

Founded in 2005 by local businesswoman and former teacher Margo Friedman, the In Hope Freedom Rings Foundation (IHFR) provides 2 scholarships, each in the amount of \$10,000, to deserving Fairfax County Public Schools seniors. The scholarships are awarded based on academic excellence, financial need, extracurricular activities, and community service. Due to the generosity of its sponsors, IHFR has awarded \$130,000 to Fairfax County students in just 6 years.

I extend congratulations to the following recipients of the 2011–2012 In Hope Freedom Rings Foundation Scholarships:

Elizabeth Knippler, Chantilly High School
Hanan Awel, Robert E. Lee High School

Fairfax County often is ranked as one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family. Our exceptional public school system is a significant factor in this ranking and the success of public-private partnerships like IHFR between our local business community and our schools serves to enhance and strengthen not only the educational opportunities for our children but also our community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2011–2012 Scholarship awardees Elizabeth Knippler and Hanan Awel for their accomplishments and in thanking the In Hope Freedom Rings Foundation and their sponsors who have made these grants possible.

RECOGNIZING GLAUCOMA
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a founding Member of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus to recognize the importance of promoting awareness for the sight-stealing disease known as glaucoma. Glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable blindness in the United States, which currently afflicts 2.2 million Americans and over 60 million people worldwide. In addition to affecting the elderly who are commonly at risk, glau-

coma is especially prevalent in black and Hispanic communities. Blacks are 17 times more likely to go blind from glaucoma, compared to whites of similar age.

Glaucoma, one of many eye diseases that can lead to blindness, is caused by damage to the optic nerve that sends images to the brain. The scariest aspect of this condition is that there are no perceivable symptoms or physical signs—hence referred to as the “silent thief of sight.” Unfortunately, there is no cure for glaucoma yet.

Fortunately, glaucoma can be treated early before it worsens by attending regular eye-screenings to detect symptoms. That is why the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus, a bipartisan coalition since its founding in 2000, is dedicated to advocating awareness and treatment across America. Thanks to the subsequent creation of our active partner in the field, the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation, 10,000 free annual treatments are conducted nationwide with a percentage referred to follow-up specialists. The Foundation was originally funded by private sector grants, but its success now garners funding from government agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

I encourage my fellow Americans to take advantage of free screenings provided by the Foundation across this great nation. In Congress, I will continue to fight potential budget cuts that would obstruct advances in medical research directed at finding a cure for glaucoma.

H.R. 1148—STOCK ACT

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge our House leadership to schedule a vote on the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act, or “STOCK Act,” filed by my friend and colleague Congressman WALZ of Minnesota. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this common-sense legislation, which would prohibit Members of Congress

from profiting from the nonpublic information to which we are often privy.

It is just plain common sense that we, as Members of Congress, should be held to the same standard as the American people we represent when it comes to insider trading. It is not right when a company executive does it, and it's not right when a Member of Congress does it.

The fact that action has not been taken sooner to clearly prohibit a Member of Congress from acting for personal gain on such information is frankly shocking.

Over the past several months, the American people have been increasingly vocal that enough is enough. It is high time for the Congress to come together to pass this bill and send a strong message that Congress should, and will, play by the same rules as everyone else.

Just as we have passed Wall Street reform in the 111th Congress; we must act now to ensure that the law is crystal clear when it comes to the activities of our own colleagues. Personal financial gain from non-public information cannot be tolerated.

In this very chamber last week, President Obama made special mention of his support for the STOCK Act, calling on Congress to “send me a bill that bans insider trading by Members of Congress, and I will sign it tomorrow.”

Like many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I have received countless calls and emails from my constituents urging the Congress to answer the President's call and bring debate of the STOCK Act to the House floor for a vote.

Congress must waste no time in coming together to pass this bill in a strong bipartisan fashion, and by doing so, restore the American people's trust in the integrity of the system, the democratic process, and their elected officials.

I urge our leadership in the House to respond to the President's call to action by following the Senate's lead in bringing the STOCK Act to the Floor for debate, and to schedule a vote on this sensible and responsible legislation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 2, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 3

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the employment situation for January 2012.

210, Cannon Building

FEBRUARY 7

10 a.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine the outlook for United States monetary and fiscal policy.

SD-608

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Larry Leon Palmer, of Georgia, to be Ambassador to Barbados, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Phyllis Marie Powers, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Republic of Nicaragua, Jonathan Don Farrar, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Panama, and Julissa Reynoso, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

2 p.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine bolstering the economy, focusing on helping American families by reauthorizing the payroll tax cut and unemployment insurance (UI) benefits.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Nancy J. Powell, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to India, Department of State.

SD-419

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine accessible technology, focusing on challenges and opportunities.

SD-G50

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

FEBRUARY 9

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III, USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Pacific Command, and Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick, USA, for reappointment to the grade of lieutenant general and to be Chief of Engineers, and Commanding General, United States Army Corps of Engineers, both of the Department of Defense.

SD-G50

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine H.R. 1904, to facilitate the efficient extraction of mineral resources in southeast Arizona by authorizing and directing an exchange of Federal and non-Federal land, and the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2009.

SD-366

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice's opinion on internet gaming, focusing on what's at stake for tribes.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

FEBRUARY 14

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

FEBRUARY 15

Time to be announced

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine energy and economic growth for rural America.

Room to be announced

FEBRUARY 16

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-G50

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Energy.

SD-366

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine energy development in Indian country.

SD-628

FEBRUARY 28

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Transportation Command in review of the Defense Au-

thorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine a legislative presentation from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

345, Cannon Building

FEBRUARY 29

Time to be announced

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine strengthening conservation through the 2012 farm bill.

Room to be announced

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2013 for Veterans' Programs.

SR-418

MARCH 1

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, and U.S. Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SH-216

MARCH 6

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SH-216

MARCH 7

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine a legislative presentation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

SD-G50

MARCH 8

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-106

MARCH 13

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Northern Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program;