

In recent years, Tom has witnessed the devastating effects of the prescription drug epidemic in his hometown of Lynch, Kentucky and across our rural region. Rather than quietly standing by, Tom has committed his life to making a difference both as a selfless community leader and a compassionate little league coach.

After earning a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Kentucky, Tom returned to Lynch where he worked in the private sector and served as Mayor for 13 years without taking a salary, due to tight budgets. He is now a Coalition Coordinator for Operation UNITE, a non-profit organization designed to combat substance abuse through law enforcement, treatment and education, serving the Fifth Congressional District of Kentucky. Through his work with UNITE, Tom helps coordinate community anti-drug events and reaches out to families and individuals grappling with addiction on a daily basis.

For the last 34 years, Tom has spent his evenings and weekends coaching little league baseball, a lifelong passion. Tom is more than a successful coach, however. He is also an excellent mentor and role model, encouraging players to stay off drugs, make healthy life choices, and never give up. Tom makes sure that every child gets to play, regardless of talent. All he asks for in return is that they give their best effort on the field. Additionally, Tom organizes free baseball camps for youth and assists with various drug-free programs, including Shoot Hoops Not Drugs and Hooked on Fishing—Not on Drugs. In honor of his contributions to the sport of baseball, Tom received the 2012 Major League Baseball Commissioner's Play Healthy Award through the Partnership at DrugFree.org in conjunction with MLB Charities.

Tom's talents far exceed his boundaries, yet he is determined to help transform his small community and our rural region of southern and eastern Kentucky. As some of those same little league players have grown up, Tom has encountered a few in handcuffs during drug roundups, but his immediate response is to kneel down beside them in prayer, offering words of encouragement. It is his courage of conviction and steadfast resolve to help those in need that drive his unwavering kindred spirit. His message of hope and perseverance in the face of adversity is manifested every day through his tireless effort to encourage the youth of his community to reach for a brighter future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Tom Vicini for receiving the MLB Commissioner's Play Healthy Award, and for his unwavering commitment to the youth of Harlan County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent due to a family emergency on November 29th and November 30th, 2012. As a result, I missed rollcall votes 611, 612, and 613 related to H.R. 6429, the STEM Job Act of 2012. Had I been present, I would have

voted "no" on rollcall vote 611, "yes" on roll call vote 612, and "no" on roll call vote 613.

THE IMPENDING FISCAL CLIFF NEGOTIATIONS AND THE EXTENSION OF TAX CUTS FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as Congress and the President continue to move toward a compromise addressing the "Fiscal Cliff," I support a balanced approach that creates jobs and supports long-term economic growth. A key component of sustained economic growth is the extension of the current tax rates for middle class Americans. Furthermore, I support an approach that boosts the confidence of small business owners and provides them with the certitude they need to meet the demands of a recovering economy. Congress must support an approach that avoids the harmful sequestration spending cuts that may affect nearly every sector of our economy and threaten our economic recovery. It is my hope that my colleagues and I can act as partners in promoting economic fairness that will steer America toward a brighter future.

JESSICA FORD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Jessica Ford had big dreams of becoming a doctor when she was growing up. Like many young girls, Jessica was just trying to find her way in life when she ran away from home. After she ran away, she met a man who made her feel safe. He claimed to have all the answers to her problems. She fell in love. Unfortunately, Jessica didn't realize she was falling in love with a predator.

Unbeknownst to Jessica, her new love identified her as prey and lured her in to his control by taking advantage of her vulnerability. Before she knew what was happening, she was his slave—threatened, raped and forced into prostitution. Her predator sold her for sex in her city and trafficked her in other places. This nightmare—living in slavery—lasted for thirteen years.

Jessica lived in constant fear of the men who owned her during those years. Not only did they steal her childhood, they stole her identity. She was an object to them, sold on an underground market just like any other commodity in demand. The sick reality of this market is best explained by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri Zack: "With selling a girl there's a huge advantage. After you sell a kilo of cocaine, you have to then buy another kilo of cocaine, but you can sell a girl or boy over and over again. It's an incredible renewable resource." Jessica's nightmare didn't start in a third world country; it started right here in Houston, Texas.

Human trafficking is the second largest organized crime business in the world, gener-

ating \$32 billion a year. This dastardly deed occurs all over the world, but most people don't know that it occurs right here in the United States. Unfortunately, Texas has become a hub for human trafficking—in 2007 nearly 1/3 of the calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline came from our state. The many interstates, airports and ports in Houston make our city convenient for traffickers. Trafficking rings operate in places that you see along the streets in our communities, like some massage parlors where women are sold for sex. This modern day slave trade occurs right in our own backyard. It seems like a Hollywood movie, but this is reality.

There are many faces of trafficking victims, but typically the victims are women—both adult and child. In less frequent instances, the victims are men. Some are people who are smuggled here from another country believing they will have a job. Others are vulnerable American children. In many cases, these victims are forced into sex and/or labor trafficking to repay a debt. Sadly, too many of them are treated as criminals and not what they really are—victims of crime.

When I came to Congress, I founded the bipartisan Congressional Victims Rights Caucus. The Caucus works to bring attention to human trafficking. Legislatively, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act has brought about considerable changes in the way that the federal government responds to trafficking and coordination worldwide. We are working towards reauthorizing this important bill.

On the state and local levels, Texas has taken significant steps forward to prevent trafficking, prosecute traffickers, and help victims. In Harris County, Precinct 4 Constable Ron Hickman and County Attorney Vince Ryan have made cracking down on human trafficking a top priority. They're working hard to close illegitimate businesses and arrest and prosecute those exploiting the vulnerable. The biggest challenge we face to battling this crime is the endless demand by customers.

Human Trafficking is modern day slavery. It's a human rights issue. Bringing awareness to the problem is the first step. We must continue to tell stories like Jessica's. Collaboration between federal, state and local governments is also key. Together, we can strengthen penalties for traffickers and buyers. And most importantly, we can't forget that those who have been trafficked are the victims. We must treat them like victims. They need assistance as they recover from servitude and rebuild their lives. Together we can eradicate the scourge of human trafficking. And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF MARIO GUILIO MUSCIANO, SR.

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the beloved Mario Guilio Musciano, Sr. of Somerdale, New Jersey who passed away on Friday, November 23rd, 2012.

Born and raised in Camden, Mr. Musciano's life has been an inspiration to the citizens of South Jersey. As a United States Army veteran, he served with distinction during World

War II, rising to the rank of sergeant as he fought to protect the freedoms that we all, as Americans, cherish. He survived the December 7th attack on Pearl Harbor and has, for over a decade, been an honored speaker at the annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony held aboard the USS *New Jersey*.

A self-employed entrepreneur, Mr. Musciano owned and retired from the Sterling Tile Company of Somerdale, NJ. He was counted a member of both the Lion's Club and the Pearl Harbor Survivors' Club, and was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and brother. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, Mario Guilio Musciano was a great man who exemplified the American spirit. I join the people of Somerdale and all of South Jersey in honoring the life of this exceptional man.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS NEED FOR EMERGENCY ENERGY RELIEF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Virgin Islands Energy Crisis Relief Act of 2012. In January of this year, the HOVENSA Oil Refinery located on St. Croix in my Congressional district the U.S. Virgin Islands, announced that it would cease refinery operations because of the global economic slowdown, the addition of new refining capacity in emerging markets and the current low domestic price of natural gas. This announcement was an economic gut blow to the U.S. Virgin Islands not only because of its overall impact; a potential \$580 million reduction in direct gross economic output and \$92 million in overall government tax revenues beginning in FY 2012; and the direct termination of 2,471 employees and subcontractors which represents 12% of total employment and 27% of average gross pay of the private sector on St. Croix; but because of the crippling threat to energy affordability which inhibits economic growth and sustainability.

The HOVENSA refinery, which was one of the ten largest in the world, provided four percent of its refinery products in the form of gasoline, diesel, jet and propane fuel to the U.S. Virgin Islands. The HOVENSA refinery provided at least 90% of energy for the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority, which received fuel to power the utility at a reduced cost based on the average cost of crude delivered to the refinery or \$2.00 less than the New York harbor landed fuel of the same type. The refinery also supplied most of the territory's gasoline service stations also at a reduced cost. According to VIWAPA, 76% of its costs are for the purchase of fuel. Even so, Virgin Islands residents and businesses pay electric power rates in the range of 44 to 48 cents per kilowatt hour, among the highest energy costs in the nation.

The greatest threat to the Virgin Islands economy and way of life posed by the closing of the HOVENSA refinery is energy afford-

ability. While HOVENSA has agreed to supply fuel to the end of 2012, the Virgin Islands is in need of emergency relief in order to stabilize the cost of water and electricity to its business and residential consumers in the near future. In his 2012 State of the Territory address, Governor John deJongh said: "Without reliable electricity and water there will be no new businesses. Without reliable electricity and water, we will have no economic development, fewer jobs and lower revenues, all contributing to a downward spiral."

In light of the potential for economic catastrophe that currently exists, we are exploring an emergency appropriation for the purpose of stabilizing the economy of the Virgin Islands for a period of time, by subsidizing the cost of fuel, which the utility passes on to the consumer, both residential and business, through a funding mechanism called the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause, known locally as the LEAC.

In recent months, the Government of the Virgin Islands and the utility, the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority, have moved to implement a series of initiatives aimed at stabilizing the energy situation in the territory. They have published an Energy Action Plan that lists the following as its strategy to meeting the islands needs for energy. It includes:

Implementing measures to enhance production efficiency at existing power generation facilities;

Converting base load power production from fuel oil to liquefied natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas;

Developing grid interconnection between the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico;

Maximizing the development of solar and wind resources;

Pursuing biomass energy and ocean thermal energy as potential diversification of base load energy.

While noteworthy, all of these goals are long term solutions that do not address the impact to homes, businesses and the entire Virgin Islands economy in the short term, hence the request for emergency relief. The Virgin Islands Energy Crisis Relief Act is aimed at lowering the cost of fuel to utility and therefore to the consumer; facilitating the conversion of the existing plant to utilize liquefied natural or liquefied petroleum gas; and increasing the number of residents who qualify for relief through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act (LIHEAP).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was out of town due to a family medical situation and was not present for the rollcall votes numbered 612 and 613 on Friday, November 30, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted in this manner:

Rollcall vote No. 612—Motion to Recommit with Instructions—H.R. 6429, the STEM Jobs Act: "Yes."

Rollcall vote No. 613—Final Passage—H.R. 6429, the STEM Jobs Act: "No."

HONORING UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS VETERANS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor our veterans.

There are no words that can express the gratitude that the American people owe all of the men and women who choose to serve the United States of America in the armed services. We are all humbled by the sacrifice they make—knowingly putting themselves in harm's way while also leaving loved ones behind. This commitment is the mark of America's finest citizens and those who answer to a higher calling. Allow me to honor, from the United States Marine Corps:

Edgar Harris, Tony Colmenares, Willie James Ferguson, Leroy McKenzie, Clifford Farrell, Jr., Peter Almeida, Jr., Joyuanki Victore, Christian Zegarra, Felix Garcia, Oscar Sola Vega, Phil Davis, Eddy J. Fonseca, Charles V. Manno, Edward Haynes, Larry Gilbert Jones, Ewin Vasco, Alexander Cruz, Philip Henry, Brent W. Quinones, Candyce Haynes, Christine Watson, Tracy Noel, Jamal Jenkins, Bentley Broussard, Jonathan M. Fuller, Javier A. Herbello, Kelvin J. Cox Jr., Kenneth del Mazo, Scott Schmidt, Richard Miller, Shane Suzuki, Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Rudolph Felton, Roberto Morejon, Widmayer Boucard, David Scott, Artice Shine, Jeffrey Paris, Jose Morla, Philip White, Darrell Morgan, Wesley Frazier, Johnnie Nesmith, Gary Gene Lipsomb, II, Joseph L. Cook, Jose Rojas, Manuel V. Ferrer, Walnex Philor, Leon Parker, Lonnie Lawrence, Gary Bryant, William Dozier, Peter Almeida, Jr., Patrick L. Purdy, William Draper, Milton Qaadir, Jim Gates Jr., Ed Moore, James Moore, William Parros, John L. Raineri, Jacob B. Butz, Luis Alvarez, Justin Cook, Luis Rivera, Ivens R. RestoSalgado, Eddy J. Fonseca Jr., Jonathan A. Salcedo, Ismael R. Lopez, Matthew D. Younger, Jaime M. Varillas, Carlos Santiago, Matthew J. Drumsta, John R. Hirnyk, Steven S. Vonsoosten, Eliezer Olea;

Finally, it is not our tanks, weapons or machinery that make the United States Armed Forces the best military in the world. It is our young men and women who serve professionally with honor and distinction. If not for these exemplary citizens, freedom and the American way of life would not be safe and secure. For these sacrifices, we respect and should commend their service everyday of the year. Congress has designated, November 11th 2012 as the official day showing our gratitude.

Please join me in honoring these American heroes for their bravery and sacrifice in defense of this great nation.