

of our minds, and with a strong commitment to seeing that dream become a reality.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM TONTI

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Vermonter, Dr. William Tonti of Essex Junction.

On February 1, 2011 Dr. Tonti celebrated an astonishing milestone: He earned his 250th patent making him one of the most accomplished inventors in Vermont and the country. This impressive accomplishment is worthy of recognition by this Congress.

Dr. Tonti is a graduate of Northwestern University where he earned his Bachelor's of Science in Electrical Engineering. He continued his education in Vermont, first earning an MBA from St. Michaels College and then a Master's of Science and a PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of Vermont.

In 1978, he began what would prove to be a distinguished career at IBM in Essex Junction, Vermont. Dr. Tonti's work focused on areas fundamental to the functioning of our society, including advanced DRAM semiconductors, nanotechnology, microprocessors and chip reliability.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Dr. Tonti has been an active community member and citizen. His commitment to IBM is only surpassed by his dedication and commitment to his wife, Debbie, and daughters, Janelle and Samantha.

Dr. Tonti was recently named an IBM Master Inventor for Life, a great honor that IBM bestows to only a handful of its most innovative employees worldwide. This is a fitting recognition for a lifetime of impressive accomplishments and for a Vermonter of high character.

As Vermont's Representative in this Congress, I ask that Dr. Tonti be recognized for his accomplishments and applauded for his contributions to the state of Vermont and this country.

THE PUTTING THE GULF OF MEXICO BACK TO WORK ACT (H.R. 1229) AND THE REVERSING PRESIDENT OBAMA'S OFFSHORE MORATORIUM ACT (H.R. 1231)

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, last week the majority rammed through an ill-advised measure requiring the sale of four specific offshore drilling leases even if appropriate workplace and environmental safeguards aren't in place. This week's bills continue the same reckless "pre-spill" mentality. In the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon tragedy, more drilling with less safety is simply not a responsible energy policy, and it will do nothing to enhance America's energy security.

Let's be clear: There is no drilling moratorium in the Gulf of Mexico. Since October, the

Interior Department has issued 51 shallow water permits and 12 deepwater drilling permits—or roughly the same pace as before the Deepwater Horizon disaster. The major difference is that the Obama Administration is ensuring that future drilling be accompanied by safeguards reflecting the lessons learned from the Deepwater Horizon.

The so-called "Putting the Gulf of Mexico Back To Work Act" would deem drilling permits approved after sixty days with or without a completed safety and environmental review. While the intent of H.R. 1229 is to clearly to expedite permitting, the reality is that this kind of "drill first, ask questions later" approach could easily result in fewer drilling permits being issued as the Interior Department could in many cases simply be forced to reject permits that are still in process rather than having them "deem approved" without adequate safeguards in place.

H.R. 1231 proposes to expand the scope of this initiative's overarching recklessness by opening much of the outer continental shelf on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts to drilling before Congress has enacted a single legislative reform to improve safety. Lost in all of the rhetoric is the reality that oil and gas companies are already today sitting on more than 60 million acres of public lands with an estimated 11.6 billion barrels of oil and 59.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas that have yet to be developed—or nearly as much oil and natural gas as could realistically be recovered by drilling up and down the east and west coasts.

Mr. Speaker, this country deserves better than carelessness masquerading as an energy policy. We need to end the billions in wasteful subsidies for the already highly profitable oil and gas industry and accelerate the development and deployment of clean energy alternatives that will power the 21st century.

DOMESTIC FUEL FOR ENHANCING NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2011

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the bipartisan Domestic Fuel for Enhancing National Security (D-FENS) Act 2011, which will allow Civilian Agencies and Military Agencies to extend multiyear contracts from the current limit of 5 years to up to 15 years for the purchase of advanced biofuels. I thank my colleague Mr. JONES of North Carolina for working with me on this issue, which will increase our national security and help build an American industry.

Accounting for about 2 percent of U.S. energy consumption, the Department of Defense is the largest single consumer of energy in the country. According to Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, "[the Department of Defense] is using 300,000 barrels of oil every day. The energy use per soldier creeps up every year. And our number-one import into Afghanistan is fossil fuel."

U.S. Navy Secretary Ray Maybus has outlined several goals to lead the Navy toward a more energy-secure fleet. By 2015, the Navy will reduce petroleum use in the commercial fleet by 50 percent. By 2020, the Navy will produce at least 50 percent of shore-based

energy requirements from alternative sources and 50 percent of total energy consumption will come from alternative sources.

No one knows better than the Department of Defense that energy supplies are critical to combat troops and our national security. To ultimately realize these goals, we must dramatically scale-up advanced biofuel production in the United States. With added Congressional authority to purchase longer-term contracts, our defense sector could adopt domestically produced sustainable fuels for the security of our troops.

Companies already have developed technologies to produce "drop-in" ready fuels, meaning our military could use these fuels in existing infrastructure, aircraft and ships. The longer-term contracts provided by this bill will not only increase our energy security, but can ultimately help unlock private investment for construction and development of large advanced biofuel refineries in the United States. In states like Washington, North Carolina, California, Montana and others, interests from the private sector, universities, ports and major airports are already working to bring the first generation of biofuels to the market, and their efforts can be greatly enhanced by this legislation.

Washington state and the Pacific Northwest are well-positioned to commercialize aviation biofuels—all elements of the supply chain are feasible, and the region has come together to map out a strategic and sustainable path to bring advanced bio-based jet fuels to market. Already in the Northwest, 40 public and private stakeholders from academic research institutions, environmental advocacy, and government, and the aerospace and aviation, biofuels, and agriculture and forestry industries have formed the Sustainable Aviation Fuels Northwest (SAFN) initiative. This effort was convened by regional aviation leaders Boeing, Alaska Airlines, the region's largest airports—Port of Seattle, Port of Portland and Spokane International Airport—as well as Washington State University, a center of advanced biofuels research. Stakeholders include fuel producers, farm and forest managers, non-governmental organizations and key government leaders, including representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Defense Logistics Agency. This diverse group representing all points along the supply chain is working to create a "flight path" that will overcome challenges to deploying advanced aviation biofuels. This legislation will support Washington's effort to make the Northwest region a market leader in the advanced biofuel industry.

With our nation's security and energy independence in mind, I urge my colleagues to support the Domestic Fuel for Enhancing National Security (D-FENS) Act 2011.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTINA M. GOLEZ

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Police Officer Christina M. Golez, who is retiring after nearly 27 years of law enforcement service—24 years of service to the

City of Fairfield and a combined two years with the Yolo County Sheriff's Department and the Antioch Police Department. As her colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of her life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant and defender of peace and safety.

Christina started her law enforcement career as a Reserve Police Officer with the Antioch Police Department. She was then hired as a Deputy Sheriff by the Yolo County Sheriff's Department in November of 1985 and on August 18, 1986, she was hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department. Christina worked in various capacities that included Patrol, Investigations, Youth Services, School Resource Officer, Cadet Advisor, Gang Suppression, Police Probation Team, Crime Scene Investigator, and Property. She received numerous commendations for her performance including Police Officer of the Year for 1997.

Christina's two most significant contributions to the Police Department were her expertise as a composite sketch artist and her talent in mentoring youths within the community. Her artistic talent and ability to create like images of suspects has helped solve numerous crimes in Fairfield. Her work as a Cadet Advisor and Diversion Officer was also exceptional. She intervened at many different levels by confronting and challenging youths that were showing destructive behavior through the appropriate amount of counseling and intervention opportunities for them and their families. Christina's work has made a difference to the citizens of Fairfield.

Christina was a valued employee and leader and her commitment to the community was evidenced on a daily basis. She was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired for her hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to this dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Christina M. Golez continued success and happiness in all of her future endeavors.

HONORING NORWALK,
CONNECTICUT POLICE OFFICERS

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the police officers who have dedicated their lives to serving the people of Norwalk, Connecticut.

Since its formation in 1913, the Norwalk Police Department has improved the quality of life for generations of citizens. Its officers' vigilant protection of the city's residents and their property has formed the foundation of public peace, order and tranquility that has allowed Norwalk to prosper.

Every day, Norwalk's police officers take on the responsibility of keeping the city safe. It can be a dangerous job. Five times in its history, the Norwalk Police Department has suffered the loss of one of its own in the line of duty. Sergeants Frank S. Stratton and Nicholas W. Fera, and Officers Sherrald Gorton, Marco Carias and Matthew Morelli each lost

their lives in service to the community they sought to protect. We are forever indebted to them, and I join the people of Norwalk in honoring their memory today.

We also remember the retired officers of the Norwalk Police Department who passed away this year. All who serve today carry on a proud tradition inherited from those who wore the uniform in days gone by. We commemorate their service and we celebrate their lives.

Every officer deserves our praise. Their daily work makes it possible for each of us to enjoy the benefits of liberty, secure in the knowledge that our neighborhoods and places of business are safe. The dedication of Norwalk's officers to preventing crime and educating the public has spared so many families from experiencing unnecessary tragedy. And their collaboration with residents and business owners has promoted a sense of shared responsibility that makes the city an example to other communities nationwide.

To every officer who has served Norwalk with pride in years past, and every officer serving today, I offer my gratitude. And to the families of those men who gave their lives in the line of duty, I express the eternal thanks of a city, a state and a nation that can never say "thank you" enough.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH ON THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. SEBASTIAN FEAST

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to the St. Sebastian Parish as they celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the St. Sebastian Feast. This wonderful annual celebration has become one of Middletown, Connecticut's most beloved community events. This is a remarkable milestone and I am proud to have this opportunity to commemorate this very special anniversary.

The Feast of St. Sebastian is a blend of faith, culture, and tradition. The three-day event reconnects city residents to their Sicilian heritage. The tradition dates back to 1414, when it is said that a statue of St. Sebastian washed up on the shores near Melilli, a small town in Sicily. No one could lift the statue except for the residents of Melilli, and they carried it to a place where they later built a church in the saint's name.

In the early 20th Century, immigrants from Melilli moved in large numbers to Middletown and soon there were enough families there to form a vibrant and close-knit Italian community that desired its own place of worship. Through a massive fundraising effort, the donation of materials, and the labor of masons, plasterers and stone carvers, the Italian community realized the dream of its own church, a significant local cultural symbol and the only Italian national parish in the Diocese of Norwich. The Feast of St. Sebastian was first celebrated in Middletown in 1921 and proceeds from the feast's early years helped finance the building of the church.

Today, the Feast is run by a committee of dedicated congregation members and pro-

ceeds continue to benefit the church. Carnival rides, traditional Italian fare, and musical entertainment are part of the festivities, but the heart of the event happens Sunday, when, after Mass, the church's statue of St. Sebastian is carried in a procession and I Nuri, a group dressed in white with red sashes, run barefoot or in socks in a show of devotion for the saint. The procession has grown to include hundreds of people and, as you might imagine, it is an extraordinarily beautiful demonstration of faith and culture.

It is events like the Feast of St. Sebastian, those forged in the bonds of family and community, which allow generation after generation to understand and celebrate their shared heritage. They enrich our communities as well as renew our commitment to faith and family. I am honored to stand today to extend my warmest congratulations to the St. Sebastian Parish and its many families as they celebrate the 90th Anniversary of their Feast of St. Sebastian. The Feast is a real community treasure and I wish them all the best for many more successful years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO BETTY JEAN
VERETT PEPPER

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, Betty Jean Verett Pepper was born on April 28, 1931, in Crosby County, Texas, to Charley and Maggie (Fenoglio) Verett. She was the youngest of the family's nine children who were raised working on the family farm. Betty Jean graduated from Ralls High School and went on to graduate from Texas Technological College in Lubbock, Texas, in 1952.

At Texas Tech she met Herbert Leslie Pepper and they married in 1953. Leslie and Jean moved to the San Antonio area where their three sons were born and raised, also working on the family farm and in agriculture-related businesses.

Now back in Lubbock and known as Mama Jean to her own family and the expanded Verett families, she not only remembers the birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions of this group, but personally calls each one on those special days.

That is why we want to take this opportunity to remember her 80th birthday on April 28, 2011, and to wish her many more joyous celebrations with her sons, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN HEALTH FORUM

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the board and staff of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum on the 25th anniversary of their founding. They are guided by a mission to influence policy, mobilize communities, and strengthen programs