

to join me in this tribute to this incredible man, and hope that his legacy lives on for future generations.

WELCOMING THE XIX INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE TO WASHINGTON, DC

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the XIX International AIDS Conference, AIDS 2012, back to Washington, DC. On July 22, 2012, more than 30,000 people from approximately 200 countries are expected to converge on Washington, DC, for AIDS 2012, including 20,000 delegates, 10,000 additional participants in the Global Village, and up to 2,000 journalists. Over the course of the Conference, which runs through July 27, 2012, the world's leading scientists, public health experts, policymakers, community leaders, and persons living with HIV/AIDS will chart the way forward in the global response to HIV/AIDS by turning the latest scientific advancements into action.

The III International AIDS Conference was held in our Nation's capital in 1987, the same year that the United States established a policy barring HIV-positive foreigners from obtaining permanent immigration status or entering the United States without special waivers. As a result, no major scientific conferences on HIV/AIDS have been held in this country since—until now. Thanks to years of advocacy by countless individuals and the leadership of former President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama, the misguided travel and immigration ban against people with HIV was lifted in 2010. This was a critical step forward in addressing societal stigma and discriminatory practices against people living with HIV/AIDS.

The return of the International AIDS Conference to the United States could not come at a more critical time. Here at home, more than one million people are living with HIV and approximately 50,000 individuals become newly infected with the virus each year. And among individuals living with HIV, one in five is unaware of his or her infection. This not only increases one's risk for developing worse health outcomes and unknowingly transmitting the virus to others, but undermines HIV prevention efforts as a whole. Furthermore, significant disparities persist across diverse communities and populations with regard to incidence, access to treatment, and health outcomes, particularly for men who have sex with men, MSM, African Americans and other minorities, women, and young people.

However, more than 30 years after the beginning of the epidemic, we are now at a point where we have the tools necessary to prevent the spread of HIV and bring an end to the crisis. The theme of AIDS 2012, "Turning the Tide Together," represents the challenge before us. In order to change the course of HIV/AIDS in the United States and abroad, we must harness the potential of the most recent scientific advances in HIV/AIDS treatment and biomedical prevention, continue research for a HIV vaccine and cure, and scale up effective, evidence-based interventions in key settings.

As the world's leader in HIV research and the largest funder of international AIDS programs, including the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, TB, and Malaria, continued commitment by the United States to HIV/AIDS research, prevention, and treatment programs is crucial to improving global health.

Mr. Speaker, AIDS 2012 is a tremendous opportunity to further strengthen the role of the United States in global HIV/AIDS initiatives within the current context of significant global economic challenges. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to join me in welcoming the delegates and participants of AIDS 2012 to Washington, DC, as well as commit to helping support a stronger international response to HIV/AIDS, advancing the health and rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, and working to create an "AIDS-free generation."

LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Leadership Alliance. Founded in 1992 by Brown University in my home State of Rhode Island, the Leadership Alliance is a national academic consortium of leading research universities and minority-serving institutions with the mission to develop underrepresented students into outstanding leaders and role models in academia, business, and public service.

Through an organized program of research, networking, and mentorship at critical transitions along the entire academic training pathway, the Leadership Alliance prepares young scientists and scholars from underrepresented and underserved populations for graduate training and professional apprenticeships. Leadership Alliance faculty mentors provide high quality, cutting-edge research experiences in all academic disciplines at the Nation's most competitive graduate training institutions and share insights into the nature of academic careers.

During difficult economic times, it is important to educate and train young people to become active participants in the workforce. In particular, I believe we must build on programs in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM fields. If we do not engage future generations to excel in these fields, it will hurt our Nation's ability to innovate, and hurt our employers' ability to fill 21st century jobs. It is through their creativity and talent that we will strengthen our economy and competitiveness.

In the 20 years since its establishment, the Leadership Alliance has proven that investing in our students yields immeasurable returns. Brown University has mentored 386 Leadership Alliance participants, of whom 35 percent have received a graduate level degree. Notably, over half of the Leadership Alliance doctoral degree recipients are in the STEM disciplines.

Opportunities through the Leadership Alliance and other programs, such as the Community College to Career Fund, offer students of all gender, racial, and economic backgrounds to get involved, and ultimately, to suc-

ceed. As co-chair of the Career and Technical Education Caucus, I am always searching for ways to excite and entice these young students to develop their potential and share their knowledge. When we invest in their successes, we invest in our economic future.

I am pleased today to congratulate the Leadership Alliance and Brown University for 20 years of mentoring a diverse, competitive research and scholarly workforce, and I look forward to following their successes over the next 20 years.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5856) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Mr. YOUNG's statement. As a fellow * * * as is BILL YOUNG, and as a father of four sons currently in the military, I find the suggestion that the Department of Defense spends too much money recovering the remains of our military men and women who are killed in action to be absolutely offensive and insensitive to military families. As Chair of the Military Personnel Subcommittee I appreciate the extraordinary efforts of recovery worldwide.

Our service members who are engaged in combat operations make a solemn vow to one another: "I will never leave a fallen comrade behind." The military, consisting of all the branches of service have a similar responsibility to the families of our service members. When a service member is killed in action, the military service branch that they belong to has a responsibility to return the remains home to the family. They have a responsibility to return the remains to their final resting place with dignity and honor.

The military men and women who are killed in action overseas are heroes who make the ultimate sacrifice to preserve the freedom that we all enjoy. The military rightly does everything necessary to return our service members' remains to their families. I believe that the military does a superb job under very trying circumstances, and I know that our military families are very grateful. I know firsthand of this * * *. I sadly was present for the return of a brother-in-law killed overseas as a Marine pilot. Our family appreciated the proven love of the American people, which has been promoted by Congressman BILL YOUNG and his wife, Beverly.

OBAMA TAX HIKES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at a time when businesses in this country are navigating

through waves of distress, the administration wants to deliver a tsunami in the form of tax increases. Taxing, taxing, taxing is about the only solution that it can come up with. But what it doesn't seem to realize is how it's failed all of us. It's shrinking the economy even more and is shrinking paychecks too. If the administration lets the Bush era tax cuts expire, 700,000 jobs will be destroyed. And out of those jobs, 56,800 will be in Texas.

The administration has had its chances to restore financial stability in this country without creating tax hikes. These tax increases not only target the wealthy. These taxes will actually take hard strikes at small businesses and the middle class. Contrary to what the administration believes, this is not fair.

Ernst & Young's latest study breaks it down just right. It examined the long-term impacts of increasing top tax rates. And let me tell you, they're not good. The long-run economic consequences are severe. Here it goes.

The administration proposes a one-year extension of the current tax rates for households making \$250,000 or less. Then, those making \$250,000 or more, including a lot of small businesses that file under the individual rate, will pay the tax rates prior to the Bush era. That means the top rate will go from 35 percent to 39.6 percent. Tax rates for the other top income tax bracket will go from 33 percent to 36 percent.

But this isn't all of them. The administration continues to tax. Medicare tax will go from 2.9 percent to 3.8 percent. A new 3.8 percent tax will be implemented on investment income. And last but not least, higher taxes on capital gains and dividends.

So, what does this total and how does it all play out? The combination of all these taxes will take the top individual income tax rate from 35 percent to 44.7 percent next year. And beware; this doesn't include all of the Obamacare taxes that will empty your wallet in 2013.

What does this do? Approximately 2 million businesses will be affected by these tax hikes. This will take capital out of the hands of business owners and reduced labor supply and the United States will lose \$200 billion in economic output. And extending the rates for families earning less than \$250,000 will cost us \$175 billion dollars next year. As bad as this sounds already, the tax hikes will likely force American employers to trim their workers' pay by 1.8 percent.

What will happen? Business firms will be hit hard. We will see patterns of less hiring, less investment in businesses, and retarded growth of these businesses in their sector. Sixty million Americans are small business employees. About two out of three jobs was created by a small business. And the administration is trying to take this away from us.

We've had enough of their fun with taxes. As someone who claims his focus to be "rebuilding the economy," he is doing quite the opposite. Our lives now revolve around taxes and this is all thanks to our nation's leader who thinks he can tax our way into economic prosperity. It doesn't take a math genius to figure out that these tax numbers are not the solution to a damaged economy. His idea that taxing the wealthy won't hurt this economy is false. If his job is to stifle job creation, create class warfare, and even further damage our market, then he's really done it well.

We can't afford to let this happen.

We can't afford to lose more than 700,000 jobs.

We can't afford to give more control to our government.

And that's just the way it is.

DESIGNATION OF AUGUST AS NATIONAL FUEL EFFICIENCY MONTH

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge President Obama to designate August as National Fuel Efficiency Month. It is critical that we help educate the American public that we can all contribute to energy independence and environmental sustainability if we undertake a few simple measures.

More fuel-efficient vehicles are being built and sold in the United States every day. But as we head into the major summer driving season, it's important to remember that we all can improve fuel efficiency right now, through a number of simple measures—even without buying a new car.

In my home state of Pennsylvania, there were nearly 7.9 million passenger vehicles on the roads last year. Armstrong, Butler, Crawford, Erie, Mercer, Vernango, and Warren counties accounted for almost 500,000 of those registrations. For all of the drivers in Pennsylvania's 3rd congressional district—and for all of the many drivers across the United States—we should be raising awareness about how to be more fuel efficient.

For example, simply using cruise control will help drivers maintain a steady speed and save fuel. Tuning your car and keeping tires inflated each can increase your fuel economy by 3 or 4%. Driving responsibly and at the speed limit also improve fuel economy.

AAA and many other organizations have tips for driving economically. EPA also has posted information on efficient driving at <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/drive.shtml>. These techniques will save Americans fuel, decrease emissions and help us achieve energy independence.

Again, I urge the President to designate August as National Fuel Efficiency Month. Such a designation would provide the perfect opportunity for all of us to take a good look at our driving habits and see how easily we can improve fuel economy.

CONGRATULATING WILFRED COOPER, SR. FOR HIS INDUCTION INTO THE CALIFORNIA HOMEBUILDING FOUNDATION'S HALL OF FAME

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize Wilfred Cooper, Sr. for his service to the community and this nation. Mr. Cooper has recently been inducted into the California Homebuilding Foundation's Hall of Fame,

which honors individuals who are active in the home building industry and committed to improving the lives of others through service to civic, social, and philanthropic organizations.

Mr. Cooper has devoted his career to addressing the need for affordable and available housing at both the national and local level. He has served as senior life director of the National Association of Home Builders, chairman of NAHB's Multifamily Council, and as a member of NAHB's Low Income Housing Tax Credit Steering Group. Mr. Cooper also volunteers on the Board of Advisors for Jamboree Housing, the Board of Directors for Volunteers of America, and the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance.

In addition to his advocacy and volunteer work, Mr. Cooper founded WNC & Associates, Inc. in 1971. It was one of the first affordable housing investors in the United States and has long been recognized as an industry leader in affordable housing. Today, his firm proudly serves more than 45,000 low and moderate income families in 42 states.

Mr. Cooper's tireless energy and passion, which is apparent in his business, advocacy, and volunteer work has bettered the lives of many and has produced positive change in neighborhoods across the nation. I cannot think of a more deserving candidate for this award. It is my privilege to congratulate Mr. Wilfred Cooper, Sr. on this recognition and for his lifetime of service to promote affordable housing in America.

IN HONORING OF THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF PLAST, THE UKRAINIAN SCOUTING ORGANIZATION

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Plast, the Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

Plast was founded in 1911 by Dr. Oleksandr Tysovsky, and it is based on the principles of scouting started by Lord Baden Powell in Great Britain.

As a consequence of the country's absence of national independence through most of the 20th Century, Plast was forced to go underground when the occupying Soviet Union declared the organization illegal and banned its activities.

However, following World War II, when many Ukrainians emigrated to various countries of the Free World, including the United States, the plastun among the émigrés formed Plast organizations in the countries of their settlement. This included incorporating "Plast, Inc." in 1950 in the state of Michigan.

Additionally, after the Declaration of Independence of Ukraine in 1991, Plast was reconstituted in Ukraine with the help of plastun from the United States and other Free-World countries.

Today, Plast is an international organization of Ukrainian youth which fosters personal development, leadership and teamwork, as well as a love of Ukrainian culture and history while also raising youth to be conscientious, responsible and valuable citizens of their communities at the local, national and international