

I voted for the Motion to Refer brought by Congressman JOHN DINGELL which called for a real investigation. The Majority on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform rejected all Democratic witnesses. They would not allow Michael Mukasey, former Attorney General, and Kenneth Melson, former director of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to testify before the Committee. While Congress has the authority take this to the courts, it is premature to use this authority before a full investigation has been conducted.

Secondly, I cannot support the injudicious context in which H.R. 706 finds its way before us today. This could be a meritorious process, but it has been tainted with partisan vitriol. This takes a fundamental right of Congress and propels it into a realm of partisan action with wild charges and abuse of power. There have been charges of Presidential cover-up, despite the Chairman of the Committee admitting there is no such evidence.

Both parties should have been able to work this out before we got to this situation. This is not how Congress should have proceeded. I cannot dignify a tainted process. I have joined my colleagues in abstaining from voting, on H.R. 706 as well H.R. 711.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LEADERSHIP OF HIGHLAND VILLAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF LONNIE TATUM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Highland Village Fire Department Chief Lonnie Tatum. Chief Tatum has spent over 42 years in public service; he began his notable career as a Firefighter/Paramedic for the City of Nacogdoches, advancing through the ranks over the next 32 years serving as Driver/Operator, Lieutenant, Captain and Arson Investigator. In 2001, he began his ten year tenure as Fire Chief at the City of Highland Village, Texas.

Chief Tatum is a graduate of the National Fire Academy and attended St. Edwards University, Angelina College and graduated from Weatherford College with a degree in Fire Service Administration. He holds Masters Level Certifications from the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and the Texas Department of Public Safety.

On numerous occasions, he has been recognized for his expertise in fire administration and personal dedication as a firefighter. Chief Tatum was chosen by the Angelina College Board of Regents to establish a Fire Academy and Training Facility at Angelina College in Lufkin, Texas, serving as Director for five years. He also served as Regional Faculty for the American Heart Association CPR training program at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas. In 1992, he was recognized as "Outstanding Firefighter" of the year, and in 1994, he received the department's Medal of Valor.

Under his laudable direction, the Highland Village Fire Department has expanded from all volunteer to a professional full-time staff com-

prised of fifteen Firefighters/Paramedics and additional administrative personnel. The Highland Village Fire Department has garnered recognition reflective of Chief Tatum's capable direction; in 2006, the Highland Village Fire Department was awarded an ISO Classification of 2 and celebrated the grand opening of their new state-of-the-art Central Fire Station in May 2008.

After a decade as Highland Village Fire Chief, Chief Tatum's bravery and dedication to the safety and well being of his community will be greatly missed; his positive contributions will continue long past his retirement. It is my pleasure to recognize Highland Village Fire Chief Lonnie Tatum, and I am privileged to represent the City of Highland Village in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF NORMAN F. LENT

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of a statesman and a friend, former Member of Congress Norman "Norm" F. Lent, who passed away on June 11th.

Norm was born March 23, 1931 in Oceanside, NY on Long Island. He graduated from Hofstra University in 1952 and in 1957 got his law degree from Cornell University. After serving in the Navy for two years and achieving the rank of Lieutenant, Norm worked as a lawyer in private practice in Lynbrook, New York beginning in 1957, and served as an Associate Police Justice in East Rockaway in 1959-60. He then worked as the Confidential Law Secretary (law clerk) to New York State Supreme Court Justice Thomas P. Farley from 1960-62.

After leaving the private sector in 1962, Lent was elected to the New York State Senate from Nassau County, and served from 1963 until 1970, when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

During his long tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, Norm served on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, ultimately becoming the ranking minority member of both committees often being cited as a "key player in environmental and energy legislation."

To Norm's wife Barbara and children, Barbara and Norman we extend our deepest sympathies.

Norm truly made an indelible mark on our nation and he leaves a proud and distinguished legacy. Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing Norman Lents' years of service and dedication to his community, state and our Nation.

HONORING JULIA ANN SNELL

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas, One hundred five years ago a virtuous woman of God was born in Buena Vista, Alabama on July 1, 1907; and

Whereas, Mrs. Julia Ann Snell was born Julia Ann Holt to Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Ilean Holt, she was educated in the local school system in Alabama, married Mr. Tim Wilson in Mobile, Alabama and was a homemaker and a store clerk at their grocery store until Mr. Wilson preceded her in death; She later married Mr. Nathaniel Snell and lived in California until Mr. Snell preceded her in death, after Mr. Snell's passing, she moved back to Mobile, Alabama and eventually to Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, this Phenomenal Proverbs 31 woman has shared her time and talents as a Wife, Sister, Aunt and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to advance the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mrs. Snell has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Snell along with her family and friends are celebrating this day a remarkable milestone, her 105th Birthday, we pause to acknowledge a woman who is a cornerstone in our community in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Snell on her birthday and to wish her well and recognize her for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim July 1, 2012 as Mrs. Julia Ann Snell Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 1st day of July, 2012.

TRIBUTE TO WHEELER COUNTY JUDGE JEANNE BURCH

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize the tremendous, longtime, and diverse public service of a leader who lives and works in the heart of Oregon's Second District, Wheeler County Judge Jeanne Burch. Judge Burch has served as Wheeler County Judge since 1994 but began serving her County long before that. Mr. Speaker, I have enjoyed working with her and I will miss her service and so will Wheeler County.

Judge Burch lives in the town of Fossil, the county seat of Wheeler County which has a total population of around 1,400 people. Wheeler County is one of Oregon's most geographically diverse counties—it's a rugged place home to Oregon's most unique John Day Fossil Beds, two national forests, and the iconic John Day River which runs right through the middle of it. Judge Burch has seen days when her county has thrived from the economic benefits generated by the adjacent forests. And she's been there when things haven't been so good as the forest sector was forced to a halt and those jobs and benefits disappeared. Regardless, good times or bad, Judge Burch has been there to lead her county when they needed her most.

Judge Burch has called Oregon home since 1947. In the early 1950s her father got a job as a railroad conductor in the region and the family moved to Wheeler County. Jeanne was a freshman in high school then, but went on to study at UC-Berkley where she received a degree in accounting. That is where she met her husband, Howard, who worked for oil companies as a drilling supervisor. Howard's job took them around the world—to such places as Nigeria, Iran, Greece, and the Canary Islands. After living and seeing the world, Jeanne moved back to Wheeler County to raise her daughters Belinda and Jennifer.

In 1985, Jeanne began working as the Fossil City Recorder and Finance Director. From there, she was appointed Wheeler County Judge in early 1994. Since then, Judge Burch has been described as a “one woman county,” and it's not hard to see why. She serves as a probate and juvenile court judge, the county administrator, and chair of the County Court. In her years of service she has overseen the complete rehabilitation of the county's courthouse, boosted local tourism, and opened the door for businesses to create jobs in Wheeler County.

As the Chairman of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I am grateful for Judge Burch's remarkable work on telecommunications issues. As a founding board member of Frontier TeleNet over ten years ago, she has helped implement communication services and rural broadband to communities in Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler counties. It began as a need for broadband access and distance learning opportunities to the rural schools in the three counties. Under Judge Burch's leadership as Chair, Frontier TeleNet has expanded service coverage from roughly 4,000 square miles across three counties to 21,000 square miles across nine counties, bringing with it new ways for medical clinics to help their patients and a backbone for public safety communications in these rural counties. Judge Burch understands the important role that modern communications play in rural isolated communities.

Not only a driving force behind Frontier TeleNet's expansion, she spearheaded efforts to bring cell phone coverage to Fossil and the northern portion of Wheeler county, and continues these efforts in Mitchell and the southern end. Accomplishing these feats has not been an easy task and Judge Burch continued to push through. She has brought the knowledge gained from her experiences to other parts of Oregon as Chair of the Telecommunications Committee for Association of Oregon Counties.

Mr. Speaker, one of my fondest memories of Judge Burch is and will remain her long fight to bring modern telecommunications into the county. Years after most rural communities around Oregon had some access to cellular service, Wheeler County and the county seat of Fossil remained a completely isolated island without cell phone service. Judge Burch would often tell me about the number of recreational accidents and “potential drownings” that float down the John Day River through the county every week in the summer, and the need for cell phone service for emergencies and other uses. With this need and Jeanne's stories on my “to-do” list, I took the opportunity to point out to U.S. Cellular that this unserved area was in their coverage territory. Well, the com-

pany took Jeanne's and my message to heart and within weeks U.S. Cellular began analyzing how to cover this county. In July 2008, Jeanne's coordinated and unrelenting efforts culminated with the community celebration of the county's first cell tower.

I can recall that months after the cell service was established, Judge Burch closed a town meeting I held in Wheeler County by giving me a note from a woman whose husband most likely would have died from the heart attack he suffered, expect for the fact that she was able to use her cell phone to call for emergency assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I know you would appreciate Judge Burch's get'r done attitude. It's makes all the travel and work worthwhile to know that someone like Judge Burch was there to help find solutions to real problems.

Although the sun is setting on Jeanne Burch's career leading Wheeler County, I can tell you the sun will never set on the impact she has on this county and region and the people who call it home.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Judge Jeanne Burch and her husband Howard the best as she retires. Judge, thank you for your exemplary service to Wheeler County and to Oregon.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 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 \$15,780,999,920,520.17. We've added \$5,154,122,871,607.09 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.

THE 62ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF THE KOREAN WAR

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, the United States and the Republic of Korea have a deep and sustaining relationship built on shared values and shared sacrifice.

June 25th marked the 62nd anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and the early days of an alliance with Korea that has withstood the test of time.

In honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom on the Korean Peninsula, we should affirm our continued support of this trusted ally who has fought alongside the U.S. in nearly every major conflict the U.S. has faced since World War II.

Earlier this year, the United States and the Republic of Korea began the implementation of the U.S.—Korea Free Trade Agreement, the product of years of negotiation and persuasion that will be beneficial to both of our countries and to businesses, workers, and consumers both here and in Korea.

This Free Trade Agreement will stimulate America's economic recovery—without government spending—by increasing U.S. exports and creating jobs in the U.S. According to the Senate Finance Committee, data taken from the independent, nonpartisan U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) suggest that KORUS could create up to 280,000 jobs in the United States. While conservative estimates from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative show a more modest increase of 70,000 jobs, either way you cut it, KORUS means more jobs for Americans, and that's great news for a nation that's suffered one of the longest periods of high unemployment rates since the Great Depression.

In order to level the playing field for American businesses and manufacturers, the agreement has already begun to reduce Korean tariffs on U.S. exports. The ITC estimates that full implementation of KORUS will increase U.S. exports to Korea by nearly 30 percent more than imports from Korea would increase in the U.S., an amount equaling more than \$10 billion.

Even setting aside the great strides we have made by implementing the Free Trade Agreement, the relationship between the United States and Korea could not be stronger.

Economically and politically speaking, Korea is stronger today than at any time in its history, a strength that would have been unimaginable in the dark days after the North Korean invasion 62 years ago.

We have one of the strongest relationships in that part of the world and it will be growing stronger as we have more opportunities to advance our national security interests in the area of nuclear energy cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, let me add that, after 40 years of a really close partnership in nuclear energy, it's now time to renew our 123 Agreement with Korea to strengthen our cooperation in this area. The Korea—U.S. 123 Agreement will create good jobs for Americans in a key industry, nuclear energy.

Clean, safe nuclear energy creates red, white, and blue jobs. I'm talking about evening the playing field for American energy companies that are competing with foreign companies and ensure American global leadership to energy exports of strong domestic energy companies such as Westinghouse, which is one of the most successful employers in Pennsylvania.

Over the past 4 years, Westinghouse has added about 5,000 new employees to sustain its ability to deliver new nuclear power plants in China and the U.S., and provide services and nuclear fuel to the world's existing fleet of nuclear power plants. The majority of these new jobs were added in Western Pennsylvania. In fact, recently Westinghouse has consolidated about 4,000 of the 6,000 employees in Western Pennsylvania in a new facility in Cranberry Township in Butler County. Westinghouse is building products to export to Korea and other countries, and we must assure that all the legal hurdles to these exports are overcome. This includes renewal of our Section 123 agreement that dates to the early 1970s.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, the Republic of Korea has been a partner with us since 1950 in every endeavor we've had—commercially, diplomatically, and militarily.

The Korean people don't wait for the call. They don't wait for somebody saying, we need