

and organizations to improve the health of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. As the largest national Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander advocacy organization in the country, they maintain strategic relationships to move sound policy forward that benefit our communities.

Founded in 1986, the organization came together in response to the federal government's first groundbreaking report on minority health. "The Secretary's Report on Black and Minority Health" erroneously concluded that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders were healthier than other minorities despite the "paucity of data." Community leaders, advocates and medical providers who served Asian American populations came together to challenge this "model minority" myth and formed the Asian American Health Forum, solidifying the visionary idea of a national organization that would grow into the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum. Working out of a basement of the old Chinese Hospital in San Francisco Chinatown with few staff, the organization has now grown to be a national organization with over 30 staff headquartered in San Francisco, an office in Washington, DC, and a national network comprised of more than 15 groups.

Over the years the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum has reached several milestones. In the early '90s, the organization received funding from the Department of Health and Human Services to implement innovative outreach programs targeting chronic disease issues in the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, like HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B. As the number of API individuals in the U.S. increased, the organization continued to grow to do work to improve the health of the community by developing tobacco cessation programs, cancer education and outreach programs and reducing domestic violence. In 2006, the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum received the largest ever philanthropic investment in Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities through a \$16.5 million grant by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation which has helped build capacity across the country through the Health Through Action Program. Today the organization continues to advocate on behalf of our communities as the Affordable Care Act is implemented.

As the Chairwoman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I have had the privilege of working with the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum to eliminate health disparities in this country. Their analysis and research have informed the work of policymakers for many years at the local, state and national level. The work produced by its programs and divisions are valuable resources for community groups, legislators, agencies and researchers in understanding the unique health issues that affect Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations.

On behalf of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I would like to once again congratulate the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum on their 25th anniversary and wish them the best in their work to achieve health justice over the next 25 years and beyond.

OPPOSING GIVEAWAYS TO BIG OIL AND DRILLING OFF THE CALI- FORNIA COAST

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to allowing drilling off the California Coast and dismantling basic oil drilling safeguards.

Barely a year after the worst environmental disaster in our history, Republicans have brought legislation (H.R. 1231) to the floor that shows they are suffering from amnesia. This legislation, when coupled with the two earlier drilling bills—H.R. 1229 and H.R. 1230—would mandate that vast swaths of the East and West Coasts be open to drilling, while fast-tracking new leases without sufficient safety or environmental review.

Under H.R. 1231, the Interior Department would have to make at least half of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) available to leasing, including the California Coast, regardless of state objections or safety, economic, or environmental concerns. This is on top of the two earlier bills that would actually make drilling safeguards weaker than they were before the BP Spill while destroying judicial review of leasing decisions.

This legislation does nothing to bring down gas prices. It is nothing more than a gift-wrapped handout to the oil industry. Republicans are not working to end the \$4 billion in yearly taxpayer subsidies that go to the largest oil companies. They are not working to crack down on the speculation that we know is driving up the price of oil and gas. Instead, they are pushing legislation that would give these companies free reign over our oil reserves and put our coastlines and the jobs that rely on them at risk. The Energy Information Agency has estimated that even if the entire OCS were exploited for oil, gas prices would drop by only three cents—and not until 2030. The U.S. accounts for just 7% of world oil production and we have only 3% of the world's reserves. Despite the bumper sticker slogan of "drill baby drill," we cannot drill our way out of high gas prices.

I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this misguided bill and focus on sustainable and responsible solutions to rising gas prices.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL BRANDON JOSEPH LONG

HON. MARLIN A. STUTZMAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, Lance Corporal Brandon Joseph Long of the 3rd battalion, 5th Marines, "Darkhorse" Lima Company from my district in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. On September 27, 2010, while out on point in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Brandon stepped on a pressure plate which nearly cost him his life. He died four times on that day. He said the thought of Nicole and his child Clair kept him alive and that he left his body, but when he rose up to Heaven they told him that

it was not his time. He has been part of one of the most courageous units, losing over 150 United States Marines. In a few short months he has come so far and a large part is due to his family. His lovely supportive wife and new born child have put a smile on his face and given him something to live for. Some people are put upon this earth to teach us and inspire us. Well, Brandon is one of those people. In honor of Brandon, I ask that this poem, penned by Albert Caswell, be placed in the RECORD.

U . . . B . . . LONG!

U . . .
U . . . B . . .
U . . . B . . . LONG!
As Brandon, as is your fine life's song. . .
With but the greatest of all Americans, so
very strong. . .
All in our nation's history, who now so be-
long. . .
Belong, to the defenders of the free!
As there is but such a list of most magnifi-
cent Americans, so indeed!
Who all for our Country Tis of Thee, would
so die and bleed!
Ooo . . . rah Jar Head, As a United States
Marine we see!
As Freedom Fighters, who but bring our lib-
erty!
All to leave, a better world for you and
me. . .
Men and women, of such magnificent
grace. . .
Who one and all, the darkest of all evils so
face. . .
With tears in eyes, as they so watched their
fine brothers die as still they kept
pace. . .
And still so valiantly marched onward, as
their most heroic hearts so raced. . .
The ones, such men of The Dark Horse who
came home without arms and legs. . .
All in their most amazing grace, teaching us
all the meaning of courage and
faith. . .
And now comes another honored name. . .
Lance Corporal Brandon Long, of Lima Co.
as one in the same. . .
For in our nation's history, have but come
such Hoosiers so indeed. . .
Such fine patriots of peace, sons and daugh-
ters who so believe. . .
Who are a part of one of the greatest fighting
machines, The United States Marines!
Who once upon battlefields of honor seen, so
courageously fought all in green. . .
As Brandon, as was your sheen!
And when, all out on point as an IED explo-
sion almost took your life. . .
Dying four times, but for his daughter and
wife. . . somehow your strength ig-
nited!
At Heaven's gate, you said you were told it's
not your time yet. . .
As when you Marine, your new battle had
just begun. . .
As . . . The Walls . . . came tumbling down
. . . tumbling down, you Indiana's son!
All in your most magnificent shades of
green, all in what must be won!
As when you awoke, and you did not just
step . . . but began to run. . .
Running to recovery, as deep down inside
. . . your fine heart shone like the sun!
Bringing you back from the dead, as you lift-
ed up your head. . .
And saw what you had left, take the hill Ma-
rine . . . as all of our lives you so bless!
As You So Teach Us . . . and So Beseech Us
. . . and So Reach Us, oh so yes!
All with what that you so had left, as your
courage began to crest!
All for his beautiful daughter Claire and his
lovely wife Nicole so yes. . .

As you so reached so deep down inside, your fine soul!
 To find that kind of courage, that you can only find in hearts of gold!
 And if ever I had a son, I wish he could be like you the one. . . .
 Who such magnificent courage so holds. . . .
 Who all in his most heroic shades of green, is but a fine champion so seen. . . .
 For only so few in our Nation's history, have so lived so such lives so splendidly!
 And took up that charge, and into that valley of death so marched. . . .
 All so that we may be free!
 All out on their most heroic course, to make a difference with it all and go forth!
 And so answered out Nation's call. . . .
 For only a few will know this song, for only a few to such heights will belong. . . .
 Right at the top of that list! As America's greatest of all sons . . . their song!
 Oh yes Brandon, that's U . . .
 U . . . B . . .
 U . . . B . . . Long!

U.S.-KOREA FREE TRADE
 AGREEMENT (KORUS FTA)

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago, I had the privilege of visiting the Republic of Korea through their Congressional Member Exchange Program. In just 3 busy days, I was able to meet and converse with top officials in the Korean Government, my counterparts in the Korean National Assembly, business leaders, Korean War veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

My father was a veteran of the Korean War, so it was particularly touching and meaningful for me that I was able to visit the Korean War Memorial and Exhibition, lay a wreath and to meet with officials at the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs. My visit to the War Memorial served as a sobering reminder of the cost of freedom that was paid 60 years ago through the service and sacrifice of all Korean War veterans.

I had similar chills the next day, when our delegation visited the Demilitarized Zone and the Joint Security Area. It is difficult, if not impossible, to describe the flood of emotions I felt looking out across the DMZ and realizing what life is like in North Korea, a country with one of the world's most oppressive governments and, because of that, one of the world's poorest populations.

While these two occasions were strikingly memorable, they provided an important framework for when I had the opportunities to meet with Korean business leaders about trade, investment, and tourism.

Prior to my election as a Member of Congress, it was my great privilege to serve as mayor of Corning, New York, and of course Corning is part of the 29th congressional district that I am honored to represent. Corning is home of Corning Incorporated, a Fortune 500 company with interests and facilities across the globe—including in South Korea.

While in Korea, I was taken on a tour of Samsung Corning Precision Materials and was given a very informative briefing about the company's activities which are critical to my district. I also had an opportunity to do one of my favorite things—talk about the great wines

produced in the Finger Lakes region of New York. Korean consumers are quite discriminating wine drinkers and, as you might expect, have developed a taste for fine wine from the United States, especially from New York wineries.

Currently, however, American wine exports to Korea are subject to a tariff that puts them out of the reach of many potential buyers. There is a glimmer of hope on the horizon, though, once the Congress ratifies and implements the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA).

The KORUS FTA reduces Korea's tariff on U.S. wine imports to zero. That will be good for New York vineyards. There are more than 60 family-owned wineries in the area around my hometown, and many of them will benefit immediately from this new tariff-free situation.

In addition to the meetings with business leaders, I also had important discussions with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Sung-Hwan Kim, Deputy Minister for Trade Seok-Young Choi, and National Security Advisor Yung-Woo Chun, as well as with Kyung-Pil Nam, chairman of the Unification, Foreign Affairs, and Trade Committee of the Korean National Assembly. Additionally I met with U.S. Ambassador Kathleen Stephens and President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea Amy Jackson.

All of these government leaders were strong advocates of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement. They did not have to do much to convince me, as I share their advocacy and appreciate their leadership and efforts to consolidate our alliance partnership overall.

Today, Korea has the world's eleventh-largest economy, known for its high-technology industries. It is the seventh-largest trading partner of the United States, the fifth largest market for agricultural goods, and the third largest destination for U.S. foreign direct investment in the Asia-Pacific region.

Bilateral trade between the Republic of Korea and the United States averages about \$80 billion each year. The KORUS FTA represents the largest and most commercially significant free trade agreement ever signed by the United States in over a decade and since the ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

This free trade agreement will ultimately eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers, create better jobs, enrich consumer choice, boost industry and enhance overall welfare for both nations. It will immediately eliminate tariffs on almost two-thirds of U.S. agricultural exports worth over \$1.9 billion.

Overall, the KORUS FTA is expected to boost the more than \$80 billion in annual two-way trade between South Korea and the U.S. by \$10 billion to \$20 billion about 5 years after ratification. The reasons for swift approval by the Congress of the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement are numerous and compelling.

In closing, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the Government and people of Korea for their tremendous hospitality during my visit 2 weeks ago. In particular, I wish to thank and recognize Korean Ambassador Duk-Soo Han for all his help and support that paved the way for a successful and productive trip. He is a great advocate for his country and I appreciate our mutual friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I came away from my visit emboldened and excited by the opportunities that lay ahead with respect to benefits of the

KORUS FTA. On this note, I respectfully urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important agreement. I hope to see it brought up for consideration very soon, so that it can be ratified and implemented at the earliest opportunity.

RECOGNIZING AMBASSADOR TONY
 HALL'S HUNGER FAST

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend my dear friend and our former colleague, Ambassador Tony Hall, for his devotion to those less fortunate. Ambassador Hall went on a 28-day fast after learning of proposed budget cuts for programs that help those less fortunate domestically and abroad.

Here are some comments that he made regarding his recent fast:

"Back in 1993, as a Member of Congress, I went on a 22-day fast to protest the lack of conscience of the U.S. Congress towards poor and hungry people. Now, almost twenty years later, the stakes are even higher. That's why on March 28, 2011—almost one month ago—I stopped eating and started fasting, calling on friends and colleagues from across the country and around the world to join me.

"This coming Easter Sunday I will stop fasting. The Hungerfast campaign is coming to an end, but the movement to ensure our leaders don't balance the budgets on the backs of poor and hungry people is only getting started.

"But before moving forward, I want to pause for a moment to look back on what we have accomplished together, and to express my gratitude for all the ways people have broken out of their normal routines—going above and beyond—in order to make the Hungerfast movement possible.

"Hungerfast has brought together a large and diverse coalition of partners; Meals on Wheels and the ONE Campaign. World Vision and MoveOn.org. Christian, Jewish and Muslim organizations breaking out of business as usual to call their constituencies to fasting, prayer and personal sacrifice.

"With over 36,000 Americans, including 28 Members of Congress, committed to fasting, prayer and other forms of serious personal sacrifice, the HungerFast movement will have repercussions long into the future; it has not only set the stage for our ongoing budget debate, it has moved all of us into deeper levels of solidarity with those who Jesus called, 'the least of these.'

As the Congress continues the budget process, we must carefully consider proposals that impact the most vulnerable. Scripture (Proverbs 19:17) tells us, "He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord." And in the New Testament Jesus talks a lot about the poor. In Matthew 25 he says that if we ignore the poor and hungry it is the same as ignoring him.

It is imperative that we all work together rein in our nation's unfunded liabilities to ensure that resources are available to help society's neediest and most vulnerable members.