

costars and crew with graciousness and humility.

It was not until 1987 that Mr. Griffith was recognized with a People's Choice Award for his work on the television show "Matlock". He was able to show his diversity as the righteous lawyer Ben Matlock, best known for always coming out on top. Most impressively, Mr. Griffith showed the strength of his character by overcoming leg paralysis from Guillain-Barre Syndrome right before taking part in the show.

Throughout the rest of his career Mr. Griffith never stopped surprising his audience. He released many different albums, and his 1996 release "I Love to Tell the Story: 25 Timeless Hymns" went platinum.

In 2005 he was honored by President George W. Bush with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Mr. Griffith truly personified grace and decency, his memorable performances brought millions of Americans joy while demonstrating the finest qualities of our country. Even today, that trademark whistle still makes us think of a sense of neighborliness and small town charm of years past.

Andy Griffith was a true jack-of-all-trades, who demonstrated talents both on screen and off. He started his own production company, completed an award-winning gospel music album, and later became involved in political activism. Yet audiences could be sure that Mr. Griffith would bring the same infectious energy and charisma to each endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Andy Griffith's family and loved ones. I hope they can find some comfort in knowing the incredible legacy he leaves behind in hearts across the nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF MARC TITUS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, President Kennedy said, "A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers," and I rise today to remember and honor my dear friend, and a model public servant, Marc Titus.

Marc Titus was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1966. A Warren G. Harding High School graduate, he attended Youngstown State University, and served in the United States Marine Corps as a Nuclear Biological Chemical Specialist.

In April of 1991, Marc continued to serve his community by joining the Warren City Fire Department and becoming a member of the Honor Guard. For the last 21 years, Marc has been a respected leader and role model for new firefighters joining the force.

Over the years Marc has received numerous awards for his service. In 2009, he received the State Fire Marshal's Award for Heroism after pulling 4 people from a burning group home in Warren, Ohio.

Marc served as the president of the International Association of Firefighters Local 204 during the last 8 years of his life. During the recent Issue 2 campaign, Marc showed leadership and dedication to his profession and to his fellow firefighters with tireless work on their behalf. He always went above and beyond the call of duty striving to continually keep the Warren City Fire Department moving forward.

Marc Titus passed away on June 7, 2012 at the age of 46. Marc was a great friend of mine and taught those of us that worked with him that our lives were supposed to be spent serving others. Marc spent his life teaching us that real heroes are the ones that use their time and talents improving the lives of those in their family, community, and country. Marc did this and it was most apparent with how he dedicated his life to his 3 daughters: Jennifer, Julia, and Lindsey. We offer our condolences to them and to Marc's parents. Although his life was short, he taught us much. This hero will be sadly missed.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BE- LOVED JAMES "J.E." BLANKENSHIP

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Northwest Florida's beloved James "J.E." Blankenship. Mr. Blankenship served the Northwest Florida community for more than 40 years in the Holley-Navarre Fire District. In addition to his service to the community, Mr. Blankenship was also a loving and dedicated husband, father and grandfather; he is survived by his wife, Kathey (Taffy), his sons, Jeremy and Jody (Carisa), and his grandchildren, Dakota, Haleigh, Morgan and Caden.

Mr. Blankenship was born in Troy, Alabama on July 17, 1949. In 1963, he became one of the original members of the Holley-Navarre Fire District volunteer force, while working at the manufacturing company Solutia, where he retired from in 2005 to start his own small business. Mr. Blankenship continued to serve the people of Holley-Navarre as the Fire District transitioned from a volunteer to a professional force, and he did not take his duties to protect the community lightly. J.E. was an inspiration to his fellow firefighters, and he worked tirelessly to ensure that the Holley-Navarre Fire District had the necessary training and tools to serve the community. Through his tireless work on behalf of the Holley-Navarre community, Mr. Blankenship rose to become Assistant Fire Chief, and in 2003 he became a Fire Commissioner. His position as a Fire Commissioner ensured that Mr. Blankenship was able to continue his work serving the community by overseeing the budget and operations of the department.

To some, J.E. Blankenship will be remembered as a man of conviction and a steadfast advocate for fire safety in his community. To others, he will be remembered as an inspirational leader who fought to ensure that the fire department was equipped to meet its mission. To his friends and family, he will be remembered as a devoted husband, loving father and proud grandfather. His immense contributions to the Northwest Florida community will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress it is an honor to recognize the life of J.E. Blankenship and his living legacy. My wife Vicki and I offer our sincere condolences to the entire Blankenship family.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4348, MOVING AHEAD FOR PROGRESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to voice my support for the transportation reauthorization conference report. While I was disappointed in how House Republicans broke with the tradition of working in a bipartisan fashion on transportation policy, I appreciate the Senate's bipartisan approach, which is responsible in large part for the bill we have today. In addition to the transportation reauthorization, we have been able to come together to prevent student loan interest rates from increasing, and secure a five-year reauthorization of the Flood Insurance program. It is my hope that moving forward we can look at this conference agreement as a model of what can be accomplished legislatively by seeking bipartisan, bicameral common ground.

But as with all legislation, there were many compromises, and there were several aspects of the report which I believe could further be improved. On balance, however, the conference report contains needed policy direction and authorizations that warrant support.

Most importantly, transportation reauthorization will provide much needed stimulus to local economies, and get those in the construction and manufacturing industries back to work. This bill will create or save more than 2 million jobs, and authorize highway and transit programs for more than two years. The bill will also make key reforms in consolidating transportation programs, cut red tape, and leverage federal resources to expand public-private partnerships in transportation.

This is also a good bill for Texas. Under this agreement, Texas is slated to receive more than \$3 billion annually in highway formula funds. Unlike the original House legislation, H.R. 7, this conference agreement preserves mass transit funding through the Highway Trust Fund. Funding for mass transit is critical for my district, and Texas as a whole, as we work to develop solutions to alleviate congestion and alternative modes of transportation to accommodate a growing population. Texas has also been very successful in utilizing Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, TIFIA, funding, and will continue to benefit under the conference agreement, which increases funding for the TIFIA program to \$750 million for FY 2013 and to \$1 billion for FY 2014. It also increases the maximum share of project costs that can be funded through the TIFIA program from 33 percent to 49 percent. This agreement will give the Texas Department of Transportation, local transit agencies, and contractors some much-needed certainty as they plan transportation projects.

This agreement will also give 461,533 Texas students relief from the impending student loan interest increase. I am very pleased that provisions blocking the rate hike are included in the conference report. In Texas and all across the country, students and recent college graduates are now facing the highest

unemployment rate of any other group. Without action, the loan rates for 7.4 million college students would have doubled, adding \$6.3 billion to students' debt burden in one year alone.

As the Ranking Member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I recognize that the long-term viability of our transportation system requires a continued commitment to quality research and the development of new transportation technologies and materials that will make our transportation infrastructure—and the vehicles traveling on that infrastructure—safer, stronger, and more sustainable. I am pleased that the conference report acknowledges the important role of research and development across the Department of Transportation.

Specifically, we cannot deny that our current transportation system places an enormous burden on the environment and public health, and therefore, I am pleased that the conference report authorizes a separate environmental research program within the Federal Highway Administration. At a time when many metropolitan regions are still struggling to meet basic health standards for air pollution, we cannot afford to stop research that will lead to a cleaner, safer, and more efficient highway system. The research conducted under this program will ensure that State and local transportation officials have the tools they need to make informed and effective decisions about local transportation projects and the environment.

I also want to express my satisfaction that the conference report provides the framework and guidance necessary to allow us to begin to really understand and, more importantly, mitigate the long-term impacts of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill on the Gulf Coast States. Regardless of whether you live in the coastal communities of Texas, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, or Florida, the Gulf of Mexico provides a wealth of products and services that benefit the entire nation. The Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund will provide the resources necessary to restore the health of this unique ecosystem and revitalize the region's economy.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues for working with me to fix a technical error in the authorization levels for the research programs under the Federal Highway Administration. In the conference committee's haste to put together the report, it appears that the authorization levels in the Research and Education Division were not updated accordingly, but thankfully this oversight has been addressed.

CBS PRODUCER: "I'M DONE"
DENYING LIBERAL MEDIA BIAS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, former CBS producer Greg Kandra recently highlighted the continued existence of the national liberal media's bias.

As a result of the national media's use of selectively edited clips to push its liberal agenda, he stated that he has "grown weary trying to defend" the national media. Kandra de-

clared that he cannot and will not defend his former colleagues against claims of liberal bias.

He writes that the national media has "successfully eroded any confidence" the public has in the news. And that the national media has "done a [great] job of diminishing what was once a great profession and undermining one of the underpinnings of democracy, a free press."

According to a recent Gallup poll, Americans' confidence in the national media is at an all time low. Americans' lack of confidence in the national media will continue until the national media provides the American people with fair and objective coverage of the news.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CONTINUATION OF CURRENT SUGAR PROGRAM

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Louisiana has produced sugarcane for more than 200 years.

Whereas, Louisiana's sugarcane industry employs more than 16,000 people and contributes \$3.5 billion to the state's economy.

Whereas, Louisiana's sugar producers were harmed by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and a strong domestic sugar market is a critical component to continued recovery efforts.

Whereas, the state's sugar producers depend on the sugar policy created in the 2008 Farm Bill for survival.

Whereas, this sugar policy has kept sugar prices affordable for grocery shoppers, has operated at no-cost to taxpayers, and has strengthened the country's food security.

Whereas, this sugar policy has allowed America to become the largest sugar importer in the world; it benefits and is embraced by many developing countries; and it is legal under international trade rules established by the World Trade Organization.

Whereas, domestic confectioners have increased candy and chocolate production under this Farm Bill, have expanded operations and added jobs, and have seen impressive profits.

Whereas, food manufacturers from other developed countries pay more for sugar than their U.S. counterparts.

Whereas, industrial sugar users have proposed eliminating current sugar policy in favor of a program that leaves America dependent on imports.

Whereas, the European Union adopted a similar import-dependent model and have suffered sugar shortages. Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That: the St Mary Parish Chamber of Commerce supports the continuation of the current U.S. sugar program and encourages Congress to work with Louisiana sugar producers to adopt a strong sugar policy in the 2012 Farm Bill.

TRIBUTE TO VIOLA REED

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, the union of Viola Reed and John Walker has blessed us with descendants that have helped to shape our nation; and

Whereas, their union produced many well respected citizens, today we honor all of the matriarchs and patriarchs, who are pillars of strength for the Thomas, Walker and Wilson families; and

Whereas, in our beloved Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, we are honored to have many members of the Thomas, Walker and Wilson families, whom are some of our most productive citizens in our District; and

Whereas, family is one of the most honored and cherished institutions in the world, we take pride in knowing that families such as the Thomas, Walker and Wilson families have set aside this time to fellowship with each other, honor one another and to pass along history to each other by meeting at this year's family reunion in Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Thomas, Walker and Wilson families;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim, June 29, 2012, as Thomas, Walker and Wilson Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

HONORING THE LOS ANGELES KINGS, 2012 STANLEY CUP CHAMPIONS

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Los Angeles Kings, the 2012 Stanley Cup Champions.

In 1967 the city of Los Angeles was awarded a National Hockey League team. 45 years later, the L.A. Kings have finally been crowned champions, having defeated the New Jersey Devils in the Stanley Cup Finals.

The Kings began the Stanley Cup Finals ranked 8th, going on to defeat the top three ranked teams in their conference while breaking numerous records along the way. Under the leadership of team coach Darryl Sutter and Captain Dustin Brown, the team beat the odds and became the only 8th seeded team to ever win the Cup.

The Kings stand as a symbol of determination and perseverance for the city of Los Angeles. Congratulations to Coach Darryl Sutter, Captain Dustin Brown, Conn Smyth winner Jonathan Quick, the players, staff and all of their dedicated fans who in 45 years, never stopped believing.

CELEBRATING LINK'S 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize LINK, which celebrates 40 years serving the Herndon, Sterling and Ashburn communities in northern Virginia this month.