

point in the future when the Speaker is able to twist enough arms to pass the other pieces.

An obvious question to ask about H.R. 3408 is: what does it have to do with transportation? Not much. Although this bill is a grab bag of goodies for the oil and gas industry, it will do virtually nothing to repair our crumbling roads and bridges.

The legislation requires drilling off the coast of Southern California and overrides current law to forbid the State of California from haying any input into where, when, and how the drilling will occur. So much for states' rights. In their drive to hand out drilling leases to oil companies, Republicans are preventing my constituents in California from having any say on an issue that could have profound consequences on our state's economy and environment.

In the unlikely event that this bill becomes law, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would be opened to oil drilling and the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline will be approved despite the fact that the President found the pipeline is not in the national interest. This legislation also mandates oil shale production on millions of acres of taxpayer owned lands in the West without environmental review. Producing oil from oil shale is an unproven process that requires massive amounts of water and energy and produces equally massive amounts of waste. That's why the Obama Administration continues to study the process and conduct research and development on the feasibility of oil shale extraction prior to opening up federal lands. Instead of following this reasonable approach, Republicans are ignoring science and pushing ahead.

Republican leaders claim that all of this new drilling might raise some money in the future that can then pay for transportation projects. Instead of relying on fictional revenues, we could simply end the \$4 billion in yearly tax subsidies that the big oil companies enjoy. These companies raked in \$137 billion in profits last year, yet taxpayers are still forced to subsidize them. Let's end those handouts to pay for transportation projects not provide yet more giveaways to the oil industry.

I urge all my colleagues to vote against this dirty energy bill.

CONGRATULATING NORTHEAST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Northeastern Iowa Community College (NICC) in my district. NICC was recently named one of the top ten community colleges in the country by the Aspen Institute. This recognition is a high honor and speaks well to the education service that NICC provides in Northeast Iowa.

NICC's success stems from the wide array of education opportunities that are offered by the school. The school does an incredible job with identifying the career goals of each of their students. Many of their students will receive a degree then transfer to a four-year college or university, while others will enter the workforce after graduation. NICC offers degree programs in nursing and other technical

education programs. The school has also done a tremendous job of offering job-relevant degrees and certificate programs. NICC partners with local businesses to determine what jobs need to be filled. The school then offers certificate programs for the jobs that have the most demand, such as welding. This approach has been a tremendous success that has put many people back to work in Northeast Iowa.

In selecting their top ten finalists, the Aspen Institute looked for community colleges that were meeting the demands of today's workforce while educating and graduating their students in a timely fashion. NICC easily met these criteria. The Aspen Institute, a non-partisan think tank, is highly regarded as a national leader in identifying successful education models around the country and the world.

NICC has and will continue to provide valuable education opportunities for my constituents in Northeast Iowa. I'm proud to have NICC in my district and congratulate them on this important achievement.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,391,735,627,010.18. We've added \$10,590,330,451,715.90 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GUNS- FREE NATIONAL PARKS ACT OF 2012

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a firearms bill that will restore a common-sense rule in our national parks. Hundreds of millions of people from across the country and abroad have visited our world-famous national parks. Before 2009, visitors could enjoy our national parks knowing that they were free of loaded guns, thanks to a common-sense policy providing that guns were not to be brought into national parks unless they were unloaded and safely stored.

In fact, this common-sense regulation was enacted by the Reagan Administration. But in 2009, Congress passed the Coburn Amendment, allowing people to carry concealed loaded weapons into national parks if it is permissible under state law—and many states allow just that. I believe that the 2009 Coburn Amendment was a huge step in the wrong direction. That is why I am introducing the Guns-Free National Parks Act of 2012—to repeal it.

I have always believed that loaded weapons have absolutely no place in our national parks, which are natural sanctuaries and some of the last sacred spaces in our country. Last month Margaret Anderson, a park ranger in Mount Rainier National Park in Washington, executed a routine traffic stop in an effort to ensure that a driver was driving safely. The mentally unstable driver then shot and killed the park ranger. This brave public servant was a wife and mother of two young children. My heart goes out to her grieving family. We have too many guns in American society, and too many needless gun-related deaths. As Americans we rightly pride ourselves on the progress we have made over the decades in science, in civil liberties, and our standard of living in general. But rolling back sensible and appropriate public-safety rules is not progress. I am proud that this bill is endorsed by several well respected national and state-level groups that have worked for years on ending gun violence: The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, Ceasefire Washington, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, and the Violence Policy Center.

HONORING THE MONROEVILLE JUNIOR HIGH ROBOTICS TEAM

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to shine the spotlight on a talented and dedicated group of young people from Southwest Alabama whose hard work and ingenuity have garnered them much-deserved national recognition.

On February 7, 2012, students from Monroeville Junior High School's robotics team participated in the second annual White House Presidential Science Fair where they personally demonstrated their robotic creations for President Obama. From all reports, the President was duly impressed.

Monroeville Junior High was the only Alabama school and the only BEST school robotics team to receive an invitation to this prestigious national event.

Monroeville Junior High is one of 24 Alabama schools currently participating in the Boosting Engineering Science and Technology (BEST) program, which introduces students to engineering and technology and teaches the skills needed for today's high-tech workforce.

Monroeville Junior High has also competed in the Great Freight Robotics Challenge bringing home many awards including the 1st Place Five Star Award (overall winner). They also competed in the Jubilee BEST Robotics Competition in Mobile, winning several awards and qualifying to advance to South's BEST Regional Competition hosted by Auburn University. At that event, the team brought home the 3rd Place Engineering Notebook Award out of 50 champion teams from across the eastern half of the country.

After their visit to the White House last week, the students arrived on Capitol Hill where it was my honor to personally welcome them and talk to them about their achievements. These students have proven that age is no limitation to teamwork and success.

A special congratulations goes to each of the Monroeville Junior High robotics team

members: Morgan Ard, Sarah Baker Barnhardt, Andrew Cahill, Laken Cole, Tiara Dean, Jessica Feaster, Lindsay James, Kaitlyn Johnson, Octavia Johnson, Terrance Johnson, Ellissa Kidd, Jadarrius Kidd, Robert Knight, Maggie Ray, Jada Robbins, Desmond Stevens, and Titus Walker.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, a job well done, Monroeville Junior High!

IN HONOR OF TIM KIEDROWSKI
WHO FOR DECADES HAS WORKED
TO PRESERVE AND CELEBRATE
POLISH CULTURE AND HERITAGE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, entrepreneur Tim Kiedrowski grew up in Lorain, Ohio and is a proud 1973 graduate of Admiral King High School, named for Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King, a Lorain native and Chief of Naval Operations during WWII. Tim was a drummer in the Admiral King (HS) Admirals band, as well as in numerous local rock-n-roll bands.

Shortly after his high school graduation, in search of employment, Tim was hired by Leonard DeLuca, the owner of DeLuca's Bakery in Downtown Lorain. Len soon entrusted Tim with the responsibility of opening the bakery every morning to start the preparation of baked goods for the day. Tim continued to work at DeLuca's Bakery until 1975 and continued playing drums in area bands.

Tim married his sweetheart, Terri Girz in 1977, and wanting more job security, he became a welder for P.C. Campana, Inc. in 1975 until 1981. A downturn in the local economy caused many layoffs, and Tim was one of the casualties. Terri continued her work as an OB-GYN Registered Nurse at St. Joseph Hospital in Lorain, and Tim became 'Mr. Mom' for their family for the next 2 years.

On Christmas Eve, 1983, Tim was hired as a baker at the Simply Delicious Bakery in Downtown Amherst, Ohio. Tim enjoyed his return to the "dough business", but 1 month into the job, the owner of the bakery declared bankruptcy and asked Tim if he wanted to become chief cook and bottler. Never afraid of a challenge, Tim and Terri took out a small business loan to buy the bakery. Proud of their Polish heritage, the name was officially changed to Kiedrowski's Simply Delicious Bakery as of November, 1984. They remained in Downtown Amherst for 11 years.

Accidents can be disastrous in a bakery, but the "snoogle accident" was a welcome one for the Kiedrowski's. Late one evening in the bakery, Tim was preparing Ladylocks and Terri was working on a batch of cheese Danish. With leftover ingredients, these two happy bakers set out to create something new. A little of this, a little of that, and voila!, the Snoogle was born. These airy, cheese-filled concoctions have become Kiedrowski's biggest seller, and in April, 2011, they were awarded a patent for the Snoogle®. It is not unusual for the bakery to sell 100 dozen over the course of a weekend.

In 1994, Tim and his crew packed up the mixers, ovens and all of the baking ingredients and moved into their current location at 2267 Cooper Foster Park Road in Amherst.

In 1997, again on Christmas Eve, Tim and Terri started brainstorming about ways to get customers into the bakery during the January "slow season." After much discussion with family and friends, Tim proposed to host an old-fashioned Polish wedding (aka The Paczki Ball) just before Lent. Naysayers told Tim he could never organize this type of feast in 6-weeks time, but he set out to prove them wrong. With a few ads on local radio stations WEOL and WOBL as well as word-of-mouth, Tim and Terri hoped to sell 100 tickets to the first Paczki Ball in 1998, held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Lorain. Party-goers quickly lined up at the door, and after 150 tickets were sold, the remaining guests had to be turned away. Karol Kiedrowski Peltz was crowned the first Paczki Ball Queen. Joseph Girz, Terri's father and well-known as "Dough-boy Joe" (and the inspiration for the Kiedrowski logo) was crowned the first Paczki Ball King.

The Paczki Ball was moved to Lorain Catholic High School in 1999, a larger venue, and 375 tickets were sold. In 2002, the event moved to DeLuca's Place in the Park, a large party center owned by Tim's former boss, Leonard DeLuca. In 2003, the production of paczki as well as the Paczki Ball were videotaped by Army Armstrong for a film that would debut the following year. In this same year, new entertainment was added at the ball, the "Presentation of the Paczkis", was the hit of the party, and continues to this day. In 2011, Kiedrowski's Bakery sold over 50,000 paczkis during the Lenten season.

Life is never easy as a bakery owner. Tim and Terri had four boys: Matthew, Mark, Michael and Timmy, and there were nights that the boys did their homework and slept at the bakery while their parents did "prep work" for the next day's business. Terri became a self-taught cake decorator, working on birthday, graduation and wedding cakes at night after her shift was done at the hospital. Proud of their Catholic upbringing, Tim and Terri sent their boys to St. Anthony's elementary school followed by Lorain Catholic High School. Tim never had the opportunity to go to college, but encouraged his sons to further their education. Each of the boys went on to college to earn their respective degrees.

At the beginning of the Lenten season in 2011, Tim was notified that he was a finalist for the first-ever "Best Bakery in America" online contest, sponsored by Baking Buyer Magazine and Dawn Foods. With creative brainstorming over the course of 6 weeks, Kiedrowski's Simply Delicious Bakery was declared the winner, with more than 50 percent of the votes cast. Tim remarked that all of his years of hard work provided him with his honorary "Degree of Baking", but the Best Bakery in America Award provided him with the validation.

Kiedrowski's has celebrated its Polish heritage for 28 years through baking, and plans to share their delicious pastries for many years to come as they sweeten America's palate as America's Best Bakery.

TRIBUTE TO PHILIP GIBBS GROSE, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great public servant, author and dear friend. Philip Gibbs Grose lost his three year battle with leukemia on February 3, 2012. This South Carolina native contributed to his beloved State's history through his work in public policy and helped to preserve its history through his writings about the people who influenced the times in which he lived.

Phil was born in Greenville, SC to Philip G. Grose, Sr., and Helen Layne Thompson Grose on April 5, 1938. He was raised in Charlotte and was a 1960 graduate of Washington and Lee University. He did graduate work at the University of South Carolina and received an honorary doctorate of letters from Francis Marion University.

Phil began reporting sports results to the Charlotte Observer in junior high school and went on to write for the Observer during high school and college. He joined the staff fulltime after graduating from Washington and Lee, covering sports and general news. In 1963, after a year in New York as a writer for Broadcasting Magazine, Phil came to Columbia joining the sports staff of The State. He went on to become business editor and governmental affairs editor before leaving his newspaper career to enter the political arena.

In 1968, Phil became a speechwriter for Governor Robert McNair. It was a tumultuous time in South Carolina at the height of the civil rights movement. Phil was greatly affected by the times, and, from his role behind the scenes, began pushing for South Carolina to break the bonds of its Jim Crow past. He continued those efforts when he joined the staff of Governor McNair's successor, John Carl West, as executive assistant for communications and race relations. One of the first actions he persuaded Governor West to take was to hire a young man named JAMES CLYBURN to serve as the first African American advisor to a sitting South Carolina governor. The year was 1971, and since that time Phil and I were fast friends.

Phil went on to hold other positions in state government as deputy director of the Department of Social Services and executive director of the State Reorganization Commission. He was founder and executive director of the Executive Institute that provided leadership training for state government administrators, and I was one of his first recruits and graduated from the Executive Institute when I was serving as South Carolina Human Affairs Commissioner.

After retiring from state government, Phil became a senior fellow at the University of South Carolina's Institute for Southern Studies, where he wrote about subjects he knew well and about which was very passionate—the governorships of Robert McNair and John West. "South Carolina at the Brink: Robert McNair and the Politics of Civil Rights" and "Looking for Utopia: The Life and Times of John C. West" offered great insights into these complicated men and their contributions to South Carolina's rich history. He had recently begun work on a history of Francis