

in exceptional circumstances and only with the consent of the contracting officer.

The bill would impose financial penalties for improper substitution of listed subcontractors. The bill would also apply to subcontractors. Both prime contractors and subcontractors would be subject to debarment or ineligibility determinations in cases where there are two infractions of the prohibitions over any three-year period.

Restoring equitable safeguards in the low bid system will assure that agency practice will conform to the highest standards adhered to by industry professionals and contractor associations, and will reflect best practices followed by a great many other public procurement systems nationally and internationally.

CONGRATULATING KRAFT FOODS' OSCAR MAYER PLANT IN COLUMBIA, MO, WHICH IS CELEBRATING ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kraft Foods' Oscar Mayer plant in Columbia, MO, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary on May 7th.

The plant opened in 1985 and is now a 183,000-square-foot structure located on 30 acres. It has been a formidable force in boosting Columbia's economy, employing over 600 people in the area. Twenty of the plant's employees have dedicated their service since the plant opened over two decades ago, contributing considerably to the plant's ranking as one of the top ten employers in the city.

The Oscar Mayer plant has also played a significant role in contributing to the community of Columbia and its citizens. Over the past 26 years, the plant has produced over 28 billion hot dogs in the last 25 years, enough for over 100 trips around the world laid end-to-end. On average, the Columbia plant donates 70,000 pounds of hot dogs to the Central Missouri Food Bank annually, which is the only source of protein for the food bank. Through Kraft Foods' contributions programs, the facility donates to non-profit organizations for the alleviation of hunger and to promote healthy lifestyles, to support the social service and cultural activities of its employees in the communities where they live and work, and to provide humanitarian aid.

Contributions made by the Kraft Foods facility in Columbia have done much to greatly enhance both the business climate and the quality of life for the entire population of the city, in addition to building upon the great sense of pride in those individuals associated with it.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the employees of the Columbia Oscar Mayer plant and the citizens of Columbia, MO, congratulations on reaching this significant milestone.

HONORING DOTTIE BERGER
MACKINNON

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to herald the achievements of Dottie Berger MacKinnon and to acknowledge her valuable contributions to the Tampa Bay community. Dottie is a community activist, child advocate, and former Hillsborough County Commissioner.

Dottie Berger MacKinnon is one of the founders of Joshua House, a safe haven for abused, abandoned, and neglected children, in Tampa and she has passionately supported the children served there since 1992. After founding the institution she helped the group establish a \$1.2 million endowment through the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay in order to ensure that they can continue the work that she started there long into the future. This is one of the truly incredible philanthropic establishments in Tampa Bay. Joshua House continues to change the lives of the children who pass through its doors today.

In addition to her service as a founder of Joshua House, she also served the community as a Hillsborough County Commissioner from 1994–1998. Her impressive service as a County Commissioner inspired those around her and on May 4, 2011 Dottie will be honored with the Ellsworth G. Simmons Good Government Award by the Hillsborough County Commissioners in recognition of the significant role that she played in improving government through leadership and vision.

Not finished with her incredible work for children yet, from 2005–2009 she worked tirelessly to develop, create and co-found A Kid's Place, a residential care facility for foster siblings. Before A Kid's Place opened in 2009, kids who were taken away from abusive homes were often separated from their siblings. Rescued children now stay at comfortable houses at A Kid's Place for up to a month while officials work to find stable homes for groups of brothers and sisters. Her work with A Kid's Place continues to this day, as they just opened up a fifth residence hall due to her tireless work and fundraising.

The achievements of Dottie Berger MacKinnon are truly remarkable, heroic even. She has been recognized as a true difference maker in the lives of the children of Tampa Bay. Although she now battles cancer, she still works unrelentingly in her quest to improve the lives of children in the Tampa Bay area. I stand with the rest of the community in awe of the work she has done and continues to do for the children of Tampa Bay. I am honored to have been invited to the Hillsborough League of Women Voters 2011 Annual Award Luncheon where Mrs. Dottie Berger MacKinnon will be receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award. I can think of no better candidate to receive this honor than Dottie, she is truly an inspiration to everyone in the Tampa Bay community.

A TRIBUTE TO TRESSA
BARTHOLOMEW

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today congratulate Tressa Bartholomew of Carlisle, Iowa on recently celebrating her 106th birthday on March 30, 2011. Today she has four children, thirteen grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and 43 great-great-grandchildren.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past one hundred and six years. Since Tressa's birth we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the birth of new democracies. Tressa has lived through nineteen United States Presidents and twenty-five Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I congratulate Tressa Bartholomew for reaching this milestone of a birthday. I am extremely honored to represent her in Congress and I wish her happiness and health in her future years.

HONORING JOE WAZ

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joe Waz for his 17 years of service to Comcast Corporation, where he worked as Senior Vice President of External Affairs, and to the Comcast Foundation, where he served as Public Policy Counsel and President.

Mr. Waz has announced his retirement from Comcast Corporation, and although he will be greatly missed, his hard work and contributions have made a positive impact on the industry and ensure he will not be forgotten. In May 2002, Mr. Waz received the Vanguard Award, the highest honor presented by the cable industry, for his service in government and community relations.

Not only is Mr. Waz recognized nationally for his expertise in telecommunications public policy, he is also a leader in community investment and service. Under Mr. Waz's leadership, Comcast Corporation has made 219 investments to 120 different groups in Connecticut since 2006. More than \$2.9 million has been given in grants to groups ranging from the University of Hartford, the Connecticut Police Chiefs' Association, and the American School for the Deaf. In further commitment to the public interest, Joe also serves as a chairman of the Settlement Music School, the oldest community school of the arts in the U.S., and has previously served on the boards of the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, and the Federal Communications Bar Association Foundation.

On a personal note, I have known Joe since we attended the University of Connecticut School of Law together. I got to know him as a hard working, serious student of the law,

who upheld the highest traditions of diligent, ethical practice.

It comes as no surprise to me that after leaving Comcast Corporation, Mr. Waz will work as a Senior Fellow at the Silicon Flatirons Center for Law, Technology, and Entrepreneurship at the University of Colorado, and serve as the first chairman of the Broadband Internet Technology Advisory Group.

I congratulate Mr. Waz on his successful 17 year career with Comcast Corporation, salute him for his commitment to community service, and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING HILTON KELLEY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hilton Kelley, a leader in the battle for environmental justice on the Texas Gulf Coast. Hilton Kelley is an advocate for communities living in the shadow of polluting industries. A life-long resident of Port Arthur, Texas, Hilton joined the Navy which eventually brought him to the San Francisco Bay Area where he began working as a stunt man and actor on several major movies and television shows including CBS's Nash Bridges.

During a visit home, 21 years after he left Port Arthur, Hilton found his community sickened by industrial pollution and on the brink of economic collapse. Hilton realized then that in order to save his community, he needed to first tackle the environmental problems first. He launched Community In-power and Development Association, CIDA, and began training local residents to monitor air quality. As a result of Hilton's advocacy, the local refinery installed state-of-the-art equipment to reduce harmful emissions and also negotiated with them a \$3.5 million fund to help entrepreneurs launch new businesses in the community.

Hilton recognizes the disproportionate burden from pollution on communities of color, low-income people and indigenous communities needs to be reduced. These Americans are experiencing the highest rates of morbidity and/or death from asthma, cancer, learning disabilities, lead poisoning, lupus, and several other diseases. Hilton continues to work tirelessly to bring attention to the disproportionate burden of pollution on the most vulnerable members of our society advocating for regulations on the Gulf Coast and serving on the EPA's National Environment Justice Advisory Council.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Hilton Kelley for his determination and hard work to these causes. Our country is a better one because of Hilton Kelley.

OPEN AND TRANSPARENT SMITHSONIAN ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Open and Transparent Smithsonian Act to further ensure that the Smithsonian Institution is accountable to the public for the taxpayer funds it receives. This bill provides that, for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Privacy Act, the Smithsonian shall be considered a Federal agency.

The bill complements my Smithsonian Modernization Act and my Smithsonian Free Admission Act. I introduce these bills today, to make the Smithsonian accountable for the 70 percent of its funding that comes from annual Federal appropriations. Although the Smithsonian was created by Congress as a Federal trust, it receives the great majority of its funding from the Federal Government, much like Federal agencies, and had always been treated as a Federal agency. However, in the 1990s, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit found that the Smithsonian is not a Federal agency for purposes of FOIA and the Privacy Act. Indeed, the Smithsonian's website clearly states that it is "not an Executive Branch agency, and FOIA does not apply to the Smithsonian."

This lack of transparency is of great concern, particularly in light of the Smithsonian's recent history of secrecy and corruption. In 2007, an independent review committee found that the Smithsonian Board of Regents had violated many principles of good management during the tenure of Lawrence Small as Secretary of the Smithsonian. The report indicated that the Board had failed to provide desperately needed oversight, had overcompensated the Secretary, and had allowed the creation of an "insular culture." The report further found that the Smithsonian's deputy secretary and chief operating officer, Sheila Burke, had frequent absences from her duties because of outside activities, including service on corporate boards, for which she earned more than \$1.2 million over 6 years. Importantly, the report indicated that Smithsonian leaders took great measures to keep secret these missteps and mismanagement.

While the Smithsonian now has new leaders who are moving away from the mistakes of the past, its transparency should not depend on who is in charge. An entity supported primarily by the Federal Government must be accountable to the American people. The American people have a right to know that their interests are being served.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

HONORING LCPL RONALD DOUGLAS FREEMAN

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, sacrifice, and heroism of Marine

Lance Corporal Ronald Douglas Freeman of Plant City, Florida.

LCpl Freeman, a minesweeper, was killed while conducting combat operations for Operation Enduring Freedom on April 28th, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

U.S. Marine Corps minesweepers are greatly admired for their fearlessness and diligence in leading patrols into enemy territory while providing safety and security for their peers by searching for buried explosives. LCpl Freeman personified this bravery and dedication while searching his patrol's area for explosives on the day of this death.

Outside of the Marines, Dougie—as he is known to his family and friends—was an outstanding father, worker, son, and brother. He was admired by many in the community, especially by his younger brother and older sister. He was extremely dedicated to his family and wanted nothing more than to be the best father he could be to his two young children.

Mr. Speaker, though proud to have such a fine example from the Tampa Bay community, it is with great remorse that I rise to commemorate the life of LCpl Freeman. I am in awe of the young men and women like Ronald Freeman who choose to serve their countrymen in the armed forces. As professionals in all that they do, they exhibit honor, courage, and commitment in every pursuit. Their sacrifices, like that of LCpl Freeman, will not be forgotten.

CONGRATULATING SARA GABRIELLE, JAREK BAKKEN AND DANIEL YEHIELI

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sara Gabrielle, Jarek Bakken, and Daniel Yehieli, second prize winners of C-SPAN's Student Cam competition. Sara, Jarek and Daniel created a fantastic video entitled "The Price Tag of the American Dream" which details the challenges of paying for college.

Sara, Jarek and Daniel do an excellent job of highlighting the struggles that so many college students face today. Rising costs have limited access to an affordable higher education for many potential college students. I was pleased to see that this video explains many of the new benefits available to students as a result of the recent student loan law. Pell grants, college tax credits and the income-based repayment plan will be valuable tools that will make college more affordable for millions of Americans.

Sara, Jarek and Daniel's video illustrates both the challenges that many college students face today as well as the tools that are available to make college more affordable. I'm proud to represent Sara, Jarek and Daniel in Congress and wish them the best in their future endeavors.