

IN CELEBRATION OF EASTHAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL'S SUCCESS IN THE "WE THE PEOPLE" COMPETITION

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and celebrate the victory of the Easthampton High School's AP United States History class in the statewide "We the People" academic competition held recently at Harvard University. The team skillfully answered a series of eighteen difficult questions relating to American government on their way to prevailing over a number of highly qualified competitors across Massachusetts. The team has now earned the distinction of representing the Commonwealth in the National Finals in April of this year.

Easthampton High School's team was led by teacher Kelley Brown, who has gone above and beyond the call as an academic instructor to be a skillful coach for her class in this competition. The outstanding knowledge of United States History displayed by her class is a testament to the value of quality teachers in the Massachusetts public school system. The victorious students included Taylor Dadmun, Tristan Koopman, Brianna LaRose, Zachary Lewis, Bayleigh Murphy, Michael Palaschak, Thomas Palaschak, Willow Ross, Felicia Therrien and Olivia Tones.

I am tremendously proud of Easthampton High School's academic achievements. Strong civic education is the foundation of our representative democracy and these students have exemplified the finest qualities of informed citizenship. I wish them the best of luck in the 25th Annual National "We the People" competition here in Washington DC this April.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment over President Obama's decision to block the Keystone XL Pipeline by rejecting an application to build and operate the oil pipeline across the U.S. and Canada border.

This is a major decision, and I think every American should be aware of the consequences. The Keystone Pipeline represents an opportunity to both increase supply of much-needed natural resources in our country and create tens-of-thousands of American jobs. Because the project crosses the U.S. border, a permit is required from President Obama's State Department.

Without that permit, we will not see the potential benefits—in terms of stabilized energy supplies or new jobs—that would result from the Pipeline.

The Keystone Pipeline project would have the capacity to deliver up to 900,000 barrels of

crude oil per day and would include more than 1,700 miles of pipeline. Estimates from TransCanada, the company that applied to construct the pipeline, projects more than 100,000 jobs could be created over the life of the project, including an estimated 20,000 immediate American jobs in construction and manufacturing.

Mr. Speaker, our energy policy is vitally important to our national security and our economic security. Oil accounts for 37 percent of U.S. energy demand, with 71 percent directed to fuels used in transportation. That is equally true of the mother who drives her children to school as it is of the business owner who operates a fleet of delivery vehicles. When the price of gasoline increases, Americans are hurt—and the price of gasoline increased 81 cents per gallon in 2011 alone.

That is why I support our "all of the above" approach to energy, which includes opening up new areas for American energy exploration, transitioning to renewable and alternative energy, and using more clean and reliable nuclear power.

In his State of the Union address, the President stated that "this country needs an all-out, all of the above strategy that develops every available source of American energy—a strategy that's cleaner, cheaper, and full of new jobs." In my opinion, his decision on the Keystone Pipeline is inconsistent with that statement.

I believe the Keystone Pipeline project has the potential to strengthen America's economy, reduce our dependence on oil from potentially hostile regions of the world, and create jobs. I voted in favor of the North American-Made Energy Security Act (H.R. 1938), legislation directing the President to issue a final order granting or denying the Keystone Pipeline permit by November 1, 2011.

Additionally, Congress passed H.R. 3765, the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-78) that was enacted into law on December 23, 2011. This Act, signed by the President, required the State Department to grant a permit within 60 days unless the President determined that the pipeline would not serve the national interest. I also voted in favor of this legislation.

Unfortunately, President Obama announced on January 17, 2011 that the administration will block the pipeline by denying the application permit. It has been more than three years since the application to build the Keystone XL pipeline was originally filed. The President had an opportunity to help create American jobs and reduce America's reliance on unstable foreign sources of oil, and he rejected it. The State Department announced that it did not have sufficient time to obtain the information necessary to determine if the project would serve the national interest. In truth, this project has been studied for many years. I ask, how does reducing reliance on Middle East oil while creating thousands of jobs not serve the national interest?

The door is now open for Canadian oil to go to China. Canada's Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, announced his "profound disappointment with the news." The Prime Minister expressed that he had hoped the project would continue, given the significant contribution it would make to the United States and Canada. While the Chinese government has ensured

its future supply of oil and other energy resources, the United States has rejected a new source of energy that was laid at our doorstep. Mr. Speaker, I ask, how does the fact that China will receive this energy supply not serve our national interest?

Mr. Speaker, I consider President Obama's decision a grave mistake and on behalf of the American people who want secure oil and new manufacturing jobs, I hope that Congress will continue to push him to reconsider this error in judgment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. ROSS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the University of South Florida (USF). USF has become an academic powerhouse not only in the State of Florida, but nationally as well. Boasting an enrollment of approximately thirty-seven thousand graduate and undergraduate students, USF has attracted top quality students from all over the world, making it a true model of diversity. And more students will be coming.

USF states that it offers more than two hundred programs for its students to choose from and has a library system with two and a half million volumes and six facilities. In 2010, according to the Intellectual Property Owners Association, USF ranked ninth world-wide among fourteen universities ranked among three-hundred organizations that earned the most patents in 2010. In addition to its top flight academic programs, USF has emerged as an athletic powerhouse. Its student-athletes compete at the highest levels of collegiate athletics, with some continuing their playing careers professionally. In fact, USF alum Jason Pierre-Paul, a Pro Bowl defensive end with the New York Giants, will be playing for a Super Bowl championship this Sunday.

Aside from the accomplishments I have just stated, the National Academy of Inventors notes that it was founded at USF in 2010. According to the Academy, it encourages intellectual property innovation and development, which contributes greatly to societal advancement. History has shown us that creative minds, such as the ones at USF, are often responsible for breakthroughs that change how we live. From Thomas Edison's light bulb to the Wright brothers' airplane, we need to continue cultivating today's young minds to be as bold as their predecessors. I am proud to say that USF's National Academy of Inventors is leading this charge.

The National Academy of Inventors will soon be holding a conference in Tampa in the USF Research Park from February 16–17th. I salute the achievements of the Academy to date, and look forward to what the future holds for these innovators. As a whole, USF continues to produce tremendous results. It can no longer be said that USF is emerging, rather it has arrived and it will continue to make Floridians proud. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing USF's exceptional achievements.

HONORING THE NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF INVENTORS**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Academy of Inventors, which was founded at the University of South Florida in Tampa in 2010. Working in collaboration with the university, the mission of the National Academy of Inventors is to recognize and encourage inventors, add to the visibility of innovation and technology stemming from the university, and to educate and encourage innovative students to create and patent inventions that are beneficial to all of society.

I am certainly proud of the research under way in my backyard at the University of South Florida. More importantly, their efforts are training our nation's future researchers and innovators to keep the United States on the cutting edge, particularly in the health field. In fact, USF was among 14 universities listed in the top 300 organizations worldwide to receive patents from the United States Patent and Trade Office in 2010.

Though USF houses the National Academy of Inventors, universities and nonprofit research institutions throughout the nation and world are also invited to form local chapters, and inventors affiliated with the academic community supporting the local chapter, who have had a patent issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, are eligible to join. Thus far, 29 local chapters have formed.

I truly applaud the work of the National Academy of Inventors for encouraging teachers, faculty, and students to push their research efforts and find new and better technology and solutions. I look forward to watching them continue to expand and set a national climate favorable to the research and entrepreneurship community.

ON REINTRODUCING THE WILDLIFE
VETERINARIANS EMPLOYMENT
AND TRAINING ACT (WILDLIFE
VET ACT)**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Wildlife Veterinarians Employment and Training Act (Wildlife VET Act). This legislation will develop affordable and well qualified opportunities for individuals who are seeking to become wildlife veterinarians, spur job growth, and promote robust public health policy.

Wildlife veterinarians are the primary source of essential health care for and management of wild animals in their natural habitat and in captivity. Not only do they preserve natural resources and animal lives, but they help protect human health by preventing, detecting, and responding to exotic and dangerous diseases.

With the intensification of globalization and climate change, along with a growing interface between humans, livestock, and wildlife, the threat posed by emerging infectious diseases to humans and wildlife keeps increasing. Con-

trolling pandemic and large-scale outbreaks of disease has become more problematic.

Furthermore, wildlife veterinarians have the resources and expertise necessary to help respond to environmental disasters and address short-term and long-term impacts on wildlife and their habitats. Wildlife veterinarians have proven to be essential to the rescue and rehabilitation efforts in the Gulf of Mexico region following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that began on April 20, 2010.

In spite of these threats to both wildlife and public health, the United States faces a shortage of positions for wildlife veterinarians. In addition, veterinarian graduates owe an average of \$130,000 in student loans, and salaries for wildlife professionals are relatively low compared to companion animal medicine. Lower salaries, combined with high educational debt and the small number of positions available, discourage students from becoming wildlife veterinarians. The number of practical trainings and formal educational programs specializing in wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine are also insufficient.

My bill will directly address these issues which dissuade veterinarians from practicing wildlife medicine. It will contribute to the national job creation effort by funding new positions for wildlife veterinarians and will ensure that veterinary students find jobs upon graduation. The bill will also limit the amount of educational debt for students while providing incentives to study and practice wildlife veterinary medicine through the establishment of scholarships and loan repayment programs. Lastly, my legislation will advance education by helping schools develop pilot curricula specializing in wildlife veterinary medicine and by expanding the number of practical training programs available to students.

Mr. Speaker, we have reached a point in our history when we cannot ignore the importance of protecting America's wildlife. Wild animals are a very important part of our commonly held natural resources and contribute to maintaining a balanced ecosystem. With an increasing number of endangered species, the introduction of invasive non-native species, and more infectious disease threats, wildlife veterinarians must be placed at the core of our efforts and be given the resources and recognition necessary to protect both animal and human lives.

I urge my colleagues to extend a helping hand to America's veterinarians by supporting this important piece of legislation.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF ELLEN BERNSTEIN, NA-
TIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE LA-
DIES AUXILIARY AND JEWISH
WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Elaine Bernstein, National President of the Ladies Auxiliary Department of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV), on the occasion of her official visit to the dedicated members of the Department of Florida Ladies Auxiliary. The gathering

of these dedicated advocates for our nation's veterans is truly a cause for celebration.

Jewish Americans have a long, rich history of service in our armed forces. Over half a million Jewish Americans fought for the United States in World War II, and 11,000 of them perished while fighting for this country. Jewish Americans have served in Korea, Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, and countless other missions around the globe. They are among the brave young men and women who served in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks, and who are serving in Afghanistan as we speak. For the past 83 years, JWV's mission has been to support for these heroes, strengthen the American values of liberty and equality, and to combat bigotry and anti-Semitism.

Elaine Bernstein has played a vital role in advancing JWV's mission across the country. She began her career of volunteerism at the tender age of four, when she became a mascot for her local Auxiliary junior division. After a lifetime of dedicated service, Elaine was elected President of JWV in August of 2011. I am humbled to welcome this accomplished leader to Florida's 19th district, which I am proud to say is home to one of our nation's largest chapters of the Jewish War Veterans of America.

It is a privilege to represent members of the Department of Florida Ladies Auxiliary, who share the belief that in America, no veteran should become a forgotten hero. Because of their work with the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, our people will continue to honor the contributions of the Jewish American men and women who for centuries have not only shaped our national culture, but defended our people in times of great challenge.

BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, over 3 million cases of child abuse are reported every year in the United States; some reports involve multiple children. These children are 11 times more likely to be arrested for criminal behavior as juveniles, and they are 2.7 times more likely to be arrested for violent and criminal charges as an adult. One-third of these same children are likely to grow up to abuse or neglect their own children. Child abuse is an ugly reality in the fabric of our society, and abuse against children is among the most heinous crimes committed in our nation. I'd like to honor a group of individuals who are dedicated to establishing security for these children, while demonstrating a new standard of sacrificial giving.

Bikers Against Child Abuse, BACA was founded by John Paul Lily, a clinical sociologist. Mr. Lily wanted to bring an abused eight year old boy out of his shell and succeeded by bringing him into his circle of motorcycle friends. This group of unconventional child advocates allowed for this young boy to experience a second chance at an unhindered childhood. Soon, Mr. Lily was inspired to organize a ride to visit mistreated children and to welcome them into the biker "family." This inaugural ride had 27 riders, but word spread