

The Mission, the fifteenth and largest of California's twenty-one missions, was established by the Franciscan friars and dedicated in 1797 by Father Fermín Francisco de Lasuén to its patron, St. John the Baptist. For the last two centuries, the Mission has served mass daily to parishioners and visitors, including the Amah Mutsun and other native California Indians who first inhabited the surrounding area.

Today the Mission continues to function as an active parish within the Catholic Diocese of Monterey. The Mission has been included in the National Register of Historic Places and the California Historic Register. With three naves it is the largest and one of the tallest missions in California. It also features the only Spanish Plaza in its original configuration remaining in California.

The bi-centennial dedication of the Mission honors the influence of Native American, Spanish, Mexican, and American settler influence on the California Central Coast. The 200th Anniversary will be marked with a spectacular fiesta and procession from the Mission to downtown San Juan Bautista. Funds earned from the celebrations will go toward unearthing a newly discovered chapel site in the area as well as for maintenance and restoration of the Mission basilica and its associated buildings.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I am not alone in recognizing the continuous work of the mission church in supporting the community of San Juan Bautista, including its role as a significant visitor destination in the region. For all the Mission has managed to contribute to the community and for all that it will undoubtedly continue to do I extend my most sincere thanks to it and wish it the best as it moves into a third century of service to the community of San Juan Bautista.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, more than three and a half years ago an impoundment holding disposed ash waste broke open, creating a massive spill in Kingston, Tennessee. The spill covered entire neighborhoods and the Clinch River with over one billion gallons of coal fly ash—displacing residents and resulting in \$1.2 billion in clean up costs.

The accident underscored the need for strong rules to ensure structural stability and the safety of coal ash impoundments. Yet, as of today, no national rules have been put into place to prevent another Kingston spill.

Two years ago the Environmental Protection Agency proposed the first-ever regulations to ensure the safe disposal and management of coal ash from power plants under the nation's primary law for regulating solid waste, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

EPA presented two regulatory options: regulating coal ash as hazardous waste under Subtitle C or regulating coal ash as a non-haz-

ardous waste under Subtitle D. But the EPA's proposal has stalled creating uncertainty for businesses and families.

As I said when the House of Representatives considered this issue last October, I have concerns that designating fly ash as a hazardous material will have major impacts on the recycling and reuse of fly ash to manufacture wallboard, roofing materials and bricks, and especially concrete.

In 2008 alone, the concrete industry used 15.8 million tons of fly ash in the manufacturing of ready mixed concrete making it the most widely used supplemental cementing material. When combined with cement, fly ash improves the durability, strength, constructability, and economy of concrete.

It also has huge environmental benefits. Using coal ash—an industrial byproduct—in concrete results in longer lasting structures and reduction in the amount of waste materials sent to landfills, raw materials extracted, energy required for production, and air emissions, including carbon dioxide.

A “hazardous” designation of fly ash could put these benefits in jeopardy. It could make fly ash storage and transportation more expensive, and create a legal environment that would deter cement manufacturers from recycling fly ash in cement production.

The result would not only be devastating for the cement manufacturing industry and American jobs, it could also divert millions of tons of coal fly ash from beneficial uses to surface impoundments like the one that broke open in Kingston, Tennessee—an outcome nobody wants.

I don't think H.R. 2273 is a perfect bill. And, to be clear, I support strong regulations for the disposal and storage of coal ash. But, these regulations can and should be completed without jeopardizing the recycling and reuse of fly ash.

I am supporting Rep. MCKINLEY's motion to instruct because it would move the conversation forward on how to find a reasonable and responsible balance between protecting communities and our environment, while also incentivizing the recycling and reuse of coal ash—goals we can all support.

It is my understanding that my colleagues on the conference are making progress in finding that balance. Meaningful conversations that began more than six months ago between key stakeholders are beginning to bear some fruit on this issue.

We shouldn't ignore this issue—it's too important. We shouldn't wait for an undefined period of time before strong rules are put in place. We shouldn't discourage recycling and reuse of coal ash by unnecessarily labeling it as “hazardous waste.”

Let's pass this motion and get back to work on a long-term bill.

**U.S. SHOULD REMAIN OPTIMISTIC
FOR POLITICAL RECONCILIATION
IN THAILAND**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the events over the past six years in Thailand have left the country deeply divided. A military coup

overthrew an elected government in 2006. Violent protests demanding new elections in 2010 led to the deaths of at least 90 people. Rich and poor, military and civilian, politician and voter—all have had differences over the years.

But, the newly elected party of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra promised to bridge those divides and lead Thailand towards a more stable and democratic future. For this country to move forward towards a more free and fair society, its leaders must push for political reconciliation between differing parties despite any opposition it may face today. The Thailand legislature is currently working its way through a political reconciliation bill. As it continues this process, the United States should be encouraged and hopeful in our ally's path to democracy and reconciliation. And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCING THE “SYRIA NON-INTERVENTION ACT OF 2012”

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the Administration is marching toward another war in the Middle East, this time against Syria. As with the president's war against Libya, Congress has been frozen out of the process. The Constitution, which grants Congress and only Congress the authority to declare war, is once again being completely ignored.

The push for a U.S. attack on Syria makes no sense, is not in our interest, and will likely make matters worse. Yet the Administration, after transferring equipment to the Syrian rebels and facilitating the shipment of weapons from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States, has indicated that its plans for an actual invasion are complete.

This week there are even press reports that the Central Intelligence Agency is distributing assault rifles, anti-tank rocket launchers, and other ammunition to the Syrian opposition. These are acts of war by the United States government. But where is the authority for the president to commit acts of war against Syria? There is no authority. The president is acting on his own.

Today we are introducing legislation to prevent the administration from accelerating its plan to overthrow the Syrian government by assisting rebel forces that even the administration admits include violent Islamic extremists.

The bill is simple. It states that absent a Congressional declaration of war on Syria:

“No funds available to the Department of Defense or an element of the intelligence community may be obligated or expended for the purpose or which would have the effect of supporting, directly or indirectly, military or paramilitary operations in Syria by any nation, group, organization, movement, or individual.”

This legislation is modeled after the famous Boland Amendments of the early 1980s that were designed to limit the president's assistance to the Contras in their attempt to overthrow the government of Nicaragua. Congress has an obligation to exercise oversight of the president's foreign policy actions and to protect its constitutional prerogatives. This legislation will achieve both important functions.

Mr. Speaker, the last thing this country needs is yet another war particularly in the Middle East. Even worse is the president once again ignoring the Legislative Branch and going to war on his own. I hope my colleagues will join me in standing up for our Constitutional authority and resisting what will be another disastrous war in the Middle East.

IN HONOR OF ANTHONY COSTA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anthony Costa on the occasion of his recognition by the Grower Shipper Association with its prestigious E.E. "Gene" Harden Award for Lifetime Achievement in Central Coast Agriculture. The Ag Leadership Award is presented to the individual, company, group, association, or agency that has made a significant contribution to the agricultural community in the Salinas Valley.

Anthony Costa, or Tony, as he is known by most, was born in Wakefield Massachusetts and is the oldest of seven children. He came to California on a train with his aunt and uncle when he was eleven years old, settling in the San Joaquin Valley town of Los Banos. He graduated high school in 1946, and later served our nation in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. After leaving the service, he found his way to Salinas, California, where he met and married Salinas Valley native Elsie Bassi. Elsie was born and raised in the Soledad Mission District, graduated from San Jose State University, and was a school teacher.

In 1956, the young Costa couple began farming on a ranch outside of Soledad. As their family grew, so did their farming operation. For over fifty-six years, the Costa Family has dedicated itself to being quality growers of more than twenty different vegetable row crops in the Salinas Valley. Their original small operation has grown to encompass strategically owned and leased ground up and down the Salinas Valley. The family also runs year-round harvest operations, field-to-cooler trucking, joint ventures in Huron, Yuma and Imperial Valley crops, and partnership interests in cooling and processing operations. Their farming operation has been a key supplier to several shippers and processors in the area for many years.

The Costa Family Farms is a family farm in every sense of the word. And while the award singles out Tony for recognition, it is really a recognition of the whole Costa family. The family continues to farm the original ranch which they leased for many years. Their business now involves three generations of family members including their children David, Michael, Diane, and JoAnn, who are joined by their grandchildren Colby Rubbo and Peter Dossche. Several other grandchildren are pursuing agricultural degrees. They have built a remarkable operation that bridges the old produce world of trust and handshakes and the new modern world of food safety and product traceability.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House in offering Tony and Elsie Costa and their whole family our heartfelt congratula-

tions on their recognition by the well deserved honor of E.E. "Gene" Harden Award for Lifetime Achievement in Central Coast Agriculture.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL MARINE WEEK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Marine Week so that we may join in a celebration of the individuals who dedicate themselves to the service and defense of this great country.

Each year a city is chosen to host National Marine Week and to serve as a venue to showcase the achievements of our most elite service members. This year Cleveland, Ohio was chosen to bring together technology, history, Marines and the public they serve. Cleveland is a fitting location as currently more than 9,000 active duty or reserve Marines hail from the state of Ohio. By highlighting the community, country and Corps, National Marine Week is both an educational and civic event which fosters awareness and connection between the military and civilian communities.

A week including Marine sporting events, speakers, and bands demonstrates the wide array of talents which fuel the Corps forces both at home and abroad. Various demonstrations will showcase the Expeditionary Forces in Readiness. The week is a unique exchange of thanks and respect for soldier and citizen alike. By remembering the sacrifices of the past, as well as the missions which continue to require our forces in the future, National Marine Week is a sign of the gratitude and honor which these heroes deserve.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues please join me in honoring National Marine Week 2012 to show our appreciation to those who give so much in service to their country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED WAY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize a special organization that is near and dear to me, The United Way.

The United Way Worldwide is the leadership and support organization for the network of nearly 1,800 community-based United Ways in 45 countries and territories. In East Alabama, we are home to three different United Way locations—The United Way of Lee County, The River Region United Way and The United Way of East Central Alabama.

United Way focuses on helping people reach their full potential in education, income and health while also encouraging volunteerism and service. June 21st is United Way's Day of Action and June 28th is the official United Way Founders Day.

The United Way of East Central Alabama, in particular, is a special organization to me be-

cause I had the honor of working there from 1982 to 1986 as the Director of their Dislocated Worker Program. I saw and participated first-hand in the organization's efforts to help laid-off workers go back to school for re-training.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to this organization that has touched so many lives and offer a very happy 125th anniversary.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN BURROUGHS HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR STATE OF AMERICA CHAPTER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the John Burroughs High School Junior State of America Chapter (JBHS JSA), from Burbank, California, upon being announced as the winner of the fifth annual National Civic Impact Award.

The concept for the Junior State was envisioned in the 1930s by Professor E.A. Rogers, who strongly believed that teaching youth the fundamentals of good government is one of the central needs of a democracy. When he introduced this idea to his students, a recommendation for a junior government was proposed by a student, where students would not only learn about democracy, but practice it as well. Formerly known as the Junior Statesmen of America, this project has spread to many high schools in California and across the nation. Since its inception, over 500,000 students have gained the skills and knowledge essential to be informed and active citizens and leaders.

Today, the Junior State of America (JSA) and the Junior Statesmen Foundation, strive to prepare and educate high school students for continuing involvement and participation in a democratic society. It encourages students to advocate their personal opinions, develop respect for opinions that oppose their own, think critically, and exchange ideas through problem solving, talks and debates. This experience also allows students to understand the responsibilities and challenges of leadership.

Every year, the top JSA chapters from across the U.S. compete for the National Civic Impact Award. This award is presented to the JSA chapter that makes the most prevalent impact at their school, by raising the degree of civic engagement and awareness. Ten finalists, who had all been announced winners of the "Chapter of the Year" award in their respective regions, advanced to be considered for the National Civic Impact Award. A panel of judges reviewed the materials the finalists had submitted, and announced John Burroughs High School as this year's winner. In addition to this prestigious title, the JBHS JSA will receive a grant towards maintaining the school's civic engagement programs, a stipend reward for the Teacher/Advisor as well as a plaque highlighting their achievement. The JBHS JSA is also incredibly active in their school and community. They have raised money for the Ronald McDonald House Charity, attended City Council and School Board meetings and hosted guest speakers.

I applaud the student participants and all the supporters of JSA for your unwavering commitment to civic engagement, and I ask all