

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. CUJELLAR, "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

and is critical to addressing many of the health challenges we face now and will in future. I believe this industry, just like any other, should pay their fair share, but I am worried that a tax like this will chill innovation. The tax is on revenue and not profits, which will have a disproportionate effect on small and mid-sized companies. Medical devices are incredibly expensive to develop and it takes a lot of revenue to offset overhead. By taxing revenue, instead of profit, it adds additional costs. Most business taxes are calculated on the profits after expenses, but this one is not.

A company near our district in Houston, Cyberonics, employs hundreds of Americans. A few years ago, I toured their facilities. I was surprised to learn that they did all of their manufacturing in-house, in Houston. This is an increasingly rare way to do business, but one we should encourage. Their company is a good example of American innovation and entrepreneurship. I am concerned that the way this tax is structured, it will negatively impact Cyberonics and companies like it. We should be taking steps to support research, design, and manufacturing job growth in our country.

While I oppose this tax, I am also opposed to the way this bill pays for the repeal of the tax. We should not replace a poorly designed policy with more poorly designed policies. This bill shifts the cost on to low and middle income earners and potentially risks their health insurance coverage under ACA.

We should find a better way to fix this and I want to work with my colleagues to craft a compromise that will not endanger American jobs but at the same time won't shift significant costs on to those who can least afford it.

RECOGNIZING ADELITA FIGUEROA-MUNOZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Mrs. Adelita Figueroa-Munoz, the County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences of Hidalgo County.

She has worked tirelessly to educate the community of south Texas for more than forty years, and is deserving of recognition and honor.

Mrs. Adelita Figueroa-Munoz, born and raised in Alice, Texas, earned her bachelor of science in vocational home economics at Texas A&M University in Kingsville and went on to the Pan-American University of Texas to receive a master's degree in counseling.

She joined the Texas Agri-Life Extension Services in 1971, and for much of her career, Mrs. Figueroa-Munoz has promoted healthy habits through programs like Better Living for Texans, which provides education in the areas of nutrition, food safety, and food resource management to food stamp recipients, and multiple cancer awareness campaigns like Put it Out and Cultivando la Salud.

In 2004, Mrs. Figueroa-Munoz became the County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences and continued to serve south

Texas by providing workshops to both youth and adults to teach important skills for success, including the Benefits of Teamwork, Communication Skills, Stress Management, Goal-Setting, and Leadership Development.

Mrs. Figueroa-Munoz has borne the privileges and responsibilities of her position with dedication and excellence for over forty years, and she may take great pride in her work.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the commitment to service exhibited by the County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences, Adelita Figueroa-Munoz.

RECOGNIZING THE NEW HAMPSHIRE LNA OF THE YEAR

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Talbot Blanchard, a licensed nursing assistant, LNA, from the Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital in Colebrook, New Hampshire. Talbot was recently honored by the New Hampshire Hospital Association as the 13th Annual LNA of the Year Award.

As a medical/surgical LNA, he was previously named "Employee of the Year" at the Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital after his first year on the staff and was chosen for the New Hampshire Hospital Association award from among a dozen finalists from throughout the state.

Blanchard is a "career change" nurse who previously spent 29 years at the Ethan Allen furniture plant in Beecher Falls, Vermont. It was a change that today benefits the residents of Colebrook and the surrounding communities as is evident by the comments made by his peers during the nomination process. Talbot is known for "bringing brightness and energy to his patients during their darkest and sickest hours."

It is the care and dedication of medical staff like Talbot Blanchard that allows New Hampshire hospitals to be among the finest institutions in the nation. I ask you to join me in recognizing Talbot Blanchard for his accomplishments, along with recognizing the care and service provided by thousands of nurses and medical staff every day in New Hampshire and throughout our country.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE AS NATIONAL SCOLIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, with respect and admiration I, along with my colleague, Ms. TSONGAS gather today to recognize June as National Scoliosis Awareness Month, and to reaffirm our commitment to fighting a potentially debilitating medical condition that afflicts over 7 million Americans.

National Scoliosis Awareness Month brings together all members of the scoliosis community, including physicians, patients, families, and businesspeople to raise awareness and educate the public about this condition. Diagnosing scoliosis is a simple procedure that takes less than 30 seconds, and early detection allows physicians to monitor the condition and, if necessary, begin treatment before serious complications—including chronic back pain and impacted heart and lung function—even begin. Raising awareness is therefore crucial to the fight against scoliosis.

Between two and three percent of the American population suffers from scoliosis, and the number of family and friends who are impacted by this condition numbers many millions more. While serious complications of scoliosis are largely preventable, affordable care and public awareness are necessary in order to maximize the effectiveness of treatment. National Scoliosis Awareness Month promotes a positive public awareness message that elevates the visibility of scoliosis and empowers those individuals whose lives have been touched by this condition. It is a time for us to recommit ourselves to reducing its impact in the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join us in recognizing June as National Scoliosis Awareness Month, and in thanking organizations such as the National Scoliosis Foundation and the Scoliosis Research Society, as well as their many supporters, for making it all possible.

JUSTICE FOR OFFICER KEVIN WILL—HOUSTON POLICE OFFICER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on an early Sunday morning last May, one of Houston's finest, Officer Kevin Will, was investigating a hit-and-run accident. Suddenly, a different vehicle sped by and blazed past the police barriers at the accident where Officer Will was investigating. Immediately, before being struck, Officer Will yelled at a witness to jump out of the way, saving that citizen's life just before the officer's life was stolen from him. Only 38 years old, Officer Will left behind a pregnant wife and two stepchildren.

The driver of that speeding vehicle was foreign outlaw Johoan Rodriguez. The killer was in the United States illegally, having been deported once for another crime, but came back and committed another crime. This drunk and high driver blew through the safety lights of the police cruiser, striking and killing Officer Will.

Today, justice was served for Officer Kevin Will and his family. Johoan Rodriguez was sentenced to 55 years in prison. Let this be a statement to the lawless that criminal conduct is not accepted by Americans no matter where you are from. Those who wreak havoc on our communities and kill law enforcement officers will always be met by the long arm of American justice.

And that's just the way it is.