

HONORING NELSON BENTON

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nelson Benton, who will soon retire after 40 years of service at The Salem News in Salem, Massachusetts.

Since he was hired in 1972, Nelson has worked as a reporter, city editor, managing editor, and editorial page editor. Nelson's weekly political column, which has been a fixture in the paper for more than 25 years, is widely read and discussed throughout the region. Nelson was recognized by the New England Society of Newspaper Editors in 2008, when they awarded him the prestigious Yankee Quill award. He was also inducted into the New England Press Association Hall of Fame in 2009.

For four decades, Nelson has covered issues impacting our community, from the Blizzard of '78 to issues of education and transportation to the careers of Mayors, State Lawmakers, and Members of Congress. Nelson has been quick to adapt his content to new technologies and formats. Even in his upcoming retirement, I am confident that Nelson will be blogging and tweeting with the best of them.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Nelson Benton, a seasoned journalist, on his retirement. I wish Nelson and his wife Laurie, who has served as a longtime public school teacher in our community, the best of luck as they move west to Arizona.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on June 26, 2012, I was detained and missed votes. In my 26 years in Congress, I have taken pride in having missed very few votes. Had I been here, I would have cast the following votes:

On rollcall 412, on ordering the Previous Question for consideration of the FY13 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 413, on H. Res. 69, the rule for consideration of the FY13 Agriculture and Transportation Appropriations bills, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 414, the Hoyer Motion to Instruct Conferees on the surface transportation reauthorization bill, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 415, the Black Motion to Instruct Conferees on the surface transportation reauthorization bill, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 416, an amendment offered by Mr. Connolly of Virginia to H.R. 5972, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 417, an amendment offered by Mr. McClintock of California to H.R. 5972, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 418, an amendment offered by Mr. Garrett of New Jersey to H.R. 5972, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 419, an amendment offered by Ms. Capps of California to H.R. 5972, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 420, an amendment offered by Mr. Gosar of Arizona to H.R. 5972, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 421, the first amendment offered by Mr. Broun of Georgia to H.R. 5972, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 422, the second amendment offered by Mr. Broun of Georgia to H.R. 5972, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 423, the fourth amendment offered by Mr. Broun of Georgia to H.R. 5972, I would have voted "no."

JUDGEMENT DAY FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Justice Department, with the aid of the ATF, facilitated the smuggling of over 2,000 weapons to the drug cartels south of the border—the national enemy in Mexico.

Hundreds of Mexican nationals died as a result of this operation.

Mexican Attorney General Morales says she was left in the dark about Operation Fast and Furious.

And she wants those officials who were involved to be extradited and sent to the U.S. for prosecution.

She is more interested in Fast and Furious than our own Attorney General.

Our own Attorney General says he still doesn't know who authorized this reckless and deadly operation and doesn't want any help from Congress to find the answers.

Tomorrow is the day of reckoning for AG as he still refuses to turn over the evidence.

What is he hiding? And why is he hiding it.

The time of hiding is over. It's time for Congress to hold someone accountable. We call it contempt.

Tomorrow is Judgment day for the Attorney General.

And that's just the way it is.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,782,570,144,097.96. We've added \$5,155,693,095,184.88 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

On this day in 1950, President Harry Truman ordered air force and naval forces into the Korean War. A robust economy supported our powerful military. We must balance the budget in order to support our troops more fully.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in my family, I missed the following Rollcall Votes: No. 379 through No. 411 during the week of June 18–June 21, 2012.

If present, I would have voted:

Rollcall Vote No. 379—S. 684, To provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Alta, Utah, "aye."

Rollcall Vote No. 380—S. 404, To modify a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior, "aye."

Rollcall Vote No. 381—On Ordering the Previous Question, "aye."

Rollcall Vote No. 382—On Agreeing to the Resolution, "aye."

Rollcall Vote No. 383—DeFazio (OR) Amendment, "nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 384—Markey (MA) Amendment, "nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 385—Grijalva (AZ) Amendment, "nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 386—H.R. 2578, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 387—H.R. 2578, To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act related to a segment of the Lower Merced River in California, and for other purposes, "aye."

Rollcall Vote No. 388—H.R. 2938, Gila Bend Indian Reservation Lands Replacement Clarification Act, "aye."

Rollcall Vote No. 389—H. Res. 691, On Ordering the Previous Question, "aye."

Rollcall Vote No. 390—H. Res. 691, On Agreeing to the Resolution, "aye."

Rollcall Vote No. 391—On Walz of Minnesota Motion to Instruct Conferees, "nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 392—Hastings (WA) Amendment, "aye."

Rollcall Vote No. 393—Waxman (CA) Amendment, "nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 394—Connolly (VA) Amendment, "nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 395—Green (TX) Amendment, "nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 396—Rush (IL) Amendment, "nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 397—Holt (NJ) Amendment, "nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 398—Connolly (VA) Amendment, "nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 399—Amodei (NV) Amendment, "aye."

Rollcall Vote No. 400—Markey (MA) Amendment, "nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 401—Landry (LA) Amendment, "aye."

Rollcall Vote No. 402—Rigell (VA) Amendment, "aye."

Rollcall Vote No. 403—Holt (NJ) Amendment, "nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 404—Wittman (VA) Amendment, "aye."

Rollcall Vote No. 405—Bass (CA) Amendment, "nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 406—Capps (CA) Amendment, "nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 407—Speier (CA) Amendment, "nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 408—DeLauro (CT) Amendment, "nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 409—On Motion to Recommit with Instructions of H.R. 4480, "nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 410—H.R. 4480, Strategic Energy Production Act of 2012, “aye.”

Rollcall Vote No. 411—On McKinley of WV Motion to Instruct Conferees, “aye.”

IN HONOR OF THE MONTFORD
POINT MARINES

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the Montford Point Marines and the sacrifices they made in service to our Nation.

The Montford Point Marines were the first African-Americans to serve in the United States Marine Corps. The United States of America owes these heroes a debt of honor that can never be repaid.

In June of 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt issued an Executive Order that opened the doors for African-Americans to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. Between 1942 and 1949, approximately 20,000 African Americans earned the right to call themselves Marines at Camp Montford Point in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Today, we honor them.

I would especially like to recognize a few of the surviving members of the Florida Chapter of the Montford Point Marines. I would like to commend Marines Wilfred Carr of Palm Coast; Eli Graham, Jr. of Daytona Beach; James Huger of Daytona Beach; James Sharpe of Palm Coast; Robert Blanks of Orange City; and John Steele of Daytona Beach who have all helped keep the memory and service of the Montford Point Marine's alive in the State of Florida.

The Congressional Gold Medal is a fitting tribute to the Montford Point Marines. It not only serves as an appropriate tribute to these trailblazing heroes, but also marks our Nation's endeavor toward a more perfect union, and I am pleased to offer my support.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. SUZANNE GOSS
OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA—
PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN WATER
AGENCIES

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Ms. Suzanne Goss, Government Relations Specialist for JEA (Jacksonville Electric, Water & Sewer) on her election as the new President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, NACWA.

Ms. Goss is an accomplished leader and committed environmental steward who played a prominent role in seeking a sound direction for the implementation of the Clean Water Act. Throughout her career in the water industry, Ms. Goss has exemplified what it means to be a public servant. She is ideally suited to serve as President of one of the nation's leading associations responsible for environmental policies that advance clean water. Ms. Goss will continue to ensure that Florida's, and the nation's, clean water agencies are sustainable,

that the environment continues to improve, and that public health is protected.

At JEA, Ms. Goss works for an advanced publicly owned water, electric, and sewer utility, providing invaluable services to approximately 420,000 people in Northeast Florida. Ms. Goss effectively engages in complex state and federal legislative and regulatory issues involving wastewater and drinking water with an in-depth knowledge of the affordability concerns of her community and the need for a partnership between all levels of government. She also manages JEA's Grant Program.

A member of NACWA's Board of Directors since 2007, Ms. Goss has served as the organization's Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President, and has been a member of many NACWA committees and workgroups. She has played a leading role in NACWA's pretreatment program and is also one of the drivers behind the organization's funding efforts. In 2005 she received the President's Award for her work as Vice Chair of the Clean Water Funding Task Force.

Ms. Goss has experience in both the energy and water fields, as JEA provides both services to its customers. As the clean water industry and NACWA increasingly define the “Water Quality Utility of the Future,” JEA and public servants like Ms. Goss exemplify the need to break down traditional silos and move toward a watershed approach, as well as a focus on the energy-water nexus. JEA stands as a model for other utilities seeking to adopt these ideas.

In addition to her work with NACWA, Ms. Goss is an active member of local, regional, state and national professional organizations. These include the American Water Works Association, the New Water Supply Coalition, the Florida Municipal Energy Association, the Florida Water Environment Association, the Florida Energy Coordinating Group, the Pinellas County Sewer System and the Advisory Council on Environmental Policy and Technology Sustainable Infrastructure.

Ms. Goss has selflessly shared her time, passion, energy and ideas to carry out the objectives of the Clean Water Act.

It is my sincere pleasure to congratulate Suzanne Goss on becoming President of NACWA, and I am certain her actions will ensure continued water quality progress for the Jacksonville area, the state of Florida and the nation.

THE RETIREMENT OF SPIROS
DROGGITIS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Spiros Droggitis, a Bethesda, Maryland resident who retired from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on December 31, 2011 after 35 years of service in the Federal Government, including three years working in the U.S. Senate. During his three decades with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mr. Droggitis provided support, advice, scheduling and planning for a variety of programs and two NRC Commissioners.

Since July 2007, Mr. Droggitis served as associate director for Federal and External Af-

fairs in the Office of Congressional Affairs at NRC. In that position, he was the primary point of contact for communications and outreach with other Federal agencies and external organizations, including public interest groups, non-governmental organizations, and the nuclear industry.

During his distinguished career at the agency, he served in several senior positions and received numerous performance awards and accolades for his contributions. Among his many accomplishments, he was recognized in 1988 for his participation in the agency's 10-year effort to consolidate NRC offices scattered across the Washington metropolitan area to a single location in Rockville, Maryland. More recently, he was a member of the Headquarters Fukushima Support Team that assisted in communicating information about the nuclear accident in Japan following the March 11, 2011 9.0-magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami.

After graduating in 1974 from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, Mr. Droggitis began his career as an assistant press liaison for the U.S. Senate under the Sergeant-at-Arms and also worked as a researcher in the office of Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine. He later joined Senator Muskie's staff full time as a personal assistant during the 1976 reelection campaign, doing advance work for campaign events, traveling with the Senator, and interacting with the media and the public. Following the election, he became an assistant to the Senator and was given a special assignment analyzing data on a state-wide energy questionnaire. He also developed a method of providing more timely responses to constituent mail that was approved and instituted by his supervisor.

Mr. Droggitis joined the NRC in 1979 as a congressional liaison officer in the Office of Congressional Affairs. He then served as a special assistant to Commissioner James K. Asselstine from 1982 until 1987. At the end of Commissioner Asselstine's term in 1987, Mr. Droggitis went to work in the State, Local and Indian Tribe Programs in the Office of Governmental and Public Affairs, where he served as a senior intergovernmental programs analyst responsible for developing and maintaining relationships with state, local and tribal governments. Mr. Droggitis was selected as special assistant to Commissioner Jeffrey S. Merrifield in September 2002 and became his executive assistant in October 2004.

Throughout his career, Mr. Droggitis has demonstrated a dedication to the NRC's organizational values of integrity, service, openness, commitment, cooperation, excellence and respect. He and his wife, Otilie, plan to return to his native state of Maine to spend time with friends and family. I offer both of them my best wishes and thank Mr. Droggitis for his service to our nation.

AMERICA'S SHAMEFUL HUMAN
RIGHTS RECORD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I submit a timely op-ed from Former President Jimmy Carter on the ramifications of drone strikes on America's human rights record.