

We can't ask companies to invest in our state if we are unable to provide the basic infrastructure necessary for them to be competitive and do business.

I've spoken with Congressman MICA and with the Transportation committee and I understand the need for this process to keep moving forward.

This bill contains many good provisions that I support. It will expand research and development for remotely piloted aircraft, a growing field that holds enormous potential not only for our nation's military, but also our academic institutions and farmers and border security.

North Dakota has established itself as a leader in the development and research of remotely piloted aircraft technology, and I'm confident that the creation of new test sites will benefit this technology's continued success in our state.

But while I support these things, I also know how vital rural access to essential aviation is. That's why, before it is sent to the President, it is critical that the final version of this bill maintains EAS support.

So I ask the gentleman from Florida if he will commit to working with me and other concerned members to support the EAS program and maintain critical rural air service.

#### RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER S. HAMILTON

#### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2011*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Christopher S. Hamilton for his outstanding service to the Tall Pine Council, Boy Scouts of America. Christopher will be honored at a luncheon on Thursday, April 7, sponsored jointly by the Tall Pine Council and the Burton Rotary Club, where he will be presented with the Jack A. Hamady Good Scout Award.

Christopher S. Hamilton grew up in the Flint area, earning the Eagle Scout distinction from Troop 120 in Linden Michigan. He went on to play football for Purdue University and was a member of the only Purdue team to win the Rose Bowl. After graduation he returned to the Flint area and worked for AC Spark Plug until his retirement in 2007. During this time he was an avid promoter of Scouting. Christopher was an Explorer Advisor for Post 651, a volunteer committee member of the Tall Pine Council Golf Tournament for over 20 years, and a Friends of Scouting Captain for the Tall Pine Council. In 1999 he received the Silver Beaver Award, the highest award given to an adult volunteer in Scouting.

In 2008 Christopher became the Executive Director of the Old Newsboys of Flint. This was the culmination of several years working as a member of the Old Newsboys of Flint Board of Directors. He served as President of the Board and Secretary/Treasurer before assuming the duties of Executive Director. He has been active with Easter Seals, the United Way, the Burton Rotary Club, F&AM Lodge Number 23, Flint Elks Number 222, Burton Eagles, and several local Chambers of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Christopher

S. Hamilton as he is honored by the Tall Pine Council, Boy Scouts of America for his work on behalf of the children in the Flint community. He has touched numerous lives and I wish him the best in the future.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 2010-2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—MICHAEL ROBERTO

#### HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2011*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and privilege to inform the Members of the United States House of Representatives that the students of the 2010-2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council (CYAC) from the Third District of Texas have completed a total of 500 community service hours, fulfilling and far-surpassing the requirements of their assigned CYAC in the Community service project.

This year 46 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 10 through 12 made their voices heard by joining CYAC. As the Third District's young ambassadors to Congress, these bright high school students met with me on a quarterly basis to discuss current events and public policy. These impressive young people recognize an important truth: the heart of public service is found when giving back to the community. CYAC students volunteered their time and talents with over 30 organizations including Adopt-A-Highway, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Teen Court, and the USQ, to name a few. As one student shared, "CYAC in the Community has allowed me to realize my calling to serve those in the U.S. Armed Forces." I am beyond thrilled that CYAC has helped students unleash their full potential and chase their dreams.

President George H.W. Bush once said, "A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens—citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization."

With this statement as a benchmark, I am proud to congratulate the members of the 2010-2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council for showing themselves to be outstanding young citizens of this nation. It is my privilege to submit summaries of their work to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to be preserved for posterity and antiquity. To these young public servants, thank you, and keep up the great work! I salute you!

A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

I greeted the troops at DFW Airport. My schedule only allowed me to go on the weekends, but I took advantage of any plane coming into Dallas. I called the Welcome Home a Hero hotline and found out when the planes would arrive each day. In order to never miss the greeting, I would get to the appropriate terminal and wait there for sometimes up to an hour for the troops to come out. I will one day be one of those soldiers walking through those doors, and I seem to already appreciate the fact that there were so many people

there. The administrators make sure the troops are directed towards different terminals or gates if they have connecting flights. Also they have people bring snacks and water which the troops seem to like for obvious reasons. This event only takes a few hours including driving, but every second is worth it when you see the smiles on their faces. They are so happy to be home and ready to see the relatives that they miss so deeply. God Bless those soldiers, God Bless America.

—Michael Roberts

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2011*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 1, 2011, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 223 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 1255 with instructions), and "no" on rollcall vote No. 224 (on passage of H.R. 1255).

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2011*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I was unable to cast my votes on Monday, April 4, 2011 due to a scheduled meeting in my District with constituents in St. Joseph and Ogden, Illinois and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote on H.R. 1246.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 225 on H.R. 1246, to reduce the amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Defense for printing and reproduction, I would have voted in favor of this bill. It is imperative in these times of rising deficit and debt levels that we take a fine tooth comb to every budget and find wasteful spending. This bill, sponsored by an ex-member of our military, is a prime example of the types of bills we should continue to pursue as we tackle the overall levels of spending through the annual budget and appropriations process. Had I been present to vote on this bill, I would have voted, "aye."

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE VIRGINIA ACCESS TO ENERGY ACT (VA ENERGY ACT)

#### HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2011*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, each week, folks across Virginia and the nation are confronted with the rising cost of energy. However, Virginians understand that a major component in lessening energy costs is to produce more energy.

I believe that Virginia should have every tool available to access their energy supplies. For

many years, the Commonwealth of Virginia has seriously been considering the potential positive impact that Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) development off Virginia's coast would have on the Commonwealth. In fact, there has been wide support for environmentally responsible energy production by the Governor of Virginia, the Virginia General Assembly and by many local governments in the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has made it clear that they want to access their energy resources. I believe that we should access these resources and we can do it while being environmentally responsible. Therefore, I rise today, with the majority of the Virginia Congressional Delegation, to introduce the "Virginia Access to Energy Act," to give the Commonwealth access to these energy supplies. This legislation would start energy production off of Virginia's coast based on the Department of Interior's own proposal. This legislation simply requires that the Department of Interior proceed with their proposed Virginia lease sale no later than one year after passage of this legislation.

Passage of this legislation and development of VA's OCS will significantly boost the economy of the Commonwealth of Virginia. It has been estimated by the U.S. Department of Interior that Virginia's OCS has 130 million barrels of recoverable oil and 1.14 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas. This translates into a significant boost to the economy of the Commonwealth of Virginia. In fact, some estimates have shown that development of Virginia's OCS will create 2,578 full-time equivalent positions on an annual basis, induce capital investment of \$7.84 billion, yield \$644 million in direct and indirect payroll, and result in \$271 million in state and local taxes. While exploration activities alone will infuse the Virginia economy with a significant amount of new capital, this legislation will also authorize any qualified revenues generated by the lease sales to be shared between the federal government and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Additionally, the legislation sets up revenue-sharing for the Commonwealth for any future lease sales off of Virginia's coast.

My legislation, the Virginia Access to Energy Act, is an important component to any long-term strategy to reduce our dangerous dependence on foreign oil. This legislation ensures that Virginia has every tool available to access its energy supplies, while at the same time creating thousands of jobs for Virginians and infusing the Commonwealth with new capital growth. I urge Congress to pass this legislation to allow Virginia to move towards a path of energy independence.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,251,174,516,308.48.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,605,505,817,922.70 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

#### PASSING OF FORMER REP. JOHN ADLER

#### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2011*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a dear friend and colleague, former Congressman John Adler. It was truly an honor and a privilege to serve with John during the 111th Congress, where we worked together on legislation such as the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Employee Free Choice Act. John always put the interests of his constituents first, and I can confidently say that the people of New Jersey's 3rd Congressional District were privileged to have a representative as dedicated and committed to his job as John.

John and I also shared a particular interest in Veteran's issues. As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, he worked tirelessly to ensure that our Nation's veterans received the benefits they deserved as a result of their tremendous sacrifice and service to this country. As a veteran myself, I take particular pride in saluting John's accomplishments in this field.

Again, I join with my colleagues in expressing my sincerest condolences on the passing of Congressman Adler. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Shelley, and his four sons. I hope that my colleagues will take this time to reflect on his life and his work, and may he serve as an example to all of us of a life well lived.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF SUSAN BENDER

#### HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2011*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to seek Congressional recognition of the exceptional achievements and outstanding career of Susan Bender. Over the course of her almost 40-year professional career with Jewish Community Centers (JCC) in New York City and Long Island, Susan worked tirelessly to ensure that families and individuals living in New York City and Long Island had access to mental-health and social-service programs. She has not only been an innovative leader and unyielding advocate for individuals with disabilities, but also a dedicated leader in her community.

After graduating from Brooklyn College with a degree in speech pathology, Susan began working at JCCs with distinction. She started her career at the Staten Island Jewish Community Center as the Director of Early Childhood Development. In 1988, she moved to be the Executive Director at the Young Men's—Young Women's Hebrew Association in Westchester, New York. Then, in 1992, Susan became the Executive Director of the Sid

Jacobson Jewish Community Center in East Hills, New York, in my congressional district.

Under Susan's enthusiastic direction, Sid Jacobson has flourished. The Center dramatically expanded its facility in East Hills and also added the Bernice Jacobson Day School and Camp in Old Westbury, New York. Susan developed the Center's noted innovative programs for autistic children, single parents, and the bereaved. She helped found a first-of-its-kind program for adults with early-onset Alzheimer's and their families.

Today, the Center has a staff of over 250, an annual budget of \$12 million, and offers an extensive catalog of dynamic programs for people of all ages and abilities. The success of the Center is a direct testament to the strength of Susan's leadership and her dedication to providing community members with the best possible services.

In addition to her work at Sid Jacobson, Susan has applied her energy and vision in a variety of leadership roles in the national JCC movement. She served as a member of the Jewish Community Center Association's board of directors, was president of the Association of Jewish Center Professionals (AJCP) for the Eastern Region, and, in 2002, was named the national president of the AJCP.

Mr. Speaker, this year Susan Bender will retire having contributed immeasurably to her community. I am proud to recognize Susan and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her lifetime of tremendous work for others.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 2010-2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—MADELINE MINCHILLO

#### HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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