

Song takes us on a journey through Harry Belafonte's life, work and most of all, his conscience, as it inspires us all in a call to action.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you, my colleagues and a very grateful nation as we celebrate National Black History Month to recognize the achievements of the world's humanitarian, and Harlem's beloved, Harry Belafonte.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 658, FAA REAUTHORIZATION AND RE- FORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to explain my excused absence from the House last week, and to discuss how I would have voted on H.R. 658, conference report for the "FAA Modernization and Reform Act," if I hadn't been pulled away by the funeral of my dear friend, Frank Herrera.

Frank was a World War II veteran, a titan in his community of Wilmington, and a good friend of mine. He will be sorely missed by his family and all who knew him.

While I was at his funeral, the House took action on the first long term FAA reauthorization since the last one expired in 2007. After the embarrassment of twenty-three short-term extensions, I was glad to see our Nation's aviation infrastructure finally given the certainty of long term funding. Finally, we will bring our aviation infrastructure into the 21st century with NextGen, and give long overdue certainty to modernization projects across the country.

However, I was appalled to see that this "compromise" was bought with the rights of hard working men and women. I agree with the Communications Workers of America, the Service Employees International Union, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the National Education Association, the Teamsters and other advocates of working people that the American people deserved a clean FAA reauthorization, not this attempt to interfere with a worker's right to chose to form a union.

Had I been here on Friday, I would have voted "on" on H.R. 658.

RAISING AWARENESS OF CON- GENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise public knowledge of Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week, which is February 7–14, 2012. This week encourages all citizens to increase their awareness, education, and services for Congenital Heart Defects, which each year affect thousands of babies in the State of Texas.

Congenital Heart Defects are the most frequently occurring birth defects and the leading cause of birth defect-related deaths worldwide.

Over a million families across America are facing the challenges and hardships of raising children with Congenital Heart Defects. Every year, 40,000 babies are born in the United States with Congenital Heart Defects.

Some Congenital Heart Defects are not diagnosed until months or years after birth, and undiagnosed Congenital Heart conditions cause many cases of sudden cardiac death in young athletes. Despite these statistics, newborns and young athletes are not routinely screened for Congenital Heart Defects, and research on these heart conditions has only recently begun catching up to the problem—but more must be done.

Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected to celebrate life and to remember loved ones lost, to honor dedicated health professionals, and to meet others and know they are not alone. Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week also provides the opportunity to share experience and information with the public and the media, in order to raise public awareness about Congenital Heart Defects. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring February 7–14 as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week.

TRIBUTE TO VICTOR CRUZ AND THE NEW YORK GIANTS

HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Victor Cruz and the New York Giants on their thrilling victory in Super Bowl XLVI on Sunday night, in which they defeated the New England Patriots by a score of 21 to 17. As a fan, I am excited that the Giants have once again brought a Super Bowl championship and the Vince Lombardi Trophy back home to New Jersey. After last winning a championship in 2008, this is the second Giants Super Bowl victory in the past five seasons, for an impressive all-time total of four Super Bowl wins amongst their eight National Football League championships.

Leading the charge for the Giants was the pride of my hometown of Paterson, New Jersey, wide receiver Victor Cruz. Paterson, located just a few miles from the Giant's home field, is home to thousands of proud Giants fans. Victor Cruz was born in Paterson, attending Paterson Public School #21 and Paterson Catholic High School before playing football at the University of Massachusetts, where he remains fourth in all time receptions. He fought his way off the streets of Paterson, finding a path to a college education. Starting as an unknown just two years ago, Victor gained the attention of Giants scouts and now competes on the highest level. Victor serves as a true inspiration to the people of Paterson, who gave him an enthusiastic send-off when he revisited School #21 before the team departed for the Super Bowl in Indianapolis.

On Sunday night, Victor Cruz scored the first touchdown of the contest on a reception from the game's Most Valuable Player, Giants quarterback Eli Manning. With this touchdown, Victor had the opportunity to showcase his signature "Silk City Salsa" touchdown dance, a fan favorite. This move shows Victor's con-

tinued connection with his home town, since it is named for the city of Paterson, which was once the center of a thriving domestic textile industry.

Since being signed by the Giants, Victor already holds the franchise record for single season receiving yards after going undrafted in 2010. He has also tied the NFL record for longest touchdown reception of 99 yards. Now, he can add a Super Bowl title to the long list of accomplishments he has already attained in just two years of playing professional football. Victor Cruz's story so far proves that anyone can achieve greatness with hard work and perseverance. I hope that Victor enjoys a long career with continued successes.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet I am especially honored today to recognize and commemorate the achievements of the New York Giants and Paterson's hometown hero, Victor Cruz.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the citizens of New Jersey, and me in recognizing the Giants for their victory in Super Bowl XLVI, and in wishing continued success to Victor Cruz, Eli Manning, Coach Tom Coughlin, owners John Mara and Steve Tisch, and the rest of the team. I am sure that former Giants owner and my fellow Fordham University alumnus, Wellington Mara, who passed away in 2005 after 80 years with the team, was also watching from above with a smile on Super Bowl Sunday. Let's Go Giants!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, on February 6, 2012, I missed a series of votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall 34, On Agreeing to the Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1734) to decrease the deficit by realigning, consolidating, selling, disposing, and improving the efficiency of Federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall 35, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as amended, a bill to provide the Quileute Indian Tribe tsunami and flood protection, I would have voted "yea."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,337,881,657,918.14. We've added \$10,536,476,482,623.86 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could

have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL TO CONSOLIDATE PROGRAMS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ENACT THE CAMPUS SAFETY ACT OF 2011

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to consolidate programs at the Department of Justice in order to create an offset for the costs in another bill I previously introduced this Congress, the Center to Advance, Monitor and Preserve University Security, "CAMPUS," Safety Act. This consolidation bill is intended to allay the concerns some of my colleagues have expressed about the lack of an offset in the CAMPUS Safety Act. This bill will offset a majority of the costs of the the CAMPUS Safety Act, using the same offsets used in the Senate companion to the CAMPUS Safety Act, S. 1749, as introduced by Senator MARK WARNER. When the CAMPUS Safety Act is considered, we will merge the two bills together for consideration.

In order to alleviate a majority of the costs of the CAMPUS Safety Act, this bill requires that the Office of Dispute Resolution of the Department of Justice and the jurisdiction and employees of that office be transferred to the Office of Legal Policy at the Department and funded through the general administration appropriation of the Office of Legal Policy. This was proposed in the President's 2012 budget and also by Senator COBURN in his "Back in Black" report. This bill also requires the Attorney General to implement policies that will result in at least \$1 million in savings through consolidating ineffective or duplicative programs.

This bill is important because it helps to pay for the CAMPUS Safety Act, which is vitally important to our Nation's institutions of higher education. The CAMPUS Safety Act will create a National Center of Campus Public Safety, "Center," which will be administered through the Department of Justice. The Center will train campus public safety agencies, encourage research to strengthen college safety and security, and serve as a clearinghouse for the dissemination of relevant campus public safety information. By having this information in one central location, institutions of higher education will be able to easily obtain the best information available on ways to keep campuses safe and secure and how to respond in the event of a campus emergency. This bill was introduced in the House in the 110th and 111th Congresses and passed both times by voice vote.

As Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security and a Member of the Education and Workforce Committee, I strongly urge my colleagues to sign on to the CAMPUS Safety Act to help schools keep their campuses safe and free from violence.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 658, FAA REAUTHORIZATION AND REFORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 658, the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act.

Mr. Speaker, we are considering this multiyear authorization after twenty-three temporary FAA extensions since 2007. The men and women who keep our skies safe deserve a long-term authorization. The American people deserve a long-term authorization. But I cannot support the long-term authorization that the conference committee has brought to us today.

There are good provisions included in this conference agreement. This agreement contains language I wrote to support service disabled veteran-owned small businesses in the Airport Improvement Program. I am also pleased that this agreement includes funding for Essential Air Service and Next Generation air traffic control systems, and that it requires airlines to implement emergency contingency plans for passengers who are subject to extended tarmac delays. It also ensures a fair collective bargaining process for our Nation's air traffic controllers.

However, the bill has a number of provisions that are serious problems, and thus I oppose the bill. For example, the bill fails to fundamentally address the transportation of lithium batteries on airplanes. Further, the bill attacks collective bargaining for other aviation employees. This conference agreement dramatically revises a 75-year-old statute that was crafted by labor-management cooperation and should not be changed without the agreement of both employer and employee representatives.

There is no reason for these provisions to be included in this bill other than the majority's desire to attack American workers' right to organize at every opportunity they get. This bill should not seek to change three-quarters of a century's worth of labor protections. The FAA reauthorization is not the place to rewrite federal labor law. And I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing it.

HONORING CHERYL McCLENNEY-BROOKER AT THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, the Philadelphia arts community is losing a highly talented administrator and dedicated advocate with the retirement in February of Cheryl McClenney-Brooker as Director of External Affairs for the Philadelphia Museum of Art after a remarkable 28 years of service.

Ms. McClenney-Brooker, born, raised, and educated in Chicago, has worked in the cultural field and the museum profession for

more than 40 years. Her professional involvement with arts and culture began in New York City as Curatorial Coordinator at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum from 1970 to 1974, then two year stints as Assistant Director of the Museums Collaborative Cultural Voucher Program and Assistant Commissioner of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. She moved to Washington D.C. to serve for five years as Director of Humanities Projects in Museums and Historical Organizations at the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Then in 1983 Ms. McClenney-Brooker arrived on the scene of Philadelphia, the city of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection, to begin this most notable stage of her career at the Philadelphia Museum of Art—and seemingly everywhere in the cultural community. She has shown a special gift for leadership and inspiration in African American and Multicultural arts and culture, both in Philadelphia and as a roving ambassador around the world.

Here's just a sampling: Ms. McClenney-Brooker is a member of the boards of directors of Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania, African American Museum in Philadelphia, Multicultural Affairs Congress of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, Philadelphia Commission on African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs, and The Jonathan Phillip Ford Memorial Foundation for Bipolar Disorder Awareness. She was Co-Founder and, from 1990 to 2005, Chair of the City-wide Philadelphia World AIDS Day/Day Without Art observance. She has served on federal, State and municipal funding panels, corporate and foundation funding committees, and works with several national, State, and local professional and community groups.

Ms. McClenney-Brooker's honors include: a National Scholastic Art Magazine scholarship to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; International Council of Museums' travel grant to Europe; Partners of the Americas' museum travel grant to Brazil; Leadership Pennsylvania Certificate; African American Women of Achievement Award from the African American Museum in Philadelphia; Individual Achievement Award for Arts Administration from the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations; and the Share the Heritage Award from the Multicultural Affairs Congress of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau.

One thing we know for sure about this tireless and selfless lady: As she transitions to "official" retirement with her husband, artist and art professor Moe Brooker, with the love of daughters Misha and Musa Brooker, she will simply have more time and energy to devote to the arts and culture projects that have consumed her life. I ask my colleagues in this House to join me in wishing good health, good times, and a productive "retirement" to Cheryl McClenney-Brooker.

RECOGNIZING MR. JAMES P. FALCONE FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. James P. Falcone of