proceedings. The conflicts could not be clearer.

Now, we find that TPSAC has, as many of the original skeptics predicted, released a recommendation that, short of an outright ban, nevertheless notes that “removal of menthol cigarettes from the marketplace would benefit the public health.” Rather than accept TPSAC’s report as an unbiased call to action, we are faced with the same controversy that should have been corrected more than a year ago.

The people deserve a government free from the appearance of impropriety. They have entrusted the members of this Chamber, as well as officials appointed within the Administration, to enforce the law even-handedly and to engage in policy decisions unencumbered by conflicts of interest, personal biases, or unethical predispositions.

The only solution is for FDA to reject the recommendation of TPSAC and appoint new, unbiased members to the committee in order to carry out the purpose of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. The FDA owes the people a fair and untarnished recommendation on this important issue and I call on the FDA to take appropriate measures to remedy TPSAC’s inane report and conclusions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GENERAL JAMES R. JOSEPH

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Major General James R. Joseph and congratulate him on his recent promotion to Assistant Adjutant General—Army, Pennsylvania, National Guard, Joint Force Headquarters, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Joseph, or “Jimmy Joe,” as I know him, enlisted as a soldier in 1971 to begin his military career. He graduated from basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and obtained his advanced individual training as a military policeman at Fort Gordon, Georgia. General Joseph completed a tour of duty in Vietnam, where he was assigned to the 716th Military Police Battalion. He finished his active duty tour at Fort Polk, Louisiana, with the 258th Military Police Company.

But General Joseph did not stop serving our country. He joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in 1974 and was assigned to be a combat engineer with Company C, 876th Engineer Battalion. Currently, General Joseph serves as the primary advisor to the Adjutant General for all joint logistics matters, including commodity and material management, property and personnel movement, storage and distribution, and defense movement coordination, including the acquisition and sustainment of unique equipment used by National Guard units in homeland defense, civil support, and counterdrug operations. He has oversight of the Eastern Army Aviation Training Site, 166th Regional Training Institute, and the Medical Battalion Training Site.

Mr. Speaker, General Joseph has dedicated his life to serving our country. His family has made sacrifices as he committed himself to protecting our freedom and keeping our citizens safe. His courage and commitment is something to be greatly respected and hon-

ored. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate my friend, “Jimmy Joe,” and I ask my colleagues to stand with me in honoring Major General James R. Joseph for his greatly deserved promotion to Assistant Adjutant General of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 804

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, in September 2010, Operation Iraqi Freedom was renamed Operation New Dawn.

To this effect, I introduced, H.R. 804, legislation that would ensure that military service in Operation New Dawn continues to be considered service in a theater of operations, for purposes of eligibility for veterans’ hospital and nursing home care and medical services through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Our nation’s brave men and women have fought together hand in hand in the war against terror, and many of them are experiencing multiple and extended deployments in support of Iraq and Afghanistan.

When they return home, we must make certain that veterans would not be denied access to certain programs because of the way the law is currently written.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

OVERREACHING ACTIONS OF FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, while being later to the effort than my good friend Congressman RON PAUL, many of you know that I have long expressed concerns about the sometimes overreaching actions of federal law enforcement, especially as they interact with American citizens.

Most law enforcement officials in this country are highly ethical with a strong desire to serve the effort to keep our country and our communities safe. Unfortunately, as in any profession, there are some people who do not uphold those standards.

Those concerns are a principal reason why the Bill of Rights was passed. Those concerns should also hold a primary place in our thinking as we vote on legislation.

This issue came closer to home for me as two constituents, one a U.S. citizen, were arrested by federal law enforcement officials this month, accused of violating a law that doesn’t exist. My office attempted to get information about their arrest. We were denied information about which agency had arrested them, where they were being held, and the charges against them.

All of the charges against them were dropped just eight days later after a federal judge reviewed the evidence and determined that no crime had been committed. The cost to my constituents was in the tens of thousands of dollars. They are still being threatened with the forfeiture of property.

Now compare the plight of this American citizen with millions of people who have crossed into this country illegally. They proudly attend rallies and speak on television, openly proclaiming that they are in this country in defiance of our laws. Many do not pay taxes while many others are receiving monetary benefits from the government.

It is reprehensible that our federal law enforcement would falsely and recklessly arrest one of our own citizens who owns a small business, pays taxes, and employs other Americans, while allowing lawbreakers from other countries to openly flaunt their violation of our laws. American citizens are not being served when the priorities of the federal government are so twisted.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 805

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, there are not many of us who have not heard of the horrific battleground stories experienced by our young men and women who have served in Operation New Dawn and Operation Enduring Freedom. These stories reveal a gruesome and difficult war in which servicemembers often sustain long lasting emotional and physical injuries. Of these injuries, none is more deafening than the amputations undergone by servicemembers as a direct result of the widespread use of roadside bombs otherwise known as improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

This class of injury, which has spiked significantly since the onset of the Operation New Dawn, requires special consideration within the Department of Veterans Affairs. After returning home, these individuals must embark upon extensive rehabilitation and special treatment to receive a shot at living a normal life, and this is why I have introduced H.R. 805.

H.R. 805 instructs the VA to actively inform veterans and educate employees at each VA prosthetics and orthotics clinic of the Injured and Amputee Veterans' Bill of Rights. In addition, this bill requires the VA to monitor and resolve complaints from injured and amputee veterans alleging mistreatment.

I believe that this bill will do much to protect the rights of our injured and amputee veterans, as well as bolster the consistency of prosthetic and orthotic care throughout the VA health system.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 193, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

TAIWAN WOULD BE A CONSTRUCTIVE MEMBER OF THE UNFCCC

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is one of the most geologically sensitive regions of the world and they are keenly aware of their vulnerability to the various threats of accelerating global environmental change.

Taiwan recognizes that the climate system is a shared resource whose stability can be affected by industrial and other emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. For these reasons, Taiwan would be a constructive member of the global organizations of the United Nations (UN) through its Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). As a member of UNFCCC, Taiwan will be able to contribute their skills and experiences to the world community such as gathering and sharing information on greenhouse gas emissions, national policies and best practices, providing financial and technological support to developing countries and preparing for adaptations to the impacts of climate change.

Since 2008, Taiwan's new administration has proactively engaged in many UN activities. In 2009, UN member states for the first time accepted Taiwan as an official observer for the World Health Assembly. The UN should further consider Taiwan's inclusion in the United Nations' environmental conventions and activities.

END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, research tells us that veterans are over represented in the homeless population. VA is the largest single provider of homeless services reaching about 25 percent of that population.

VA operates a wide variety of homeless veterans programs designed to provide outreach, supportive services, health care as well as counseling and treatment for mental health and substance use disorders. They rely heavily on their partnerships with the community and faith based organizations to provide these services.

Many of VA's homeless population:

Have had a serious psychiatric problem defined as psychosis, mood disorder or PTSD.

Were dependent on alcohol and/or drugs.

Were dually diagnosed with serious psychiatric and substance abuse problems.

Have suffered from a serious medical problem.

The number of homeless women veterans is rising.

Prior to becoming homeless, a large number of veterans at risk have struggled with PTSD or have addictions acquired during, or worsened by, their military service. These conditions can interrupt their ability to keep a job, establish savings, and in some cases, maintain family harmony.

Veterans' family, social, and professional networks may have been broken due to extensive mobility while in service or lengthy periods away from their hometowns and their civilian jobs. These problems are directly traceable to their experience in military service or to their return to civilian society without having had appropriate transitional supports.

VA reports that approximately 1,500 homeless veterans are from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. This is a growing population. It took roughly a decade for the lives of Vietnam veterans to unravel to the point that they started showing up among the homeless.

Concern has been expressed by many that such an early showing of more recent veterans in the homeless population does not bode well. It is also believed that the intense repeated deployments leave newer veterans particularly vulnerable.

We know the Department of Veterans Affairs has many programs to address currently homeless veterans, and they do a great job. However, the most important piece to ending homelessness among the Nation's veteran population is to prevent it in the first place.

It is unacceptable that even one of our veterans sleep on the streets or in shelters after risking their lives on behalf of this country.

My legislation, H.R. 806, will go a long way in strengthening our efforts to ultimately end homelessness.

This bill increases funding to successful programs for homeless veterans; requires each VA medical center that provides supporting housing services to provide housing counselors; requires housing counselors to conduct landlord research; strengthens permanent housing programs, and pays special interest to the needs of homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children.

The time to act is now. We cannot afford to let history repeat itself.

I urge your support of this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH TAYLOR

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Elizabeth Taylor last week, America, and the world, lost much more than a great movie actress, more than a celebrated legend and cherished celebrity, and more than a woman of enduring beauty and appeal.

We lost a champion fighter for the survival and dignity of those with HIV/AIDS.

Of many causes which Elizabeth Taylor embraced, such as her support for the State of Israel and the Jewish people, it was her great courage and selfless commitment that defined her work to support every effort to find a cure for HIV/AIDS, and to protect the rights of every person living with HIV/AIDS.

We forget how long and hard the struggle has been—precisely because of the heroic progress that has been made, medically and socially, in treating and living with HIV/AIDS. It's hard to remember, but in the early 1980s, people knew very little about AIDS. The nation went on a publicity roller-coaster, going from complacency to panic and back again.