

Firefighters are often the first responders to any and every emergency. As we saw on 9/11 firefighters are dedicated to saving lives and we must provide them with the resources to maintain their morale and readiness. Stringent budget cuts on the local level have left fire departments understaffed, unprepared, and unequipped to perform their duties to highest level.

Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs attempt to ameliorate this deficiency. In this bill both grant programs are once again underfunded. This legislation only funds up to 25 percent of the necessary funds required to effectively support local fire departments with hiring firefighters, providing modern safety gear, modern fire trucks, and other vital tools to our first responders.

It makes no sense to weaken our Homeland Security program by cutting their resources in a time when terrorist threats continue to put our Nation at risk. We as Members of Congress must unite and assist our brave first responders in their efforts to help contain any threats by providing them with all necessary resources, rather than turn our backs and leave them without sufficient funding.

Mr. Chair, DHS is charged with safeguarding America against diverse and relentless adversaries. Charged with this difficult but important task, providing DHS with the necessary provisions is a no brainer. But this bill has come short of providing those provisions. I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 5855 so we have that opportunity to provide our first responders with those provisions.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAPE COD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th Anniversary of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce plays an essential role in the Cape Cod community, networking local businesses and offering visitors an insider's perspective on much of what the Cape has to offer.

Founded in 1922, the Chamber of Commerce has grown to represent almost 1,400 members. From charities and museums to banks, churches and wildlife sanctuaries, the Chamber represents a diverse array of organizations on the Cape that help to define its unique character. These businesses provide vital services to both residents and visitors. Without the hard work the Chamber has done over the course of its long history, and without the numerous organizations it represents, the business community on the Cape could never have developed the vitality and ingenuity that makes it so remarkable.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce and its CEO, Wendy Northcross—as well as the hundreds of business and organizations that make it all possible—for their years of hard work. I am certain the Chamber's and their member organizations' futures will be bright.

UNCERTAINTY DESTROYS JOBS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in Wednesday's Washington Examiner, columnist John Stossel quoted economist John B. Taylor of the Hoover Institution who stated "Unpredictable economic policy—massive fiscal 'stimulus' and ballooning debt, the Federal Reserve's quantitative easing with multiyear near-zero interest rates, and regulatory uncertainty due to Obamacare and the Dodd-Frank financial reforms—is the main cause of persistent high unemployment and our feeble recovery."

Over the past three and a half years, our economy has not improved: our unemployment rate has remained above eight percent, our small business owners have been forced to pay higher taxes, and our government spending continues to spiral out of control, destroying jobs.

The President and his liberal allies in the Senate continue to support legislation that creates more barriers resulting in economic uncertainty. This sense plays a tremendous role in our economy's inability to recover quickly. It is past time for the President and the Senate to work with House Republicans and pass legislation aimed to create jobs through private sector growth.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, I was delayed and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 362, "aye" on rollcall No. 363, "aye" on rollcall No. 364, "aye" on rollcall No. 365, "aye" on rollcall No. 366, "aye" on rollcall No. 367, "aye" on rollcall No. 368, "no" on rollcall No. 369, and "aye" on rollcall No. 370.

TRIBUTE TO KYLE McCULLOUGH

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to Kyle McCullough. Kyle, a 28-year-old Wasco County resident, is a former Army Special Forces soldier who served this country with honor and distinction. In Ramadi in 2006, he fought in one of the toughest engagements our forces encountered during Operation Iraqi Freedom. And now Kyle is currently in the process of reenlisting in the Army.

While at home, his mind is not far from his comrades in harm's way overseas. In recent conversation with his little brother, USMC 1st

Lt. Kristoffer "Turf" McCullough, currently serving in Afghanistan, he was asked: "Do people even remember that we're over here?"

Kyle, as ever his nature, jumped into action. In May, Kyle walked a distance of 198 miles over eight days from his home in Dufur to the Oregon coast in Seaside to raise awareness for the troops. That's an average of 24.5 miles every day, or two miles longer than the driving distance between Hood River and The Dalles.

During the trek, Kyle not only raised a few blisters on the bottom of his feet, but he also raised money for the Hood River-based Gorge Heroes Club, which provides care packages to deployed troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. With the money Kyle raised, the Gorge Heroes Club will be able to provide 1,250 soldiers overseas with morale-boosting care packages from home.

Media throughout the northwest covered Kyle's walk—and it was not lost on deployed servicemen and women overseas, either. Oregon National Guard Major Jack Gillentine, stationed in Kabul, said in a recent letter to the Gorge Heroes Club, "Thank you very much for the packages you sent us. Some of the non-perishable food goes on our trucks for missions when we cannot get to a chow hall. I especially wanted to say thank you to Kyle McCullough. I read the article and I appreciate his huge effort. Thank you for all you do."

The Gorge Heroes Club supported more than 5,000 troops last year alone. As a direct result of Kyle's dedication and willingness to persevere through pain and exhaustion, troops deployed around the globe will continue to receive these much needed morale boosting care packages.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my fellow colleagues join me in recognizing Kyle McCullough. He has earned the thanks of a grateful Nation not only for his courage on the battlefield, but for his homefront support of his fellow servicemen and women who every day put their lives on the line for our way of life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAPE VERDEAN HISTORICAL TRUST AND ITS SO SABI! EXHIBIT

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cape Verdean Historical Trust, its members and the upcoming So SABI! exhibit. On June 16th, So SABI! will open its doors and invite the public to explore Cape Verdean music, art and literature and the influence of the oldest Creole culture in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

So SABI! allows all residents of Massachusetts—those of Cape Verdean descent and those not—to learn and appreciate the impact those first immigrants have had on shaping the modern culture and economy of our Commonwealth, where nearly 300,000 descendants of Cape Verdean immigrants make their home. My district, which includes Cape Cod, the Islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, and the towns of Southeastern Massachusetts, is home to the fastest growing Cape Verdean populations in the United States. This comes as no surprise, given the stark similarities in lifestyle and resources between the Commonwealth and this island community.

In the mid 19th century, Cape Verdean migrants flocked to New England ports on whaling vessels in pursuit of prosperity and opportunity. Today, many of Massachusetts' fishermen still bear the names of their Cape Verdean grandparents. These settlers easily transitioned into the fishing and agricultural sectors—helping the early whaling, commercial fishing and cranberry industries blossom with their sailing and harvesting expertise. In fact, several Cape Verdean publications and journals live on in Southeastern Massachusetts—allowing Cape Verdean-Americans to keep their culture's stories and traditions alive.

It brings me great pride to note that the opening of So Sabi! coincides with the second Millennium Challenge Corporation compact awarded to the nation of Cape Verde. This historic award marks the first time that the Millennium Challenge Corporation has approved a second compact for any country. This decision was based on Cape Verde's remarkable achievements in reducing poverty through sustainable economic growth and domestic efforts that the nation has made as a result of its first grant. I was proud to support Cape Verde's endorsement for a second compact, and prouder still to recognize the magnitude of Cape Verde's accomplishments in my capacity as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Speaker, as the Cape Verdean Historical Trust proudly unveils its So Sabi! exhibit in honor of Massachusetts' Cape Verdean culture and the nation of Cape Verde welcomes its second compact from the Millennium Challenge Corporation, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the historical and educational significance of the June 16th event.

**MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES
ON H.R. 4348, SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
EXTENSION ACT OF
2012. PART II**

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong opposition to the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4348 offered by the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. BROWN. The draconian cuts directed by this motion would cripple the Nation's infrastructure and leave hundreds of thousands of people unemployed.

The language of the gentleman's motion is confusing at best. The exact amount suggested to be cut differs due to interpretation of the word "funding." By limiting the Highway Trust Fund's expenditures in FY 2013 to \$37.5 billion, the gentleman's motion would essentially bankrupt the Fund because \$37.5 billion is less than the amount needed to reimburse State and public transit agencies for obligations incurred in prior fiscal years.

The Federal Government already owes \$38.8 billion for projects that were implemented in the previous fiscal year, or are currently under construction. If we do not authorize the funds necessary to pay these debts, the government will be in default.

Spending cuts of this magnitude would cut more than 1.6 million jobs in a field with more than 2.2 million people already out of work. At

the beginning of the spring and summer construction season the unemployment rate in the industry was at 14.2%, and in May alone jobs fell by 28,000. It would be foolish to vote for a motion that will have the effect of putting more Americans out of work. That would be the result if the Broun Motion were adopted.

The motion by the gentleman from Georgia ignores the long-term underinvestment in our nation's surface transportation. Investments in transportation support economic growth, increase productivity and enhance America's competitiveness in the global economy.

A strong national infrastructure is what will bring this country back from the recession we are currently fighting through. The Highway Transit Fund is essential for not only providing a safe transportation network, but creating millions of jobs for hardworking Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that my colleagues and I are working during a time of economic constraints, and I understand that we must make spending cuts across the board in order to control the debt we have accumulated.

However, this motion is an irresponsible move, and if implemented would have disastrous consequences. The Highway Trust Fund would no longer have the ability to carry out highway, highway safety and public transit projects or activities. This would have long lasting negative effects on our nation's infrastructure and economy.

Mr. Speaker, this motion is bordering on absurd. I cannot believe that a member of congress means to drive our nation into default, and cripple our infrastructure in the process. I stand before you today to ask my colleagues, regardless of their political ideology, to ignore the motion put before you. This is what is best for our nation, and our economy.

**RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
MILITARY SERVICE OF MAJOR
GENERAL ROBERT H. McMAHON
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT**

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the thirty-four year career of Major General Robert H. McMahon, who will retire this month after a distinguished and remarkable career in the Air Force. I commend Major General McMahon's career and offer my sincerest appreciation for his service in defense of our nation.

Major General McMahon led the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center since 2010, where he was responsible for worldwide logistics support for the C-130 and C-5 transport aircraft, the F-15 and other aircraft critical to our nation's defense. The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center is the largest industrial complex in the state of Georgia and is a critical component to the sustainment of our nation's Air Force.

Major General McMahon began his Air Force career in 1978 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He was recognized with numerous awards throughout his Air Force career, including the Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster and the Defense Superior Service Medal.

Over the past several years, Major General McMahon applied tremendous skill and leadership to transform the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center into a world class sustainment and logistics center. As a result, he has distinguished himself as one of the nation's most innovative and effective Air Force commanders. During his tenure, the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center achieved tremendous improvement in its sustainment mission, resulting in a ninety-eight percent on-time delivery rate of aircraft to the warfighter. Major General McMahon consistently demonstrated one of the key tenets of leadership, the ability to inspire and motivate the airmen and workers under his command.

Currently Major General McMahon and his wife Hope reside in the 8th Congressional District which I represent, where they will no doubt remain a pillar of the Middle Georgia community. I extend my warm congratulations and appreciation to Major General McMahon for his tireless service to our nation and wish him well in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall vote Nos. 294–296. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: rollcall No. 294, H.R. 5651—the Food and Drug Administration Reform Act of 2012 by Rep. UPTON, “yes”; rollcall No. 295, H.R. 420—the Service Member Family Protection Act by Rep. TURNER, “yes”; rollcall No. 296, H.R. 915—the Jaime Zapata Border Security Task Force Act by Rep. CUELLAR, “yes.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I was detained and missed rollcall vote No. 362 on Thursday, June 7, 2012. If I had been present, I would have voted “aye” for King Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 5855, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act.

**HEALTH CARE COST REDUCTION
ACT OF 2012**

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I oppose H.R. 436 but I am opposed to the Medical Device Excise Tax. I support the Affordable Care Act, but just like all bills, it was not perfect.

In Texas, the medical device industry supports nearly 55,000 jobs. It is an industry at the cutting edge of technological innovation