

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.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
CALEB GOODWYN

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, as a United States Representative, I have a duty to effectively serve the people in my constituency to the best of my ability. In this mission, it has always been my good fortune to be surrounded by a dedicated staff in both Washington and Alabama that has put service to the public as its first cause.

As the District Director in my Birmingham office, Caleb Goodwyn has provided outstanding service as my “eyes and ears” in the 6th District. As Caleb prepares to depart for an exciting new professional opportunity, I want to take this time to thank him for his work on my behalf and on behalf of the people of Alabama.

As I have often said, staff members are public servants every bit as much as those who have been elected. During the past five and a half years, Caleb Goodwyn has represented my office with consummate skill, professionalism, and loyalty. He has been a trusted liaison between my Federal office and mayors and local and State government officials, the business community, law enforcement and fire officials, the nonprofit sector, and the citizens who call my office every day in search of assistance. Caleb’s approach has always been to listen and work towards thoughtful solutions to problems.

Caleb is at his best when the issues are the most challenging. He provided poised leadership in my Birmingham office during the response to the devastating tornadoes of April 27, 2011, and has worked with multiple stakeholders on important transportation improvements, economic development for our communities, and the construction of the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo, to name just a few.

Caleb has also generously given his time and support to many charitable endeavors, including the “Three Hots and a Cot” project for homeless veterans in Birmingham.

A native of Jasper, Caleb is a graduate of Sewanee: The University of the South and the University of Alabama. Prior to joining my office, Caleb gained valuable experience in the Office of Governor Bob Riley.

In his new responsibilities with the PowerSouth Energy Cooperative in Montgomery, Caleb will continue to be heavily involved with local and State economic development. The policy knowledge, experience and relationships that he will bring to his position will help promote economic opportunity for the people of Alabama.

It is my pleasure to wish Caleb and his lovely wife Elizabeth all the best as they begin this new adventure in their lives and to thank him for his diligent service to my congressional office and to the citizens of his home State of Alabama.

AFFORDABLE HOME HEALTH CARE

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, states across the Nation are reducing their health care costs by doing something that makes a lot of fiscal and common sense: they are making it easier for seniors to receive care where they most want to be—in their homes. Washington should take notice. Instead of making it more difficult for home health care providers to operate, the Federal Government should strive to make these services more accessible to all seniors. After all, home health care is clinically advanced, cost effective, and, most importantly, patient preferred.

Take my home State of Ohio as an example. Under Governor John Kasich’s leadership, Ohio has significantly increased seniors’ access to home health care—and, according to analysis by Miami University’s Scripps Gerontology Center, the State is saving half a billion dollars a year as a result.

I think Governor Kasich put it best when he said, that he could not, “think of anything more important to a senior than to be able to stay in their home with assistance, rather than being put in a facility that they are not comfortable with.” The Governor is right.

Mr. Speaker, as is usually the case, States are leading the way with low-cost, high-quality home health care. They are forging ahead with policies that not only save money, but deliver a better quality of life for our seniors. Making at home health care more accessible for seniors is a win-win for my State, and Washington would be wise to follow.

RECOGNIZING HONOR FLIGHT
CENTRAL FLORIDA

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, in honor of America’s World War II veterans, the Honor Flight Network conducts several Honor Flights year round to Washington, D.C. in order to provide our nation’s heroes a day to visit and reflect at their World War II Memorial. I am pleased to recognize that on October 7, 2012, an Honor Flight will take place to honor the World War II veterans of Central Florida.

Honor Flight Central Florida was established on August 27th, 2011, and held their first flight on June 9th, 2012. The philosophy of the Honor Flight Network is that America felt it was important to honor veterans with dedicated memorials, and it should be equally important that those veterans get to see and experience their memorial. As a way to express appreciation and thanks for their service to our country, the veterans are able to fly with Honor Flight at no personal expense. Honor Flight Central Florida has 27 World War II veterans that will be flown to Washington, D.C. this October to see their memorial on the National Mall.

We honor the brave men and women whose dedication to our great nation protected our freedom during perilous times. Among the courageous heroes of Honor Flight Central Florida in October are Chief Master Sergeant Melvin Jenner, USAAC–USAF; Private Joyce Geier, USAF–WAC; Corporal Eugene Hatley, USAF; Lieutenant Colonel James Krajicek, USAF; Private 1st Class Stanley Shader, Army; Sergeant George Focht, Army Air Corp; Sergeant Robert Thomson, Army Air Corp; Private 1st Class Arthur Lehmann, Army; Private Nicholas Liverani, USMC; Petty Officer 2nd Class Julia Kelly, USN Waves; Petty Officer 2nd Class Gerald Langella, USN; Petty Officer 3rd Class Gene Gray, USN; Ranger Francis Coughlin, Army; Major Samuel Holland, Army; Ensign Donald Voorhees, USN; Corporal Kenneth Shappell, USAF; Staff Sergeant Thomas Sparks, Army; Staff Sergeant Charles Andresakes, Army; Lieutenant Colonel Frank Brown, USAF; Petty Officer 2nd Class John Franklin, USN; Private 1st Class Charles P. Hearn, Army; Petty Officer 2nd Class William Hancock, Jr., USN; Aviation Petty Officer 3rd Class John Nelson, Navy Air Corp; Petty Officer 1st Class Charles Berkmeier, USN; Corporal Andrew Kunkel, Army; Petty Officer 3rd Class Russell Smith, USN; and James Moore, USN. The selflessness by which they voluntarily served and put their lives on the line for our safety and security is inspiring.

It is my distinct pleasure, as a representative of the people of Central Florida, to recognize the honor, courage, and commitment of these heroes, along with all members of America’s armed forces. I thank them for their dedication and service to this country.

IN HONOR OF THE BUCKS-MONT
CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE REMODELING
INDUSTRY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bucks-Mont Chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry for their service to the local community.

For twenty years, this chapter of NAIR has worked tirelessly to educate and grow successful business while improving the homes of families who need it most.

Over the last decade the men and women of the Bucks-Mont NAIR have put in over 7,334 volunteer man hours. These volunteers have donated their time, as well as the necessary tools and materials for worthwhile causes such as Habitat for Humanity, the New Beginnings Community Church, and the Vietnam Veteran Project.

Throughout its twenty year history, this chapter has showed a continued commitment to serving others who are in need and I am confident that they will continue to do so for years to come.