

ultimately triumph in Libya and we honor his memory by standing steadfast with them in their democratic journey.

RECOGNIZING DR. KAIGHAM J. GABRIEL

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Dr. Kaigham J. Gabriel on the occasion of his departure as Acting Director of the Department of Defense's (DoD) Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Gabriel on several occasions during his tenure at DARPA and admire his dedication to supporting our men and women in uniform and his commitment to strengthening the technological advantage of our current and future combat forces.

The DARPA mission is clear and concise: to create and prevent strategic surprise for the Nation. In a little less than 3 years as the deputy director and acting director, Dr. Gabriel led the Agency in accomplishing numerous initiatives important to DoD and National Security.

He initiated an advanced manufacturing program designed to counter the increasing time, cost, and risk of producing complex defense systems by shortening the timeline from conception to fielding of weapons and defenses. He oversaw the development of a hypersonic test vehicle that flew at Mach 20, the fastest high lift-to-drag ratio aircraft ever built and one that will be instrumental in our Nation's capabilities in the future. We now have 3 minutes of fully aerodynamically controlled flight at Mach 20, which yielded more aerodynamic and test measurement data than had been collected in ground tests during the previous 40 years.

Dr. Gabriel also directed DARPA's innovative talents to improve the welfare of our brave men and women in uniform who suffered severe injuries in theater before returning home. The Agency's prosthetics research has pioneered a new generation of artificial limbs. I witnessed, for example, a veteran using an artificial hand so adroitly that he was able to pluck a single grape from a large cluster. In addition, in less than a year's time, DARPA's team researched, developed, built, and deployed wristwatch-size blast gauges that detect and record overpressure blast exposure—data critical to the early diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injury for our troops deployed abroad.

Dr. Gabriel helped the Agency create a forward cell in Afghanistan to support technology deployment efforts. This included a 90-day "Skunk Works" activity that brought together some of the country's best computer and social scientists, counterinsurgency experts, economists and analysts. The team deployed to Afghanistan within a month of being tasked to aid the war effort. Dr. Gabriel also oversaw the fielding of a wide-area, high-definition, off-nadir light detection and ranging collection system to provide much-needed 3D map data and systems.

To ensure that our nation's resources are being directed in the most appropriate areas, Dr. Gabriel oversaw the development of sev-

eral analytic frameworks that guided DARPA's investments toward areas revealed to be most divergent with existing threats to the country's security. The cyber analytic framework, in particular, highlighted the need to undertake some new and innovative approaches in defensive cybersecurity, and DARPA was the first DoD organization to address openly the need for an offensive cyber strategy.

In today's fiscally constrained environment, Dr. Gabriel insisted on financial accountability and solid business practices. During his tenure, DARPA's obligation rate was 21 points higher than the previous 5-year average, translating into more than \$600 million in the performer community, working for DoD and the Nation.

Dr. Gabriel would be the first to tell us that none of this would have been possible were it not for the incredible talent at DARPA. In our conversations, he has emphasized to me that the personnel are the lifeblood of the Agency, and he has helped to recruit the nation's best talent from academia, industry, nonprofits, the Services, and laboratories to serve our Nation.

On behalf of the House of Representatives and the United States of America, I thank Dr. Kaigham Gabriel for his service to our country, his significant contribution to the defense of our Nation, and his leadership in advancing what is necessary for America to prevent and create strategic surprise. I know my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and in both houses of Congress, join me in sending our best wishes in his next endeavor.

CONGRATULATING THE HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF METRO ORLANDO, RECIPIENT OF THE 2012 HISPANIC CHAMBER OF THE YEAR

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando for recently being named the 2012 Hispanic Chamber of the Year by the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Since 1993, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando has been dedicated to their mission of providing leadership and support to the Hispanic business community in Central Florida.

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando is a non-profit organization representing over 1,200 members and serving Hispanic business owners and enterprises across Central Florida. Among the 200 members of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce that were eligible for nomination and honor, the national organization presented the award to the Metro Orlando Chamber on the basis of their outstanding leadership, accomplishments and quality of service to enhance the economic development of Central Florida's Hispanic business community. This national honor is awarded annually to one Hispanic Chamber of Commerce that has excelled at strengthening business excellence in their community.

This is not the first time that the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando has been recognized for their commitment to serv-

ing Hispanic enterprises across Central Florida. The Metro Orlando Chamber has been chosen and honored seven prior times by the National Chamber for their standards of excellence to support, promote and strengthen the Hispanic business community.

The excellence with which the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando serves Central Florida's Hispanic business community and enterprises is evident from their many recognitions. I am pleased to congratulate them on being named the 2012 Hispanic Chamber of the Year.

CUMBERLAND VALLEY ATHLETIC CLUB

**HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, in November of this year, the members of the Cumberland Valley Athletic Club will once again answer President John F. Kennedy's challenge to promote national physical fitness and hold the 50th annual JFK 50 Mile run.

This run also answered another President's challenge; Theodore Roosevelt issued an executive order to challenge the United States Marine Officers to run 50 miles in 20 hours; The JFK 50 Mile run, the nation's oldest ultra marathon attracts 2000 runners and thousands more to cheer on the participants to one of the most beautiful parts of the sixth district of Maryland, Washington County.

At the inception of the JFK 50 Mile, all members of the United States Armed Forces have always been welcome and have met this challenge by former Presidents Kennedy and Roosevelt over this historic course marked by the history of the Nation over the Appalachian Trail and the C & O Canal passing over hallowed ground near Crampton's Gap, Maryland, Weaverton Cliffs, Maryland, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and Antietam Battlefield.

On the 50th Anniversary of the JFK 50 Mile run, I would like to send our best wishes for another successful run to the Cumberland Valley Athletic Club and those members who make this event one of the premiere athletic events in the nation.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)  
NATIONAL DAY

**HON. LARRY BUCSHON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of the Republic of China (Taiwan) on their upcoming National Day on October 10th. Taiwan has always been one of the most loyal friends and allies of the United States. Over the last few decades, the relationship between the United States and Taiwan has grown into a strong. Taiwan's cooperation with the United States in fighting global terrorism has earned the trust of the American people and boosted exchanges and friendship between our two nations. Such robust relations also extend to trade and Taiwan's military needs. A strong

Taipei-Washington relationship is in the best interests of both and the stability of East Asia. This year, we celebrated the 33rd anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, the cornerstone of our relations with Taiwan.

Furthermore, Taiwan has been an important trading partner of the U.S. Its imports of U.S. products and services have created thousands of job opportunities for our people. Many more thousands of Taiwanese students study at U.S. colleges and universities and Taiwanese tourists choose the United States as their number one overseas destination, outside of destinations in Asia. For all these and other reasons, we thank the Taiwanese people for their friendship and close ties to us.

Hoosier's of the 8th District also have an important, mutually benefiting relationship. Indiana exported products worth nearly \$220 million last year, making Taiwan the 21st largest importer of Hoosier-made goods. As of 2011, Taiwan intends to purchase \$4 billion worth of soybean and corn from Indiana; benefiting Hoosier farmers in one Indiana's most important industries, agriculture.

Additionally, Hoosier businesses such as Eli Lilly, the world's biggest producer of psychiatric medications, and Cummins Engine, the world's largest producer of diesel technology, both have operations in Taiwan. I am pleased to see discussions with Taiwan have recently resumed in the hopes of producing a free trade agreement between our two countries.

On Republic of China (Taiwan)'s forthcoming National Day on October 10th, 2012, I hope our relations with Taiwan will continue to grow and flourish.

May U.S.-Taiwan relations remain strong forever. Congratulations.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT PAUL ATKINSON OF MARBLEHEAD, MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sergeant Paul Atkinson of Marblehead, Massachusetts, for his efforts to assist hundreds of orphans in Afghanistan while serving with the Massachusetts National Guard.

It was brought to my attention by a fellow resident of Marblehead, Mark Brings, and highlighted in an article published in the Salem News, that while stationed as a sergeant in charge of maintenance at Camp Phoenix in Afghanistan, Sergeant Atkinson secured the delivery of hundreds of mattresses and bed frames to two orphanages in Afghanistan which care for more than 700 children.

The efforts of Sergeant Atkinson extended from Afghanistan to Marblehead where local residents, including Mark Brings and his family and Sergeant Atkinson's wife, Maria, worked to collect, clean and deliver hundreds of sheets and blankets to the orphanages.

I am pleased to recognize Sergeant Atkinson and the members of the community for volunteering their time providing these critical items to children in need, and I thank Ser-

geant Atkinson and all the members of our Nation's armed forces for their service to the country.

CONGRATULATING JENNIFER POTTER ON HER RETIREMENT

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Jennifer Potter, the President and CEO of the Initiative for Global Development (IGD), on her retirement.

Jennifer has been with IGD since its creation in 2003, helping the organization achieve its goal to reduce global poverty through advancing business growth and investment. During her tenure at IGD, the Seattle-based group grew from an idea to a widely recognized international organization.

Under Jennifer's leadership, IGD has successfully leveraged millions of dollars in investments for the developing world and changed the way governments and businesses engage for the better. Her commitment has opened up the door for employment opportunities and increased market access for developing communities around the world.

Her inspirational drive and vision will be difficult to replace, as her efforts to achieve large-scale poverty reduction will be remembered and appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate Jennifer Potter on her retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF NEMOURS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL TO ADDRESS CHILDHOOD OBESITY

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize that September is National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. Childhood obesity is increasingly becoming a national issue, affecting children ages 6 to 11. Recent studies indicate that more than one-third of America's children and adolescents are overweight. Childhood obesity has been linked to earlier and increased risks that the child will develop conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and even cancer. National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month is an important opportunity to highlight the progress that has been made thus far, as well as to inspire continued efforts toward building a better future for the next generation.

In order to address these growing issues, children's hospitals across the nation have made it a priority to educate families about the importance of a healthy diet and fitness routine, and highlight the consequences if proper nutrition is disregarded. I am pleased to acknowledge that in October 2012, Central Florida will welcome a new pediatric care hospital,

Nemours Children's Hospital. Nemours is a non-profit children's medical hospital devoted to the advancement of pediatric healthcare and research. Nemours Children's Hospital has created the "Center for Integrative Pediatric Obesity Care" to help research and prevent childhood obesity. Not only does this Center conduct research and provide medical care to obese and overweight children, but they also plan to engage in community outreach programs to help parents and caregivers create healthier environments for children.

The community and families of Central Florida are blessed to have a committed pediatric medical center such as Nemours. I commend Nemours Children's Hospital and children's hospitals across the nation for the measures they are undertaking to combat obesity and strengthen the future of America's children.

PROHIBITING USE OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR PARTY CONVENTIONS

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 19, 2012*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5912. This is a misguided bill that repeals public financing of our national political conventions and allows moneyed special-interests to complete their corporate buyout of America's electoral process.

Public financing of both Democratic and Republican conventions, created in 1976 following the Watergate scandal, was designed to establish a safeguard against corruption in the political system by reducing the emphasis on fundraising in presidential campaigns and diminishing the influence of wealthy special interests. In recent years, the need to modernize the system for today's campaign environment has become evident, but the system remains as critical as ever to the integrity of our democracy—especially in the wake of the Supreme Court's Citizens United vs. FEC ruling.

The disastrous Citizens United decision that unleashed nearly a billion dollars of corporate funding into the Presidential race has demonstrated how essential it is to restore and uphold the integrity of our elections. Passage of H.R. 5912 would only serve to further undermine this integrity by enabling secretive Super PACs and billionaires to take full control of our political conventions, a critical component of America's electoral process. Furthermore, public financing plays a vital role in helping state and local governments offset the costs associated with hosting national political conventions. These costs may include property taxes, parking accommodations, and local law enforcement funding. H.R. 5912 is unfair to the municipalities that have the honor of hosting these important national events.

The financing system for political conventions must be repaired, not repealed, to better serve the interests of the American people and protect against corruption.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.