

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.

LINK began as a number of congregations came together to start a food pantry for those in need. Today, LINK is comprised of a strong group of churches from different backgrounds and partners with local businesses, schools and individuals efforts to serve the emergency food needs in our community.

In 2011, LINK utilized over a thousand volunteers to serve over 2,700 families with food, clothing and toys for children. LINK has also been working with public schools in Fairfax County to distribute unused cafeteria food to families in need.

I have had the privilege of working with LINK, and its excellent leadership and volunteers, many times over the years. It is a wonderful organization and I extend my sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude to the volunteers for their many years of hard work to address the serious challenge of hunger in our community.

I submit the following article from the Herndon Patch honoring LINK's 40 years of service.

[From Herndon Patch, June 22, 2012]

LINK CELEBRATES 40 YEARS SERVING THE COMMUNITY

(By Leslie Perales)

This July LINK Against Hunger will celebrate 40 years serving the Herndon, Sterling and Ashburn area communities.

The organization began with a number of congregations combining their efforts to start a food pantry for those in need. Though it's grown and changed over the years, LINK's mission is the same: Christians linking their neighbors to food and financial assistance.

The entire LINK organization is run by volunteers. Patch sat down with three of LINK's volunteers that have spent many years serving their neighbors through the organization.

Bob Ashdown has been volunteering with the organization for about 35 years and is the food pantry manager. He picks up donations from area bakeries, grocery stores, farmers markets and even schools, and oversees the pantry.

Jim Butts is the website manager for LINK and has volunteered with the organization since before it existed. He did much of the organization's paperwork on a daily basis for a time, and helped work with the furniture mission when LINK operated one.

LINK President Lisa Lombardozi has been working with the organization for about 15 years, beginning when she began staying home with her children. She began as a food coordinator, then worked with the food basket program.

Lombardozi said the biggest change she's seen in her years with LINK is more involvement from the community, and how the church demographics have changed.

She said with so many area organizations that people can volunteer with, LINK has to fight a little more to stay on people's radars, but at the same time they have been able to expand and respond to the increased need in the community.

Ashdown said in the past few years, during the recession, the community has become more aware of the need and responds very well. Social networking has had a big impact on community response, he said.

When LINK was running low on food for its holiday basket program, volunteers sent out a message on Facebook and people shared the message and responded to the need, Ashdown said.

He said the holiday basket program used to have three to four dedicated volunteers packing food over two to three weeks, but

now more than 40 volunteers will come take shifts to pack the baskets.

Butts said he's seen the organization start with a food mission, add a furniture and bed mission, then eventually phase it out again. They also had a clothing mission, which eventually combined with and became The Closet, located in downtown Herndon.

LINK is unique in that it's the only organization that brings the food to its clients instead of having clients come to the pantry, Butts said. When someone in need contacts LINK, volunteers with the organization are usually able to deliver food to them within 24 to 48 hours, he said.

Butts said another unique aspect of LINK is how volunteers are able to assist stranded travelers at Dulles International Airport. He said they can respond within 24 hours to make sure they have what they need if they get stuck in the area while traveling.

Butts said in the first 25 years at LINK they had about 15 to 20 churches rotating responsibilities. Since then some have dropped out and others have joined.

Ashdown said the organization has received a lot of support from government organizations and elected officials, though none of it monetary. Local representatives hold food drives for the organization.

Lombardozi said LINK has been consistent in its leadership, but has seen many different volunteers. A lot of volunteers come to the organization around Christmas and end up staying when they find they enjoy the work, she said.

Butts said in the near future he sees LINK working to improve communications with other area food pantries and banks. He said he's also working on one phone number for those in need of food to call so based on their location they can connect them with the closest location.

Ashdown said he enjoys getting to meet new people and work with them through LINK, and at the same time the volunteers get to share the gospel and live out Christianity.

LINK gives people the chance to be the hands and feet of Jesus, Lombardozi said. When they serve clients they get to know them, pray with them and sometimes find other ways to help them, she said.

Lombardozi said she likes that an organization that includes many faith backgrounds has been able to collaborate to serve their community for 40 years, working together for something they believe in.

To learn more about LINK or how to get involved, visit LINK's website here.

**IN OPPOSITION OF REPRESENTATIVE BISHOP'S AMENDMENT—
H.R. 2578**

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition of Representative BISHOP's amendment in H.R. 2578, the Conservation and Economic Growth Act.

This amendment would give the Department of Homeland Security unrestrained authority over more than 49 million acres of land encompassing major regions heavily populated by Latinos.

These new "operational control zones" would harm communities economically, socially, and environmentally.

DHS would be explicitly exempt from complying with dozens of environmental, public

health, and safety laws within 100 miles along the Mexican and Canadian borders.

Even Secretary Napolitano and the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol indicated that environmental protections do not hinder their ability to secure our borders.

This amendment proves to be unnecessary and a threat to our public health.

Also, it jeopardizes the natural parks and public lands that many people use as recreation across our nation.

I understand our nation faces many challenges, but this is no way to enhance border security.

We must respect the liberty of all Americans, enjoy our natural landscape, and ensure every person's right to a healthy life.

I urge my colleagues to vote against Representative BISHOP's amendment.

IN HONOR OF LOUIS A. MITCHELL

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I honor the life and work of Lou Mitchell on the occasion of his passing from this life to the next.

Lou Mitchell's connection to central Ohio reached back several generations and his roots ran deep in our community's soil. His family has lived and contributed to our area for generations. For example, his great-grandfather graduated from Dennison University after returning from his service in the Civil War.

Irrespective of his family's illustrious history, Lou strived to place his own stamp on the place that helped shape him. As a very successful businessman, he could have lived anywhere he wished. He wished to live in central Ohio. He wanted to live among people like himself—people who enjoy and respect hard work and honest dealings. He wanted to give back to the people and community that gave him an education, a career and common sense values.

Lou did give back in many ways over his life. As president of the Board of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Ohio, a member of the Boards of the Ohio Historical Society Foundation and I Know I Can, and a Denison University Life Trustee, his wisdom and spirit influenced the direction and missions of these agencies. Lou gave to causes dear to his heart such as the Licking County YMCA, where the Mitchell Family YMCA Recreation Center was dedicated in 2005, his beloved Dennison University to build the Mitchell Athletic and Recreation Center in 1994, and the non-profit organization he started known as "A Call To College Program," which provides college scholarship money to Newark High School students. In addition, he privately helped countless individuals who he learned had experienced setbacks in life such as large medical bills or educational expenses beyond their means. He did not seek publicity or notoriety for these acts; he did them because he could and he believed it was right.

I offer my deepest sympathies to his family. Their sense of loss is shared by many of us who knew and loved Lou Mitchell. His legacy will stand as an example for all, and he will be dearly missed.