

and many of the government's policy decisions have not improved conditions. We look for actions the House Small Business Committee can take to reduce burdensome rules and regulations that will help small business gain faster access to credit, reduce bureaucratic oversight, and promote a tax structure that encourages small businesses to grow in both revenue and employment. Small business is the cornerstone of the great American success story where personal sacrifice can lead to a better life for all the citizens of America.

With Respect,

STEPHANIE RUMFORD.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, due to the birth of my daughter's first child, my first grandchild, I was unable to be in Washington, DC for votes on Thursday afternoon and Friday, September 13 and 14, 2012. Had I been present for votes those days, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 576: I would have voted in favor of the Van Hollen motion to recommit with instructions, legislation that would eliminate sequestration entirely, provided that subsequent deficit reduction is enacted that equals or exceeds sequestration's deficit reduction over 10 years. The Motion would also provide that such subsequent deficit reduction legislation be balanced by requiring upper income taxpayers pay their fair share, protecting middle class tax cuts, and including targeted spending cuts.

Rollcall vote 577: I would have voted against H.R. 6365 that would irresponsibly have offered a cuts-only approach to deficit reduction and placed the enormous burden of those cuts solely on the non-defense discretionary budget and, by extension, squarely on the backs of the most vulnerable.

Rollcall vote 578: I would have voted in favor of the Barber motion to recommit that would add a provision to the bill that extends the funding for Military, Reserve, and National Guard personnel for the full fiscal year, as well as extending coverage of disability examinations and the treatment and additional services for homeless and mentally ill veterans.

Rollcall vote 579: Despite certain reservations, I would have voted in favor of H.J. Res. 117—Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2013 to continue funding the government's operations for six additional months.

Rollcall vote 580: I would have voted in favor of S. 3245 bill to extend by 3 years the authorization of the EB-5 Regional Center Program, the E-Verify Program, the Special Immigrant Nonminister Religious Worker Program, and the Conrad State 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program.

Rollcall vote 581: I would have voted in favor of the DeGette Amendment to make changes to the findings section of the bill, demonstrating that the loan restructuring complied with the law and highlighting that the projects funded to date are expected to create 60,000 jobs.

Rollcall vote 582: I would have voted in favor of the Waxman Amendment allowing the program to continue to provide financing to innovative energy projects.

Rollcall vote 583: I would have voted in favor of the Motion to Recommit, which would require that 75 percent of any materials used in projects receiving funding under the Incentives for Innovative Technologies program be produced in the United States. In addition, the Motion to Recommit would require the enactment of H.R. 6213 to be contingent on extension of the Production Tax Credit, which would further stimulate the clean energy economy.

Rollcall vote 584: I would have voted against H.R. 6213, the No More Solyndras Act, which arbitrarily picks winners and losers in the alternative energy field. By setting a cut-off date of December 30, 2011, House Republicans are prioritizing older technologies—those most likely to fail—at the expense of newer, more innovative projects.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for one vote in the House of Representatives on Thursday afternoon (September 13).

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 575—H.R. 1775—Stolen Valor Act of 2011.

HONORING MARSHALLS DISTRIBUTION CENTER

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas, we encourage viable businesses in our community to provide our citizens with the goods and services they need to survive and thrive; and

Whereas, in 1982, Marshalls Distribution Center set up shop in Decatur, Georgia to serve the citizens of DeKalb County, Georgia and communities far and near; and

Whereas, the lives of thousands have been touched by this good corporate citizen which is an active partner in the community; and

Whereas, Marshalls Distribution Center continues to be a resource for citizens in DeKalb County with excellent service, providing employment opportunities and providing products that contribute to the local and national economies; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia is officially honoring and congratulating Marshalls Distribution Center on their 30th Anniversary as a business anchor in our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim September 14, 2012 as Marshalls Distribution Center Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 14th day of September, 2012.

A TRIBUTE TO IOWA'S RED BULLS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Iowa National Guard's own Red Bulls for being awarded the Citizen Patriot Unit Award by the U.S. Department of Defense. The Citizen Patriot Award for Distinguished Service is a prestigious award that is given annually to only one individual and one military unit across the entire Department of Defense.

The Iowa National Guard's Red Bulls, formally known as the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, set themselves above the rest through their substantial contributions to the security and defense of the nation while serving in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Red Bulls have a storied history as some of the most dependable soldiers in the Army, and the Citizen Patriot Award truly reflects the nation's gratitude for what they have accomplished together.

In July 2010, the Red Bulls' unit departed Iowa in one of the largest single deployments since World War II. After arriving in Afghanistan in November of that year, Task Force Red Bulls conducted comprehensive counter insurgency operations and also partnered with the Afghan National Security Forces. These men achieved the mission goals they were assigned at the highest possible standard amidst the painful loss of four servicemembers who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Sergeant Brent M. Maher of Honey Creek, Specialist Donald L. Nichols of Shell Rock, Staff Sergeant James A. Justice of Grimes, and Sergeant 1st Class Terry L. Pasker of Cedar Rapids are Iowan heroes who will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I am in awe of the Red Bulls' commitment and sacrifices in order to make our country safer. Each and every member of this elite unit represents the best of Iowa's work ethic and patriotism. They make me proud to be an Iowan, and I thank them from the bottom of my heart. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating the Red Bulls on attaining the Citizen Patriot Unit Award and welcoming them home. We will forever appreciate their extraordinary service.

HONORING VIRGINIA CHAMBLEE'S 40 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Virginia Chamblee for her 40 years of service as a City of Bedford employee. It is an honor for me to celebrate Ms. Chamblee's remarkable career with my fellow colleagues in Congress.

Virginia Chamblee began her career with the City of Bedford on May 5, 1972, working at the city library. In 1982, the City of Bedford opened a new senior center located at 2819 R.D. Hurt Parkway. Prior to the opening of the senior center, the Bedford city leadership

deemed her as a perfect fit as the center's supervisor. On July 1, 1982, Ms. Chamblee transitioned into the center supervisor role, and on October 17, 1982, the center opened under her care and guidance.

Virginia Chamblee established programs that have become senior center traditions. In the first week of the center's opening, the Monday Night Dance was established where it has continued to this day. Likewise, the Christmas Luncheon began in 1982 and has developed into one of the largest North Texas senior community pot luck lunches. Another notable tradition from the opening year was the weekly jam sessions, which began as music lessons but developed into a community orchestra of nearly 20 members.

Virginia Chamblee has spent the majority her life serving her community. Throughout her distinguished career, she has been a dedicated and conscientious employee who has always championed seniors. She is known for her kindness, gentle spirit, and willingness to listen to any problem and extend a helping hand.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring Virginia Chamblee for her 40 years of public service with the City of Bedford.

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES OF
THE OFFICERS AND THE INSPECTOR
GENERAL OF THE U.S.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
THE HOUSE AND RECIPIENTS OF
THE HOUSE EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGEN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize outstanding employees of the Officers (Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer) and the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives who have reached the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the recipients of the House Employee Excellence Award.

The House's most important asset is its dedicated and exceptional employees, whose work, often behind the scenes, is vital in keeping the operations and services of the House running smoothly and efficiently. The employees we recognize today are acknowledged and commended for their hard work, dedication, professionalism, support of House Members, their staffs and constituents, and for their contributions day-in and day-out to the overall operations of the House. These employees have a wide range of responsibilities that support the legislative process, ensure the security of the institution, maintain our technology and service infrastructure, and contribute to a more effective and efficiently operating House support structure. They have accomplished many great things in a wide range of activities, and the House of Representatives and its Members, staff, and the general public, are better served because of them.

We honor the individuals named below for 25 years of dedicated service to the House.

Collectively, this group has provided four hundred and twenty-five (425) years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives:

Kevin M. Allison, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Harold Blakney, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Thomas H. Blatnik, Office of the Sergeant at Arms

Clarence G. Butler, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

David Carreiro, Office of the Clerk

Darren Dahlstrom, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Scott Derrick, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Kelda Y. Dunklin, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Wesley D. Jones, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Kent Kahler, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Kevin S. Kelley, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Ronald M. Mullvain, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Sandra Q. Pilkerton, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Deborah M. Robertson, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Joe T. Taylor, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Kimberly von Harders, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Richard E. Wright, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

We also recognize and congratulate four House employees for receiving the Employee Excellence Award. This is a merit-based award, given to one employee from each House Officer organization, and the Office of Inspector General. Selected employees exhibited outstanding overall job performance and displayed a willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty throughout the last year. We honor the individuals named below for receiving this prestigious award.

Monica Barnabae, Paige Beatty, and The HRCCC Staff, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Stefan J. Bieret, Office of the Sergeant at Arms

Charles M. McGee, Office of the Clerk

Joseph C. Picolla, Office of Inspector General

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations and once again recognize and thank these employees for their professionalism and commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and in particular to their respective House Officers and the Inspector General. Their long hours and hard work are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service, dedication, and commitment to the House set an example for their colleagues and other employees who will follow in their footsteps. I celebrate our honorees, and I am proud to stand before you and the nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

NATIONAL SECURITY AND JOB
PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the so-called National Security and Jobs Protection Act. This legislation is another attempt by House Republicans to force severe spending cuts that would harm middle class families, while protecting tax breaks for millionaires.

This bill is an election year talking point, not a genuine solution to preventing massive across-the-board budget cuts looming in January 2013. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office determined this legislation would do nothing to prevent budget sequestration. H.R. 6365 cannot take effect unless a separate bill implementing the policies of the House Republican Budget becomes law. The House Republican Budget turns Medicare into a voucher program, runs deficits for 29 years, provides trillions of dollars in additional tax cuts to millionaires and billionaires, and forces layoffs for thousands of police officers, firefighters, and teachers. President Obama and the Democratic Senate would never impose such a radical and destructive plan on America's families and communities.

The American people should be thankful H.R. 6365 will never become law, since it embodies the same flawed policies as the House Republican Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Resolution. It seeks to replace the budget sequester House Republicans originally supported with cuts to America's women, children, seniors, and middle class families. H.R. 6365 insulates the Defense Department from spending reductions even though the Pentagon's budget doubled over the past decade and the war in Iraq is over. H.R. 6365 refuses to ask millionaires and billionaires to share the sacrifices it demands of middle class families.

The budget sequester must be prevented from taking effect. House Democrats are ready to compromise and vote to replace the sequester with a balanced deficit reduction plan that includes a combination of spending reductions and revenue increases. Every mainstream economist agrees this is the only approach that will reduce long-term deficits and avoid plunging the economy back into recession. Regrettably, the bill on the floor today chooses ideology over compromise and prolongs the wait for the solutions our economy needs to grow and create jobs.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 6365.

HONORING CARLA LAEMMLE ON
HER 103RD BIRTHDAY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise in recognition of Carla Laemmle on the occasion of her 103rd birthday.

Carla is the niece of Carl Laemmle, who founded Universal Studios. She grew up on the Universal Studios lot in the early days of