

OMB will reinvigorate the interagency evaluation working group established in 2010 with a series of meetings focused on issues commonly affecting evaluators, such as procurement rules, the Paperwork Reduction Act, and the integration of evidence in agencies' decision-making process.

The Performance Improvement Council will convene research, performance management, and program officials to develop ways to improve performance measures, validate their correlation with outcome data from program impact evaluations, and use data analytics to support more cost-effective decision-making.

The Office of Science and Technology Policy has created a "community of practice" for agency personnel involved in designing and managing incentive prizes and has organized a Science of Science Policy working group that is developing tools aimed at establishing a more scientific, empirical evidence basis for science and technology policymaking.

To discuss which ideas in this memo make most sense at your agency, please contact your agency's OMB contact. For more general support on evidence-based policy and evaluation, you also may contact Dan Rosenbaum (Dan T. Rosenbaum@omb.eop.gov).

#### HONORING WAIRTERRICA GALMORE

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a remarkable young woman, Ms. Wairterrica Galmore, the Valedictorian of Coahoma Agricultural High School Class of 2012. Wairterrica is the proud daughter of Latoya Reddick and Eric Galmore. She has six siblings and they reside in Friars Point, Mississippi.

Wairterrica has always viewed learning as a priority. She was an honor student throughout school, remaining on either the Superintendent or Principal lists. Her performance in the classroom landed Ms. Galmore placement in "Accelerated" and "Gifted" classes.

As a student in high school Wairterrica maintained her placement in high accelerated courses, while also participating in extracurricular activities. She was a member of the Olive Branch All Girls High School Senior Choir and the Olive Branch High School Co-Ed Choir. Wairterrica also received many awards while at Olive Branch High School such as the Positive Award, Highest Average in Math, and the Highest Average in Art. Her test scores on the Mississippi Curriculum and Subject Test ranked in the "Advanced and Proficient" categories. Wairterrica was also one of two students chosen to represent Coahoma Agricultural High School in a women's conference at Tougaloo College in the summer of 2011. Relocation caused Wairterrica to complete tenth through twelfth grade at Coahoma Agricultural High School, where despite the challenge she reigned victorious, gaining the honor of class Valedictorian.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Wairterrica Galmore, the Valedictorian for Coahoma Agricultural High School's Class of 2012.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise regarding my excused absence from rollcall votes 452–454 on Monday, July 9, 2012. I was unavoidably delayed on my return to Washington from Houston, TX due to weather.

I would have voted "aye" for rollcall vote 452, on motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill H.R. 4155, "Veterans Skills to Jobs Act", which would require the head of each federal department or agency to ensure that an applicant for any federal license who has received relevant training while serving as a member of the Armed Forces is deemed to satisfy any training or certification requirements for the license, unless the training received is found to be substantially different from the training or certification requirements for such license.

I would have voted "aye" for rollcall vote 453 on motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill H.R. 4367, "To Amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to limit the free disclosure requirement for an automatic teller machine to the screen of that machine", which cancels the requirement that such a fee disclosure appear in a prominent and conspicuous location on or at the ATM.

I would have voted "aye" for rollcall vote 454 on motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill H.R. 5892, "Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012", which Amends the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) to increase from 5,000 to 10,000 kilowatts the size of small hydroelectric power projects which the Federal Energy.

#### IN HONOR OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIX ASSURANCES AND THE LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW IN TAIWAN

#### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate two important anniversaries this month in relation to our close friend and ally: the country of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker: Since the end of World War II, the United States and Taiwan have fostered a close relationship that has been of enormous strategic and economic benefit to both countries. When the United States shifted diplomatic relations from Taiwan to the People's Republic of China in January 1979, Congress moved quickly to pass the Taiwan Relations Act, TRA, to ensure that the United States would continue its robust engagement with Taiwan in the areas of commerce, culture, and security cooperation. On April 10, 1979, this important and lasting piece of legislation became the "Law of the Land" and has since served as the statutory basis for U.S.-Taiwan relations going forward.

After 33 years, the TRA still stands as a model of Congressional leadership in the history of our foreign relations, and, together with the 1982 "Six Assurances," it remains the cor-

nerstone of a very mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

These "Six Assurances" were designed by President Reagan to further clarify U.S. policy toward Taiwan (in particular to the sale of arms to Taiwan) to reiterate our commitment to Taiwan's security under the TRA and to reaffirm our position on Taiwan's sovereignty. It also stipulated that we would not pressure Taiwan to enter into negotiations with the PRC.

July 14th marks the 30th anniversary of President Reagan issuing said Six Assurances in 1982. It also marks the 25th anniversary of the lifting of martial law in Taiwan in 1987.

Martial law was promulgated in Taiwan on May 19, 1949 by the Chinese Nationalist government, and was ended 38 years later. July 14, 1987 set the stage for a momentous process of democratization in Taiwan that continues to this day. We very are glad to see that Taiwan has transformed into a full fledged Democracy since then.

Over the past three decades, Taiwan has remained a trusted ally of the United States that shares with us the ideals of freedom and democracy. However, the people of Taiwan continue to live day after day under the ominous shadow cast by over 1400 short and medium-range ballistic missiles that the People's Republic of China, PRC, has aimed at them. The PRC persists in claiming Taiwan as a "renegade province," refusing to renounce the use of force to prevent Taiwan's formal de jure independence.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Six Assurances and the 25th anniversary of the lifting of martial law in Taiwan, to further underline our unwavering commitment to the people of Taiwan and to affirm our support for the strong and deepening relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan.

#### HONORING MARY ALICE O'CONNOR

#### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY and Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, to recognize Mary Alice O'Connor as she retires after 7 years as Executive Director of the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center.

Mary Alice, born in Chicago, Illinois, was ordained a minister by the Unity of the Spirit Ministry School in 1991 and earned her bachelor's in business administration from Golden Gate University in 2002. After many years working for industry leaders in the communications sector, Mary Alice joined the Peace and Justice Center as executive director in 2005. Over the past 7 years, her work has embodied the Peace and Justice Center's mission "to work for a culture of peace through education, advocacy and community building," while at the same time increasing business operations and doubling the Center's operational budget in just 3 years.

Under Mary Alice's leadership, the Peace and Justice Center planned, expanded, and promoted a number of invaluable community programs that have raised awareness for both local and global issues of social justice. The

"Speakers' Forum" hosts distinguished individuals to address global peace, issues of environmental justice, gun violence, and the politics of crime and punishment that affect quality of life in local communities. The "Art and Writing Challenge" encourages awareness and discussion among Contra Costa County students of the environment, economic inequality and the promotion of non-violence. The first "Creating Peaceful Schools Conference" brought together over a hundred local educators to develop strategies for promoting non-violence in the classroom and encouraging children to focus on ways to promote a more peaceful and just environment. Furthermore, through peaceful public protests against wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and many educational forums developed by Mary Alice and her board of directors, the Center has become a well-known hub for thoughtful discussion of current events in the East Bay Area.

Mr. Speaker, we invite this chamber to join us in honoring Mary Alice O'Connor for her tireless and dedicated service to the people of Contra Costa County. We join her family, colleagues, and friends in congratulating her on a successful and fulfilling career at the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center, and wish her the very best on her future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CHRISTENING OF THE USS "SOMERSET"

**HON. MARK S. CRITZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2012*

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the christening of the USS *Somerset*. On July 28, 2012, the USS *Somerset* will become the latest San Antonio class landing platform/dock, LPD, to join our Navy's fleet. This ship will commemorate the valor and courage of the 40 passengers and crew of United Flight 93 who gave their lives to protect our way of life on September 11, 2001.

In waters across the globe, the USS *Somerset* will continue the fight for freedom that the United Flight 93 passengers and crew began. Wherever the ship travels, her impregnable exterior will symbolize our impregnable resolve to honor their memory and to continue their legacy of sacrifice for the greater good.

About 22 tons of steel taken from a crane near the Flight 93 crash site in Shanksville, PA, has been incorporated into the ship's bow stem. Like the steel from that crane, the American people have taken a new form since 9/11. We are stronger and more resilient than we were prior to that fateful day. Like the steel from that crane, we have emerged from the tragic events of September 11th ready and eager to take on new challenges, embark on new journeys and explore new horizons.

The USS *Somerset* is the last of three ships that have been built in honor of the September 11th victims. The USS *New York*, christened in March 2008, was built as a tribute to the individuals who lost their lives at the World Trade Center and the USS *Arlington*, christened in March 2011, was built as a tribute to the servicemembers and civilians who perished at the Pentagon.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the christening of the USS *Somerset* with great pride. It is my most sincere hope that the delivery of this ship

will provide the family members and friends of the passengers and crew of United Flight 93 with some measure of solace. For the USS *Somerset* will carry the story and sacrifice of their loved ones to the Sailors and Marines tasked with defending our freedoms, promoting peace and providing assistance across our oceans.

#### HONORING KINEU DONALD

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Kineu Donald, Salutatorian of Raymond High School; Class of 2012. Kineu was born to the proud mother of Sheillia Donald, on December 16, 1993, in Edwards, Mississippi.

She attended Bolton-Edwards schools through middle school. While in middle school Kineu was consistent in her efforts to remain on the Honor Roll and Principal's List. She finished Bolton-Edwards Elementary Middle School, and was acknowledged as the Valuedictorian of her eighth grade class.

Throughout high school, Kineu has been recognized for her many achievements in both academics and extra-curricular activities. She was a member of the band, choir, Beta Club, Student Council, and Student Body. In addition to her extra-curricular activities, Kineu also participated in many community service projects sponsored by her school and church.

As a high school graduate, Kineu plans to attend Alcorn State University and major in agricultural economics or nutrition and dietetics, to aid her in her pursuit to become a food science technologist or a dietician.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Kineu Donald the Salutatorian for Raymond High School Class of 2012.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2012*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed the following votes:

1. H.R. 6018—To authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

2. S. 2009—Insular Areas Act of 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

#### RETURN OF THE INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2012*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in more than two decades, the

United States will host the 19th International AIDS Conference—drawing over 20,000 people from around the world to our Nation's capital.

Having participated in every Conference since I was first elected to Congress in 1998, I knew we could not bring the conference back to the United States until the discriminatory immigration ban on people living with HIV was lifted.

In 2007, I first introduced a bill to repeal the ban. Few believed it could be done, but through bipartisan support we achieved this goal.

This week, the return of the Conference is an important opportunity to shine a global spotlight on the fight against AIDS in African American communities and a national spotlight on the ongoing global epidemic.

Today, I will introduce new legislation to do just that.

Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic Act articulates a policy and financing framework to achieve an AIDS-Free Generation in the United States and globally.

I urge all my colleagues to support it so that we can begin to bring an end to AIDS here at home and around the world.

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR INVESTS IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

**HON. RANDY HULTGREN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2012*

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, as the national economy continues to struggle, I would like to highlight an encouraging development with regard to the telecommunications sector. As the attached synopsis of a recent report by the Progressive Policy Institute indicates, investment in the economy is a critical factor in promoting growth, creating jobs, and stimulating productivity. I applaud the telecom industry for its contribution to this effort.

#### REPORT: TELECOM SECTOR LEADS THE WAY IN DOMESTIC ECONOMIC INVESTMENTS

While the domestic economy continues to struggle, a new report shows that the telecommunications space remains one of the biggest investors in attempting to boost the nation's fortunes.

The Progressive Policy Institute report, "Investment Heroes: Who's Betting on America's Future," found that among non-financial institutions, AT&T and Verizon Communications were the two top investors of capital expenditures in the country last year. AT&T took the top spot with a reported \$20.1 billion in investments in 2011, with Verizon investing \$16.2 billion.

"The exponential growth in consumer demand for cable and wireless data services makes it both a necessity and an incentive for these companies to invest in building out their service capabilities," the report noted. "Investment is what led to development of the latest high-speed 4G networks, estimated to be 50% more efficient in streaming wireless data than its 3G predecessor. What's more, the commitment of these telecom companies to investment in wireless infrastructure, cable communications, and processing equipment is a good example of how investment can have important spillover benefits. By using the infrastructure developed and maintained by telecom companies,