

107–306, as amended by Public Law 111–259, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the National Commission for Review of Research and Development Programs of the United States Intelligence Community:

Gilman Louie of California.

Troy Wade of Nevada.

#### WELCOME HOME 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION'S TASK FORCE RAKKASAN

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I humbly rise today to welcome home the heroic soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division's Task Force Rakkasan after a year's deployment in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, this morning we read aloud the document we are all sworn to protect and defend. None defend that document and our freedom better than those deployed in harm's way. Many of the members of the Rakkasan have been deployed five times since September 11. They are part of the most deployed unit in the history of the U.S. Army. They have my profound gratitude for that service.

These brave soldiers served in and around Khost, Afghanistan. Together with their Afghan allies, they took 2,000 insurgents out of the fight and cleared the way for expanded Afghan governance. The Rakkasans arrived in a region that was controlled by the Taliban. They leave an area where children are free to go to school, play cricket, fly kites, all activities that the Taliban forbade.

Tomorrow, Tennessee will welcome these heroes home. We will open our arms and embrace them and thank them for their service and their sacrifice. We will also remember those who are not returning. I hope that my colleagues in this body will take a moment today to reflect on how our service should honor the service of those who serve us so well.

#### GEORGIA STATE TROOPER FIRST CLASS CHADWICK LECROY

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Georgia State Patrol Trooper First Class Chadwick LeCroy, of Marietta, Georgia, my hometown, who was killed in the line of duty by an unrepentant thug on Monday, December 27.

At the young age of 38, Mr. LeCroy was a highly respected husband, father, and public servant. He graduated from the 85th Georgia State Patrol Trooper

School in August of 2008 and had been a highly respected law enforcement officer in the Atlanta area ever since.

Trooper First Class LeCroy is the 27th Georgia State Trooper to be killed in the line of duty, and he leaves behind his wife and two young sons.

A hero like Trooper First Class LeCroy will not be forgotten, and I join his family and friends in mourning this momentous loss to them. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this loyal and heroic Georgian.

#### FIRST ANNUAL DAN MARINO FOUNDATION WALKABOUT AUTISM EVENT

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, January 29th, the Dan Marino Foundation will host its first annual WalkAbout Autism event at Sun Life Stadium in Miami from 10:00 to 2:00. One hundred percent of the proceeds will benefit our south Florida community-based programs that help children with autism and their families.

The Centers for Disease Control states that one out of every 110 children in the U.S. has autism. Autism impairs social interactions and communication skills. While some autistic children will grow up to function in society, others, many others, will need some level of professional care all of their lives.

Since its creation in 1992, the Dan Marino Foundation has raised over \$30 million to support research, services, and treatment serving children and young adults.

I urge all south Floridians to participate and help make this first annual WalkAbout Autism event a success. Our combined efforts will help assure that all money raised here stays here and benefits programs in our south Florida community.

Let's all WalkAbout Autism.

□ 1350

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### REMEMBERING TOM VANDERGRIFF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Judge Tom Vandergriff was a Member of the House of Representatives from January 1982 until December 1984. He was defeated for reelection in November of 1984 by Dick Armey, moved back

to Texas, and switched parties from the Democrat Party to the Republican Party. In 1990 he was elected county judge in which he served from 1990 until 2007. He passed away on December 30, 2010. His memorial service is tomorrow afternoon at the University of Texas at Arlington's Texas Center from 1 till 3.

Judge Vandergriff was a personal friend of mine. When I first was given part of Arlington in the redistricting process in 1992, he agreed to be my co-chairman for my campaign. He was just an absolute gentleman and helped in every way possible. One of the most unique things about Judge Vandergriff is that in his entire political career, which spanned from 1951 until 2007, he never held a political fund-raising event for himself. He did actually accept political contributions obviously but he never solicited and he never held an organized political event that he himself organized on his behalf. I thought that was astounding in the modern political era to be as successful politically as he was without having to go out and do the numerous fund-raisers that most of us have to do.

We are going to miss Judge Vandergriff. He's got a list of accomplishments a mile long. He was mayor of Arlington from 1951 until 1967. During his tenure as mayor, he was able to get the General Motors assembly plant located in Arlington; he helped get the Texas Rangers, which were then the Washington Senators, to move to Arlington, and was able to attend the World Series this past October in which he saw the Texas Rangers first of all win the American League and then fight valiantly against the San Francisco Giants who ultimately won the World Series.

He wanted to be a broadcaster. He went to USC in Los Angeles, applied for a broadcasting job in 1947, and was not successful in getting that broadcasting job. It went to somebody named Chet Huntley, who later became an anchorman on NBC News. Judge Vandergriff returned to Texas to assume a role in his family's Chevrolet dealership with his father, which he maintained that dealership except for times when he was a U.S. Congressman in some capacity.

We're going to miss Judge Vandergriff. We give our condolences to his family. Again, he was a Member of Congress from 1982 until 1984 and he will be missed.

On December 30, 2010, Texas lost a lion. Tom Vandergriff, former mayor of Arlington, Texas, former County Judge of Tarrant County, and former Member of the United States Congress, left this life at the age of 84. All of us in North Texas will mark time from the moment we heard of the loss. The loss is monumental.

Few people have had such a positive impact on the development and quality of life of North Texas, and no one has had a greater impact on Arlington. His friends and admirers are legion, his accomplishments legendary. He was the personification of an ideal, the ideal of

a selflessly devoted public servant who always put the people ahead of personal gain or ambition.

Arlington history is generally divided into two epochs: BV and AV, Before Vandergriff and After Vandergriff. He first sought and won elective office in 1951 when he became the "boy mayor" of Arlington at the age of 25. At the time Arlington was a small town on the railroad midway between Dallas and Fort Worth. Vandergriff saw the town's potential and set out to make it a center of prosperity in its own right while fostering a new spirit of cooperation within the North Texas region. Arlington, now the 49th largest city in the U.S. with 370,000 people, would never be the same, and neither would North Texas. Indeed, it was Vandergriff who coined the phrase, "Metrolplex", which is still the term usually applied to describe the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

His first major achievement was convincing General Motors executives to locate their new automobile assembly plant in Arlington. His family owned a Chevrolet dealership in town, which gave him access to General Motors Corp. Upon hearing that GM planned to build a plant in North Texas, he sold Arlington as a superior location by telling GM, as he would later tell the story, that if they put the plant in Dallas, it would make Fort Worth angry; if they put it in Fort Worth, it would make Dallas angry. He ended his pitch by convincing them that if they put it in Arlington, everybody would be happy. The plant produced its first automobile in 1954 and today is the only GM plant in the U.S. that makes full-size SUVs.

The GM plant began a building boom in Arlington that has lasted more than 55 years. Knowing a small town on well water could not sustain rapid growth nor accommodate the needs of industry, Vandergriff convinced the voters of Arlington to pass an initiative to build a large reservoir to meet the town's future needs. The effort proved to be as controversial as it was monumental for a small town, but the initiative passed, and Lake Arlington was built. The project was ridiculed by many in Arlington and dismissed by others in the region as "Vandergriff's Folly", but the folly became "the miracle lake" upon its completion. Large equipment was being removed from the site in 1957 when one of the worst and longest droughts in Texas history broke, and it began to rain. The lake, which experts believed would take years to fill, was full in 18 days. The lake ensured the explosive growth that came in the decades of the '60s, '70s, and '80s that made Arlington, Texas one of the fastest growing cities in America.

As a college student at the University of Southern California, Vandergriff was very familiar with Anaheim and by the late 1950s was aware of the tremendous economic impact tourism had on the city after the opening of Disneyland theme park in 1955. He knew, because of Arlington's central location, that the same benefits could accrue to his city with a product of similar appeal. It came as no surprise to those familiar with the Vandergriff vision for Arlington when he became instrumental in establishing the Six Flags Over Texas theme park in 1961. The park was an instant hit, and people all over the southwestern United States began traveling to Arlington for family styled entertainment. The first of the Six Flags parks, it still operates at its original location in Arlington.

But Vandergriff didn't stop there. A devoted baseball fan, he was determined to bring pro-

fessional baseball to North Texas. The effort took years and saw hopes dashed time and again before he finally convinced owner Bob Short to move his Washington Senators to Arlington in 1972. The effort did not endear him to the people of the Nation's capital. On one of his many visits to meet with Short, he was unceremoniously kicked out of a taxicab when he made the mistake of telling the cabbie why he was in town. The Washington Senators became the Texas Rangers Ball Club, and Tom Vandergriff became the team's biggest fan and supporter. When his beloved Rangers won their first American League Pennant by beating the New York Yankees in Arlington last October, Vandergriff was there in the ballpark he helped build to cheer them on.

Today, Arlington is host to more than seven million visitors each year and is the second most popular tourist destination in the state, bringing millions of dollars in revenue to the city annually. The city's entertainment district boasts Six Flags theme park, the Texas Rangers Ballpark, a new Dallas Cowboys football stadium, the National Bowling Congress and Museum, Hurricane Harbor water park, and clusters of shops and restaurants that make Arlington the City of Wow for millions of Texans.

In his 26 years as mayor, two years as a member of Congress, and 16 years as County Judge of Tarrant County, Vandergriff championed two more causes relentlessly: regional communication and cooperation and helping the University of Texas at Arlington become a major institution of higher learning. Believing that everyone in North Texas would succeed if they worked together for the good of the region, Vandergriff spent decades finessing, cajoling, and winning over the leaders of other cities in the region. He led the effort to establish and became the president of the North Central Texas Council of Governments which today is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for all of North Texas. He was a strong advocate for regionalism well into his eighties, and the economic might of the region is a testament to that effort.

Vandergriff's efforts on behalf of his hometown university are equally impressive. When he became mayor, Arlington College was a tiny two-year institution affiliated with Texas A&M that was formerly a military school and then an agricultural college. Vandergriff knew it could be more, and if Arlington were to succeed as a city, so must its college. He led the effort to make the college a four-year university. Working with then-governor John Connally, he succeeded when the college became a full university within the University of Texas system in 1964. Today, the University of Texas at Arlington is the largest UT campus outside of Austin and the fastest growing university in the state. It is quickly becoming a major research facility and contributes more to the local economy than any industry in the city.

There is more, of course, much more. In a life lived as fully and as well as his, there is always more to tell: his unwavering support and leadership of Arlington Memorial Hospital, his support and leadership of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, his support of local public schools, his support of a long list of non-profit agencies, his decades as an active member of the United Methodist Church, and his roles as husband, father, grandfather, and mentor to a very long list of aspiring leaders.

All of this almost didn't happen, at least not in Texas.

Vandergriff was born on January 29, 1926, to W. T. and Charles Vandergriff in Carrollton, Texas. The family relocated to Arlington when Tom was 12. After graduating from Arlington High School Vandergriff attended USC where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1947. He married his high school sweetheart, Anna Waynette Smith in 1949. Blessed with a deep, sonorous voice that he used with perfect diction, he prepared for a career in radio and broadcast journalism. After graduation he applied for and was a finalist in the competition for what he thought would be the job of his dreams, but he lost out to another young applicant. Vandergriff returned to Texas to join his father's automobile dealership, disappointed and convinced that he was a better candidate for the broadcast job. The young man who got the job was Chet Huntley.

Chet Huntley would gain fame as an NBC news anchor and reach millions of listeners nationwide, but the loser in that early competition, Tom Vandergriff, would touch millions in North Texas in ways that were deeper and arguably more significant. Many have their own stories to tell about Vandergriff, many humorous because he possessed a wonderful sense of humor, many thankful because he touched so many with acts of kindness large and small, and many inspirational because he inspired us, goaded us, and led us to be greater than we thought we were and achieved things we never thought possible. All in North Texas are better off today because Tom Vandergriff was here, and our children and grandchildren will have better lives even though they will never know him. Those of us who did will never forget him.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

I now yield to Congresswoman KAY GRANGER of Texas who wishes to speak also on behalf of Judge Vandergriff.

Ms. GRANGER. Today we remember with great fondness Tom Vandergriff. Tom was a leader in everything he did. He was a man who saw challenges and tried to solve them. He found opportunities and made them work for us. He had a vision that he always reached for. He never accepted the status quo. He was always working for what ought to be.

As a successful businessman, a mayor, a Member of Congress and a county judge, he did so much to promote economic development and opportunities to make Tarrant County, Texas which it is today. Just think of this: Starting as, what he was called, the boy mayor, he was 25 years old. He served his community, helping Texas bring General Motors, Six Flags Over Texas, the Texas Rangers, all to north Texas. He had a vision to anticipate the needs of a growing community and population. But more than that, he was a decent and kind man. His grace was matched only by his courage, and his personal character was exceeded only by his compassion for others. He was the epitome of a great public servant. He will be missed but not forgotten; and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Denton, Congressman BURGESS.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As a member of the Tarrant County delegation, I also want to stand in remembrance of Tom Vandergriff and his 55-year career in public service. Thirteen years it took him to bring major league baseball to Arlington, Texas, and he took the team from Washington, DC that was then known as the Senators; had to fight two Presidents in a bipartisan fashion, both Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon.

Judge Vandergriff was the original representative from the 26th District of Texas when it was formed after the 1980 census. My fondest memory of Judge Vandergriff is, however, as the voice of the Texas Rangers. Along with Dick Risenhoover, he would do the broadcasts. They were spellbinding and exciting and kept me away many times from my graduate school studies.

To his family, we offer our prayers and condolences. Thank you, Judge Vandergriff, for 55 excellent years in public service.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I know we have a new protocol for recognizing former Members who have passed away. Is it appropriate under our rules to have a moment of silence for Judge Vandergriff? And if so, how would I request such a moment of silence?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would recommend that the gentleman from Texas consult with the leadership on making such requests.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. So it would not be appropriate at this time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct, and the gentleman's time has expired.

□ 1400

#### THE MINDLESS REPEAL OF THE ACCOUNTABLE CARE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we have a new leader in the House and a new majority, and next week they are going to begin their legislative activity with a stunt. It is a stunt they are bringing out here to pretend that they are repealing the Accountable Care Act that was passed in the last session. They know it won't pass the Senate, they know the President isn't going to accept it, so it is being done simply for their base. Now, I object to doing stunts like this when they affect real people's lives.

I just would ask you for a minute to consider what the repeal of this means to middle class families in this country. I am a physician. There are other physicians on the floor. They know how this repeal will affect people in this country.

In September, we already had go into effect the ability of families to put

their children on their health insurance up to the age of 26. This repeal will say, if you have got a 25-year-old who has cystic fibrosis and is on your health care plan and getting their medications through your health care plan, we are going to take it away from you. That is what they are saying in this.

They are saying for preexisting conditions, if you were trying to get a health care plan and your wife or your son or you have a preexisting condition, you can be denied by an insurance company. We have already passed a law that says that can't happen. It went in in September. Yet the Republicans are going to come out here and say to the middle class in this country, we are going to take away your protection against insurance companies denying you coverage.

It goes on and on and on, but I want to focus on one particular part of this bill. This bill has the largest middle class tax cut in history—the largest tax cut for the middle class in history—because the tax cuts in this health care bill to help the middle class are used for giving credits to people when they buy insurance. People buy insurance, they get a tax credit. It is the largest one in history.

Let me say that again so you get it: They are going to vote next week. They are going to stand out here with a straight face and vote to repeal the largest middle class tax cut in the history of this great Nation that will be worth \$110 billion that they will take away from the middle class.

Now, a few weeks ago we passed a tax bill out of here and we had to give tax cuts to people who make millions and millions of dollars—millions. They said if you don't give the tax cuts to the rich, we are not going to give them to the middle class. The entire Republican Caucus voted against tax cuts unless millionaires got them. Well, we should have learned from that that this repeal will be just more of the same—take \$110 billion away from the middle class by taking a repeal of this law.

You don't have to take it from me. This isn't me making this up. Families USA, a nonpartisan group, has put out this information, and everybody understands it. Now, upstairs in the Rules Committee right now, I could be up there talking but I decided I will talk here first and then go up there and try to get this amendment offered in the bill that will be on Friday. ALLYSON SCHWARTZ and GWEN MOORE are up there already working on this. But it would prevent a repeal effort from increasing taxes on moderate-income or low-income individuals, including through the elimination of tax credits for health care premiums as provided under the health care reform law. We would exempt that one part out of the repeal.

I don't know what success I will have up there, but we will go and try, because it is worth trying. It is worth pointing out how absolutely unthink-

ing this is. It is a mindless thing to come out here with this repeal.

#### IMPLEMENTING REAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, my remarks will be about saving money, but I can't help but take an opportunity to respond to the previous speaker, my good friend, the gentleman, the good doctor from the State of Washington.

I would say to him, Madam Speaker, and to my colleagues, when we repeal ObamaCare, which we will do in this House next Wednesday, parents will once again be able to afford a health insurance policy on which to include their adult children. That is what we will be doing.

As far as this \$110 billion worth of savings we lose in repealing ObamaCare, Madam Speaker, we spent \$1.1 trillion to save \$110 billion. Hey, Madam Speaker, it is true that you can indeed go broke trying to save money.

With that, Madam Speaker, let me get on to my 5-minute discussion.

I rise today to encourage my colleagues to recall the conversations they had with their constituents during the recent campaign season. As we begin the 112th Congress, to remember that the American people spoke with a resounding voice, didn't they, on November 2. They told us to abide by the Constitution, to rein in spending, bring about economic stability, create jobs, and end the culture of crafting legislation in the dark of night, 2,400 pages on the health care bill, outside of the view of the public.

In order to fulfill this mandate, we must fundamentally change the way we do business here in Washington. I have taken the first steps by introducing several legislative initiatives this week, and they are all centered around the pursuit of meaningful government reform.

Madam Speaker, transparency is an integral part of this package and a necessary element for real government reform. For the first time, the Constitution, a document critical to understanding our parameters and responsibility, was read right here in the House today, on the House floor.

I am proud to have introduced a bill as part of my initiative stating that any legislation brought to the floor must cite its constitutional authority. Many may find it surprising to know, Madam Speaker, that while votes taken on the floor of the House are available on the Net to view, or on the Web site, that is not necessarily the case in committee. Therefore, my package also contains a committee transparency bill. It would require committee votes to be posted online, on the committee Web site, within 48