

Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2013. This legislation underfunds needed investments in America's transportation system and seriously undercuts needed public housing programs, a vital part of our country's safety net.

The House Republican's "highways only" mentality is revealed in H.R. 5972, which significantly cuts funding for transit and, once again, eliminates all funding for high speed rail. Communities in the East Metro are working hard to advance new transit corridors in our region including Gateway, Robert Street, Rush Line, Riverview and Red Rock. The Republicans' proposed cuts to federal matching-funds would stop most of these projects in their tracks, resulting in the loss of thousands of construction jobs and billions of dollars in new economic development. Eliminating high-speed rail funding risks losing a new high speed link between Chicago and the Twin Cities at St. Paul's Union Depot.

In addition, I am concerned with the House Republicans' refusal to fund the TIGER Discretionary Grant program. This program helps states and local governments construct major infrastructure projects. It is hugely popular across the country and has helped to transform communities since it was first established in the 2009 Recovery Act. A \$35 million TIGER grant is helping restore the historic Union Depot in Lowertown St. Paul into a modern, multi-modal transportation hub. This project alone has created 3,000 jobs and opens to the public this fall. In addition, the City of St. Paul received a TIGER planning grant to better integrate biking and walking into the local transportation system. Last year, Minneapolis received a \$10 million TIGER grant to construct the new Interchange station near Target Field. The TIGER program is vitally important to modernizing our region's infrastructure. That is why I offered an amendment to H.R. 5972 with Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS of California to restore the TIGER program to the bill. Unfortunately, my Republican colleagues rejected this \$500 million investment in American infrastructure and jobs. Overall, the transportation provisions of this bill ignore the needs of the communities I represent. H.R. 5972 would cost my community thousands of jobs and reverse years of work by business, government and citizen-leaders in my District to build new and needed infrastructure.

H.R. 5972 also seriously underfunds critical housing programs that provide shelter for our country's most vulnerable, including low-income families, seniors and the disabled. The inadequate funding in this bill for Project Based Section 8 vouchers could jeopardize housing for 3,000 families in my District. The cuts to McKinney-Vento Homelessness Grants would eliminate beds for homeless individuals and families in Minnesota. These cuts have real, human costs. Fewer people will find a warm, safe place to sleep. Fewer people will be able to overcome the most difficult times in their lives and get back on their feet. In my district there is a young man, a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, who is struggling with profound PTSD and now facing homelessness. The instability of homelessness makes it much harder for him to get the treatment he needs and begin the process of recovery. This young man pledged his life to his country when we needed him. Now, he needs us.

This bill does not represent my priorities or the priorities of the Minnesotans I am proud to represent.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 5972.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker on rollcall No. 383 I was absent due to personal reasons.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN LAWYERS DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Women Lawyers Division, WLD, of the National Bar Association, NBA, on its 40th Anniversary Celebration in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Women Lawyers Division was formally established in 1972 as a vehicle for women in the practice of law to address the issues and problems that particularly affect the interests and concerns of African-American women.

The WLD had its genesis during 1971 when an informal coalition of 19 women members of the National Bar Association discussed soliciting new NBA members to run for national offices. These women decided there were many issues they should consider addressing. Therefore, on August 5, 1971, Ruth Harvey Charity convened the first organizational meeting of NBA women lawyers in Atlanta, Georgia.

In 1975, the Women Lawyers Division sponsored its first seminar at the NBA national convention. The WLD hosts seminars at each annual convention, addressing the following subjects: impact of juvenile law on the family; domestic violence; energy law; sexual harassment; child advocacy; international law; professional ethics; post conviction relief; law teaching and trial techniques; ascending to the bench and judicial selection methods; the Internet and personal computer technology; rainmaking and leadership for women.

In 1977, Ruth Harvey Charity was elected a Vice President of the National Bar Association, which was the first time in 25 years a woman held so high a position within the NBA. In 1981, another WLD member, Arnette R. Hubbard, was elected the first President of the NBA, and Alice Bonner, another founder of the WLD, was installed as the first woman President of the NBA Judicial Council Division. Since that year, eight other WLD members have served as President of the NBA.

The Supreme Court swearing-in tradition began in 1981 and continues today. Each spring, the Women Lawyers Division supports a group of National Bar Association members for admission to appear before the U.S. Su-

preme Court. This ceremony is held annually in an effort to enhance the posture of African-American lawyers as legal advocates and to increase the number of minority lawyers who are readily available to represent their clients before this nation's highest court.

The WLD will kick off its 40th Anniversary Celebration with its Inaugural "Respect Yourself" Day, which will be a special salute to African-American women and girls to encourage love and respect for themselves and their fellow sisters. The WLD will host its Fourth Annual "Respect Yourself" Mentor Program to educate young, at-risk and disadvantaged African-American girls on the importance of self-respect.

Through the Women Lawyers Division, women have made a significant impact on the goals and directions of the NBA by participating at all levels of the organization. The WLD has achieved its goal of adding positive direction to the NBA by contributing and establishing a new dimension and sensitivity of the NBA as it addresses legal issues affecting women, children, the family, and the African-American community as a whole.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional District, it gives me immense pride to honor the Women Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association on its 40th Anniversary Celebration in Las Vegas, Nevada, and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this crucial organization and its admirable efforts.

A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN WILBUR D. JONES

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise and ask you to join me in recognizing Captain Wilbur D. Jones, of Wilmington, North Carolina, who has earned the StarNews Lifetime Achievement Award. The StarNews Lifetime Achievement Award was established in 2003 to honor individuals who have given substantially of themselves for the improvement of the communities of Southeastern North Carolina. Captain Jones is very worthy of this honor, and I salute him for his legacy of service to our state and nation.

Captain Jones stands out as a distinguished former member of the United States Navy, historian, preservationist and award-winning author and lecturer. Born in the middle of the Great Depression, Captain Jones was only seven years old at the outset of World War II, but this history-shaping era sparked an ongoing passion for military history within him that continues to this day.

After graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Captain Jones made the decision to enroll in Officer Candidate School. Beginning in 1956, he served as both a Regular Navy and Ready Reserve officer, finally retiring in 1984. During this time his tact for leadership earned him the rank of Naval Captain. He honorably commanded two Reserve units with the same dedication and strong, personal leadership that he is known for today. As Captain Jones said himself, "Remembering how I began, I was born to be a military historian and career Armed Forces Officer in service to my country."

Concurrently with his service to our nation, Captain Jones spent 41 years in the U.S. Department of Defense, while maintaining a role as a civilian professor and Associate Dean of Information at the Defense Acquisition University. His service included more than seven years in the Pentagon as a Captain on active duty and as a civilian assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition. His career took him and his family around the globe, but Captain Jones returned to his home of Wilmington, North Carolina in 1997, where he remains today.

These unique experiences would later serve him well in his role as a historian, author, lecturer and preservationist. He has produced an impressive and important collection of works on World War II. To date, he has authored 17 books on military history and national defense, along with collecting and publishing innumerable research papers, encyclopedia entries, interviews and photographic documentaries.

With his natural energy and intelligence, Captain Jones is not just North Carolina's treasure, but also a treasure to our country. The StarNews Lifetime Achievement Award Captain Jones receives today is a major honor, and is also just one of the many awards that Captain Jones has earned in his lifetime, from the National Defense Medal, North Carolina Historian of the Year, Senior Service Award, and countless others recognizing the quality of his writing, research and dedication to leadership.

Captain Wilbur D. Jones serves as an example across generations by acting as a man of courage, a man of duty, and a man who is devoted to serving his homeland. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank you for allowing me to honor one of North Carolina's most distinguished Naval Officers and historians, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a man whom North Carolina and the United States is proud to call their own.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. JIMMY BIVINS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Cleveland, Ohio's famous boxer, Mr. Jimmy Bivins.

Bivins was born in Dry Branch, Georgia on December 6, 1919. He moved to Cleveland at the age of three and attended Central High School, where he was an honor student. Weighing only 112 pounds, Bivins began his boxing career in 1936.

Bivins' professional boxing career began in 1940 and lasted until 1955. He boxed in 112 professional fights, accumulating 86 wins and 31 knockouts. Between June 22, 1942 and February 25, 1946, he went unbeaten in 26 consecutive bouts. During his fifteen year career, Bivins defeated eight of eleven world champions and four of the seven fellow Hall of Famers he faced throughout his career. Although he was never able to compete for the world title, Bivins remains the only boxer to date that has ranked as the No. 1 contender in both the Light Heavyweight and the Heavyweight divisions.

In 1999, Bivins was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame. That same year,

Sports Illustrated said that Bivins may have been the greatest modern heavyweight who never got a shot at the title crown. He was best known for his powerful left jab.

Following his boxing career, Bivins joined the Teamsters and drove bakery and snack trucks around the City of Cleveland. He was active in the community, spending time at the gym with local kids teaching them how to box, telling them stories and giving them fatherly advice. He also cooked food for them every Sunday to make sure that they did not go hungry as he had in the past.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the life of Jimmy Bivins.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 452 on H.R. 4155 I am not recorded because I was absent due to a weather delay.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING LAURIANNE CORMIER

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Laurianne Cormier. Born on July 12, 1912, in Lewiston, Maine, Mrs. Cormier has two daughters, seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Cormier has dedicated much of her life to working and volunteering in her community. Like many other Franco-Americans growing up in Lewiston during the Great Depression, Mrs. Cormier helped to support her family by working in a local shoe factory. After her retirement, Mrs. Cormier kept busy by volunteering at the YWCA and at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center in Lewiston. In fact, thirty-five years later, Mrs. Cormier is still volunteering there and has devoted over 18,500 hours of her time and energy to the community she loves.

Mrs. Cormier's co-workers admire her work ethic, spirit and passion for her job. In October of 2010, she was presented with the Mayoral VIBE Award (Volunteers Inspire By Example) and in April of this year, she was nominated for one of the Maine Commission for Community Service's annual Governor's Awards for Service and Volunteerism. Mrs. Cormier was recognized as a special "Volunteer Hero" at that ceremony.

On Tuesday of this week, her colleagues at St. Mary's hosted a birthday party for her and on Sunday, July 15, her family and friends will gather for a second celebration that will take place at the Franco-American Heritage Center. I am very much looking forward to congratulating Mrs. Cormier in person at Sunday's celebration.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Laurianne Cormier on this special day. She is truly an exemplary citizen whose dedication to

her community and to her family is certainly an inspiration to us all.

EXPRESSING CONCERNS REGARDING THE NEGOTIATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ARMS TRADE TREATY

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my significant concerns over the negotiations with the United Nations regarding the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). As it stands currently, the actions of the United Nations indicate that this treaty will pose serious threats to the personal freedoms, national security, foreign policy, and economic interests of the United States. Yet, the Administration has voted to participate in negotiations, despite this impact.

Our Second Amendment rights are fundamental individual rights that must be protected. However, the United Nations Arms Treaty poses a potential threat to this right held by every United States citizen. This treaty cannot be allowed to jeopardize our ability to own small arms, rifles or ammunition. Furthermore, the ATT must recognize and respect one's right of self defense and our nation's legacy of hunting and participation in shooting sports.

This treaty also has the potential to threaten our national security and foreign policy. Democracies and totalitarian regimes should not be given the same arms transfer rights, nor can we legitimize the arming of terrorists or countries that do not recognize the International Criminal Court. Importantly, the ability of the United States to provide arms to trusted allies, such as Israel, should not be infringed.

Finally, the United Nations Arms Treaty should not do anything that would hurt our economic interests here at home and abroad. American businesses should not be burdened by increased regulatory and reporting requirements that could damage domestic manufacturing, particularly in our already difficult economic times. We cannot allow the ATT to jeopardize American jobs or American industry.

Unfortunately, I am concerned that this treaty will impact all of these interests, and potentially more. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support and urge the Administration to consider and uphold the sentiment displayed in the bi-partisan letter that my colleague MIKE KELLY and 130 co-signers sent to President Obama and Secretary Clinton.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 384 I was absent due to personal reasons.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."