

of the House of Representatives in 2002 and the first female Speaker of the House in 2007. She demonstrated great skill and political savvy during her tenure as Speaker, transforming the 111th Congress into one of the most productive sessions in American history. With unmatched party unity in voting, the House of Representatives passed more landmark legislation than any Congress since the Johnson administration, addressing issues as diverse as food safety, nuclear arms treaties, and the repeal of the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in the military.

Her successful stewardship of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has provided healthcare to 32 million uninsured Americans and reformed a broken system. She backed Wall Street Reform as well as President Obama's stimulus package to protect working Americans from job loss and prevent economic collapse. Her handling of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the increase of minimum wage have also demonstrated her dedication to supporting pay equity in our labor force.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge Ms. PELOSI's many contributions to people living with HIV/AIDS. This issue has been a top priority for Ms. PELOSI since she first took her oath of office, and her work has led to significant advances over the past 25 years. By publicizing this issue, she has helped to reduce discrimination and social stigmas associated with the disease. She has also doubled the level of U.S. funding for global health initiatives during her time as Speaker. Ms. PELOSI is responsible for U.S. leadership on this issue, which has saved the lives of millions of the world's most vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, this long list of accomplishments is a testament to Ms. PELOSI's determination, and her quarter century of service has left an indelible mark on this great institution. I am honored to serve under her leadership, and I look forward to her future accolades.

RECOGNIZING QUAD CITY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AS THE "ILLINOIS PRIMARY AIRPORT OF THE YEAR"

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Quad City International Airport for its selection as the "Illinois Primary Airport of the Year" at the Illinois Aviation Conference held in St. Charles, Illinois, on May 23, 2012.

Success does not come without hard work and commitment. The efforts of the employees of the Metropolitan Airport Authority, MAA, have helped the Quad City International Airport win its first "Illinois Primary Airport of the Year" award since 2004, and I applaud their dedication.

The improvements to the airport's infrastructure over the past several months and years due to partnerships with the Division of Aeronautics and the Federal Aviation Administration have been excellent and contributed to the winning of this award.

I frequently use the Quad City International Airport and am excited as the airport con-

tinues to make improvements and pursue excellence. I am pleased to see that this progress has been recognized state-wide by the Illinois Aviation Conference. I congratulate the Quad City International Airport on this much-deserved achievement and look forward to traveling to and from this site in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 316, I was unable to cast a vote on this amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2013 due to obligations in my district. The underlying bill was a well struck balance of funding priorities.

California, my district included, is very dependent on gasoline for its transportation needs. Without the necessary research funds, the state will not be able to develop new and better ways to fuel our cars and trucks. With nearly fifty percent of California's oil coming from the Middle East, it is crucial that we continue to research and develop our fuel resources here at home to ease our dependence on an unstable source that can drive up costs on consumers.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

THE ANNIVERSARY OF FLAG DAY IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Flag Day, a national celebration of our country and its freedoms, which was originally conceived in Hartford, Connecticut.

The concept for a "Flag Day", a commemoration of the 1777 establishment of our national flag, originated in Hartford shortly after the start of the Civil War when Hartford resident Jonathan Morris imagined Flag Day as an opportunity to promote the idea of a strong union in the face of the growing conflict. He felt that engendering pride in our most potent and patriotic symbol of unity might serve as a reminder of the sacrifices borne by prior Americans to establish the country, and restore a sense of respect for the national government in Washington.

Mr. Morris related his idea to Charles Dudley Warner, editor of the Hartford Evening Press, who was impressed by the idea and wrote an editorial calling for two new national holidays, Flag Day and Constitution Day. On June 14th, 1861, with the country two months into the Civil War and with troops mustering in downtown Hartford, residents of Connecticut followed his lead and organized the first celebration to honor our flag, and all that it stood for.

After the success of the 1861 celebrations in Hartford, Jonathan Morris asked Congressman Dwight Loomis, representing the First District of Connecticut in the U.S. House of

Representatives, to introduce a resolution recommending that the people of the United States observe June 14th and September 17th as national holidays, honoring the American Flag and the Constitution. Unfortunately, the Congressional Resolution was laid on the table and never came up again.

However, presumably also at the request of Mr. Morris, Connecticut State Senator Henry Welch introduced an identical Resolution in the General Assembly, which passed the Senate on June 6, 1862, and passed the House on June 17, 1862, recommending that the citizens of Connecticut observe June 14th and September 17th as Flag Day and Constitution Day, making Connecticut the first State to do so.

Whether it was helping to lay the foundation for the United States Constitution, or being the home to distinguished citizens such as Mark Twain, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Samuel Colt, Hartford's history has forever been interwoven with that of our great country. Given that the city of Hartford has played such a historic role in shaping the United States, it is no surprise that the idea of Flag Day originated there.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5855) making appropriations for Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chair, as we complete consideration of H.R. 5855, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill which funds the United States Coast Guard, I rise to share with my colleagues another example of why it remains one of our most important and efficient federal agencies.

Just last month, the crew of USCGC *Resolute*, based in Sector St. Petersburg, Florida which I have the privilege to represent, intercepted shipments of cocaine in the Caribbean valued at \$135 million.

The interdictions occurred during a two-month period and were a direct result of Operation Martillo, a U.S., European, and Western Hemisphere effort to target illicit trafficking routes on Central American coasts. On May 31, 2012, *Resolute* returned to St. Petersburg after an eight-week deployment in the Western Caribbean in support of counter-narcotics and search and rescue operations with the 168 bales of cocaine.

Sector St. Petersburg has proudly served our community, the Gulf Coast and our nation since 1924. It is one of the Coast Guard's largest commands, patrolling over 370 nautical miles of Florida's coastline. The west coast's vulnerability to smuggling unwanted goods and drugs makes it a critical sector and point of interest for our nation. Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg's chief operational duties include Search and Rescue, Maritime Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, and Waterways

Management. The men and women of *Resolute* and Sector St. Petersburg continue to do an outstanding job of defending our coastline, patrolling our fisheries, and providing life-saving search and rescue operations throughout the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean.

Mr. Chair, it is a great honor to be the only member of this House to represent four separate and distinct Coast Guard operations: Sector St. Petersburg, Air State Clearwater, Search and Rescue Station Sand Key, and Port Security Unit 307. Each carries out a vital mission to protect our nation and its men and women serve here and aboard to fulfill these critical responsibilities. With the passage of this appropriations bill tonight, we provide the Coast Guard with the equipment and resources it needs to undertake its training and missions safely. Please join me in saying congratulations to the crew of USCGC *Resolute*, the members of Sector St. Petersburg, and all the Coasties who serve our great nation in uniform for a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 315, I was unable to cast a vote on this amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2013 due to obligations in my district. The underlying bill was a well struck balance of funding priorities.

The United States needs to have an all-of-the-above energy approach that will meet the demand of our growing country. Nuclear energy should continue to be an aspect of our energy production and we should continue to research the capabilities and our practices surrounding the use of nuclear energy to ensure that we are as efficient and safe in our nuclear energy sector as possible.

The United States has a proven supply of resources for domestic energy use, and we should be pursuing policies that allow us to develop those resources. Nuclear energy is a renewable source with a high power generation potential.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

THE FLOOD PROTECTION PUBLIC SAFETY ACT OF 2012

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, Sacramento's flood risk is well documented. It is the most at-risk metropolitan area for major flooding in our nation. It is home to California's State Capitol, an international airport, and half a million people. If Sacramento were to flood the economic damages could reach up to \$40 billion dollars.

A critical component for protecting Sacramento from a disaster is the Natomas Levee Improvement Project. Local taxpayers have

voted to tax themselves on two separate occasions to pay for this project. Moreover, in the absence of federal participation, the state and local governments have already completed 18 miles of levee improvements and will have spent upwards of \$350 million on the project by the end of this year.

The federal government has not been able to support this crucial flood protection project, because of the current ban on earmarks and this Congress's challenges in investing in our nation's infrastructure. The result of this is that construction is expected to stop this year leaving 100,000 of my constituents at risk.

While I realize and appreciate that the authorization of Army Corps of Engineers projects is not within the purview of the Appropriations Committee, the topic is nonetheless important to raise. The underlying problem is the absolute prohibition against "earmarks" our Majority has imposed on this body, which is impeding our ability to our job. This moratorium has resulted in the stopping routine authorizing legislation our constituents badly need: a new Water Resources Development Act bill. Working with the Corps of Engineers, we have accomplished every conceivable review, documentation and approval requirement for this project to go forward, but Congress has still yet to act on the legislation necessary to move forward with these badly needed projects.

The completed Chief's Report for this project was sent to Congress by the Corps over a year ago yet no action has taken place. One hundred thousand people, an international airport, hundreds of small businesses, a number of schools remain at risk. It is my sincere hope our Majority will reexamine its current moratorium to ensure local needs can be met. Everyone can agree that we must bring an end to wasteful, unjustified projects. But in our effort to throw out the wasteful, we've also thrown out the very worthy, and people's lives and livelihood are in jeopardy.

To address the unjustified yet real prohibition resulting from the "earmark" label, I introduced legislation last month that is in full compliance with the House's rules: H.R. 4353, the "Flood Protection Public Safety Act of 2012." This bill authorizes flood protection projects that have a completed Army Corps of Engineers Chief's Report that have been sent to Congress for approval. The bill would allow a small number of flood protection projects across the nation to move forward including those in Sacramento, Topeka, Cedar Rapids, and North Dakota.

Congress faces a choice. Invest in our infrastructure today, or pay the price of recovering from a disaster tomorrow. We can all agree that preventing a disaster is a much wiser and cheaper solution.

Though an authorization is outside the scope of the bill pending before us, I ask that this body forge a responsible, sensible policy on so-called earmarks, a policy that continues to stop wasteful projects but allows and even promotes worthwhile initiatives.

For 200 years the federal government has been a partner with the states to provide for the public's safety. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to revise the current moratorium that is preventing Congress from responding to urgent public safety needs across the nation. I believe these matters are

integral to the House of Representatives as a body and deserve each of our attention.

I have written to the House's leadership urging them to revise this body's rules and provided responsible ways to ensure taxpayer money is protected, while allowing fully vetted projects to move forward.

I look forward to working with you and our colleagues in the House in a bipartisan manner to address responsible reforms that will ensure critical public safety challenges are met, while ensuring taxpayer money is being spent wisely. It is my hope we can responsibly resolve this issue in a timely manner.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 345, I was unavoidably detained and was not present to cast my vote due to other obligations.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HEALTH CARE COST REDUCTION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my thoughts about the tax on medical devices.

The House voted on H.R. 436, the Health Care Cost Reduction Act of 2012. This bill would have repealed the 2.3 percent tax on medical devices that was instituted to pay for the Affordable Care Act. While I did not support H.R. 436, I recognize that medical device makers are at the forefront of innovation and that Federal legislation should support those efforts. I am concerned about the impact that the medical device tax will have on American jobs. Particularly during these difficult economic times, I believe we must do everything we can to encourage, not stifle, job creation.

I believe the Affordable Care Act will provide critical health care coverage to millions of Americans, and I also believe that paying for it responsibly is important. I did not support H.R. 436 because I do not believe that Americans already struggling to afford the cost of healthcare coverage should bear the burden of eliminating this tax. Moreover, I believe we should refrain from making significant changes to the funding structure of the Affordable Care Act until the Supreme Court has rendered its decision on the constitutionality of the law. At that time, the House should revisit repealing the medical device tax with an offset that protects American families while being fiscally responsible.