

Association began raising its own trout at a location that is today one of the oldest, continuously operating Cooperative Trout Nurseries of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, raising and stocking over 3,000 trout annually.

Today, the West Chester Fish, Game and Wildlife Association is engaged in numerous enterprises, including conducting an annual Hunter and Trapper Safety Course, extensive stream restoration projects, fishing rodeos, establishing and maintaining a local nature center, and awarding the annual R. David Heller Scholarship to a local student. Through these efforts, the Association and its nearly 400 members, continues to be responsible stewards of the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the West Chester Fish, Game and Wildlife Association and its remarkable history on the occasion of its 75th anniversary and to extend best wishes on its continued prosperity and longevity.

BISHOP GEORGE EDWARD BATTLE,  
JR.

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Bishop George Edward Battle, Jr. on his installment as Chair of the Board of Trustees for Livingstone College. Bishop Battle's lifelong leadership made to communities throughout North Carolina and to Livingstone College makes him uniquely qualified to serve in this capacity.

A native of Rocky Mount, NC, Bishop Battle is himself a graduate of Livingstone College, where he earned his bachelor's degree. He holds a Master of Divinity from Hood Theological Seminary, and earned a Doctor of Ministry from Howard University in Washington, DC.

By profession, Bishop Battle is a premier pastor within the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Presently, he serves as Senior Bishop of the A.M.E. Zion Church and as Presiding Prelate of the Piedmont Episcopal District, which includes several North Carolina jurisdictions. In addition, Bishop Battle is herald as a community advocate and leader in the fields of education, business, and public activism.

After more than 40 years of community service, Bishop Battle's accolades are too numerous to name. He has garnered dozens of awards for his tireless work with children, young people, and in grassroots political engagement. His management, educational leadership, and commitment to community will without question benefit the Livingstone College community.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons and more, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bishop George Edward Battle, Jr. on his appointment as Chair of Livingstone Board of Trustees.

H.R. 3409

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today the House is voting on H.R. 3409, the so-called "Stop the War on Coal" bill. I am strongly opposed to this legislation and joined many of my colleagues in voting against it, because it endangers our environment, the public's health, and the stability of the American auto industry.

While this bill is about much more than just coal, I want to take a moment to be clear about my position on coal: it is an energy source from our past, not for our future. We must reduce our reliance on coal for generating electricity at home and abroad. I have long been fighting to protect and strengthen the Clean Air Act.

Predictable enforcement of the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act helps protect our health, keep our air and water clean, and provides regulatory certainty to American businesses. As countries around the world strengthen their environmental protections, it is concerning to watch the United States move backwards. Not only does this bill restrict the Environmental Protection Agency's power to protect public health, but it changes the regulatory process to blatantly prioritize profits over human health. It also rolls back an industry-negotiated agreement to strengthen tailpipe emission standards.

I supported many of the attempts to improve this bill, including an amendment to implement a renewable energy standard, an amendment to require a study on the public health impacts of coal dust, and an amendment to allow the Environmental Protection Agency to take action under the Clean Air Act when such action would reduce our reliance on oil. Unfortunately, the Republican majority defeated all of these commonsense amendments.

We find ourselves in this debate due to the lack of comprehensive national policies on energy and global warming. The actions we should take now would help us move forward into the clean energy economy; instead of focusing on the past. We should lead by example and enforce the Clean Air Act against older, inefficient plants to make them clean up or shut down. We should enforce the Clean Water Act to restrict or shut down mountain top removal coal mining. When the economy strengthens, we should enact a carbon tax to discourage the production and export of our carbon pollution. And finally, we should fight for international action global greenhouse gas emissions so that emerging global economies do not destabilize the global climate.

While this bill is upsetting enough on its own, it is particularly frustrating given the work that Congress has failed to do this session. We have yet to address tax reform, the looming budget sequestration, or even the Farm Bill. Instead, Republican leadership has decided to spend this week to vote on policies that we have already voted on several times, and that have no chance of becoming law.

I offered an amendment to strike the language in H.R. 3409 and replace it with broadly supported, bipartisan language to extend the Production Tax Credit. This language would have helped protect tens of thousands of man-

ufacturing jobs across the country, and helped move the United States into the clean energy economy. I am frustrated that we did not have a chance to vote on that important amendment, which would have created jobs in Oregon, strengthened United States manufacturers, and improved our public health and our environment.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEMOCRATIC AND PROSPEROUS REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

SPEECH OF

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 19, 2012*

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in favor of H. Res. 526.

The House consideration of H. Res. 526 this week coincides with the final weeks of preparation for the October 1st Parliamentary elections in Georgia. The international community is watching the election closely, and I would like to commend the Georgian government for facilitating both long and short term international election observers to ensure that both the pre-election environment and the election itself is conducted in accordance with international standards.

It is critical that all political parties in Georgia participate constructively in the election process, and that campaign and election laws are followed and applied fairly and transparently. I call on all political forces to accept the election results as legitimate, if deemed so by credible, international election observers.

I believe more must be done to ensure that smaller political parties have access to the main televised media platforms of both the ruling party and opposition. The 'must offer, must carry' provisions passed by the Georgian Parliament are a step in the right direction, and I urge the Parliament to consider making these provisions permanent.

I would like to commend the National Democratic Institute, the International Republican Institute and the OSCE for their work with both the Georgian government and opposition to ensure that peaceful, credible elections take place. It is crucial that the Georgian electorate and the international community has confidence in this process, in order for Georgia to continue on its path towards democratic and economic reforms, and continued Euro-Atlantic integration.

Georgia remains a critical ally, and one of the strongest pro-western countries which has proven itself immensely capable in Afghanistan and other conflict zones, currently as the largest non-NATO troop contributing nation to ISAF.

NATO allies agreed at the recent summit in Chicago to enhance Georgia's connectivity with the Alliance. Georgia's ability to build on reforms made to date to foster greater political competition, labor rights and judicial independence will be an opportunity for Georgia to prove itself when measured by international standards. Georgia's NATO aspirations will be facilitated by the ability to meet those standards and conduct free, fair and inclusive elections in 2012 and 2013.

I commend the Georgian government's progress on transparency and the fight against

corruption, as well as political, economic and judicial reforms, and encourage Georgia to continue this modernization process regardless of the election results.

I encourage my colleagues to support H. Res. 526 in order to strengthen U.S. engagement with the Republic of Georgia by helping Georgia to enhance its security and restore its territorial integrity through peaceful means, and supporting the Government of Georgia's commitment to a policy of peaceful and constructive engagement with the authorities in control of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

#### STOP THE WAR ON COAL ACT PRESS CONFERENCE

#### HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, "When the work underground stops, everything above pays the price."

That solemn observation was made by a TV reporter one week ago in Boone County, West Virginia.

News was breaking that two local coal mines were soon going to be laying off workers—one preparing to layoff 116 miners in a matter of weeks.

On Tuesday this week, we learned of Alpha Natural Resources will be closing 8 mines and laying off 1200 workers.

I met with the Alpha CEO shortly after the announcement, and he lamented the administration's regulatory assault on coal.

Sadly, the list of layoffs goes on because of the administration's "all of the above, but nothing from below" energy policy.

Coal is the cornerstone of our economy—estimates suggest that every mining job creates an additional 3.5 jobs.

We are electricity dependent—and we want to stay that way.

Coal is Abundant. Coal is Affordable. Coal is Reliable. Coal is Jobs.

Today, the House will stand up for jobs, families, and affordable energy.

We must Stop the War on Coal.

#### COMMEMORATING TAIWAN'S COMMITMENT TO PEACE

#### HON. DAVID RIVERA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. RIVERA. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I rise today to draw attention to the increasing conflict in the East China Sea and to reiterate the necessity to remain involved in the region given the growing security threats and challenges to U.S. interests.

In light of the latest controversies in the East China Sea and the Diaoyutai Islands, President Ma Ying-jeou of the Republic of China (Taiwan) proposed the East China Sea Peace Initiative in August 2012, which calls on the People's Republic of China, Japan, and Taiwan to resolve the Diaoyutai dispute peacefully.

With respect to the Diaoyutai issue, the government of Taiwan has consistently affirmed

its position of "safeguarding sovereignty, shelving disputes, pursuing peace and reciprocity, and promoting joint exploration and development."

The Diaoyutai Islands are located in the East China Sea, which is an important air and sea transportation hub in the western Pacific, and therefore have clear significance for security and peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

In order to foster regional peace and stability, economic prosperity and the sustainable development of the marine environment, as well as to seek out a path to coexistence and mutual prosperity, the government of Taiwan proposes the East China Sea Peace Initiative and calls on all parties concerned to:

1. Refrain from taking any antagonistic actions;
2. Shelve controversies and not abandon dialogue;
3. Observe international law and resolve disputes through peaceful means;
4. Seek consensus on a code of conduct in the East China Sea;
5. Establish a mechanism for cooperation on exploring and developing resources in the East China Sea.

I believe we must stand with Taiwan, an ally that shares our values of freedom and democracy. I commend the peace initiative proposed by President Ma and recognize Taiwan government's efforts in promoting peace and stability in East Asia.

#### IN HONOR OF MICHAEL LEONE

#### HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Michael (Mike) Leone upon his retirement after nineteen years as the Port Director of Boston at the Massachusetts Port Authority. As Director of the Port of Boston, Mike oversaw the operation and management of the public marine facilities in the Port of Boston, including Conley Container Terminal, Black Falcon Cruise Terminal, Boston Fish Pier, Boston Autoport, Foreign Trade Zones, and other supporting maritime infrastructure.

In addition, Mike lead the way in implementing business and marketing strategies that directly lead to the increase in the volume of cargo and passengers moving over all marine terminals, which generates an annual economic benefit of \$2.5 billion dollars and accounts for over 34,000 jobs. While managing an organization of 120 employees and over 200 members of the International Longshoremen's Association, Mike also directed the operations, maintenance, and security at Massport's commercial properties including nearly 30 acres of public parks, numerous roads, hotels, office buildings, apartments, and marinas.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Leone has also played an important role in the development and operation of Massport properties in and around the South Boston waterfront as that area evolves into a waterfront destination. As Director, Mike was instrumental in turning Boston into a major hub for cruise ship traffic, in part by expanding and modernizing the Black Falcon terminal. In 1998 approximately 106,000

passengers came through the Black Falcon terminal; today, the number of passengers is on track to set a new record of roughly 350,000 this year.

During the course of his time at Massport, Mike was a leader of the American Association of Port Authority (AAPA). AAPA is the principal advocate of 160 public port authorities in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Mike first served as Chairman of the Board for the AAPA in 2003 and was elected again as Chairman of the Board in 2009, becoming the first person in the Association's 97 year history to serve for a second term.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Leone also proudly served in the United States Coast Guard, leading a team of attorneys that provided legal advice and counsel to all Coast Guard commands in New England, New York, and New Jersey. Ultimately, Mike was appointed as the deputy regional counsel for the Coast Guard's Great Lakes operations and also served as Chief Operating Officer for all Coast Guard activities in the Port of New York, Hudson River, and Lake Champlain.

Mr. Leone is a graduate of The National Law Center at George Washington University, where he received his Juris Doctor with Honors. He attended the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Management with Honors.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents and a grateful maritime association, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of a true public servant who selflessly dedicated his life to the service of our country and equally important as a key figure in maritime security and operations.

I cannot thank him enough for everything he has done to protect our Nation's waterways and the millions of Americans who live, work, and visit them every day. This Congress and our Nation owe Mike a debt of gratitude for his commitment to maritime security and his leadership at the Massachusetts Port Authority.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, on September 14, 2012, I unfortunately missed one recorded vote on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 582.

#### PRESIDENT PETER J. FOS

#### HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the continued achievements of President Peter J. Fos, a native of my hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana. Today, I wish to congratulate President Fos on his appointment as the sixth leader and the first President in the history of the University of New Orleans in