

he dedicated his time and efforts selflessly to numerous students, teachers, and people of the community, he is also a faithful servant of God, loving husband to the late Roberta Emogene Matthews, and compassionate father to his five daughters: Carmen, Cheryl, Vickie, Judy, and Emelia. I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in wishing John a very happy 90th birthday!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on February 29, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall Nos. 80–82. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall No. 80: “no”—Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1837) to address certain water-related concerns on the San Joaquin River, and for other purposes; rollcall No. 81: “no”—Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1837) to address certain water-related concerns on the San Joaquin River, and for other purposes; rollcall No. 82: “yes”—On Approving the Journal.

HONORING THE LEROY PANTHERS WRESTLING TEAM

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of a talented group of student athletes from LeRoy, Illinois.

The LeRoy Panthers wrestling team recently captured the Illinois High School Athletic Association Class 1A Dual Team state wrestling finals after placing 2nd in 2009 and 3rd in 2011. The Panthers won with an impressive 40–24 victory over Lena-Winslow.

I hope that members of the LeRoy community continue to support and promote local athletics, as I believe that physical activity and extra curriculars are an important staple of our education system. This team was considered being cut in the past, and now it is clear that this program has positively impacted the lives of these young men.

I would like to congratulate Head Coach Doug DeWald for all of his hard work with the team. But most of all, I want to congratulate the 2012 state champion wrestling team from LeRoy. These young men have represented themselves, their school and their community in an exemplary fashion and I want to join with all the members of this House in wishing them continued success in their athletic and academic endeavors.

SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATER RELIABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1837) to address certain water-related concerns on the San Joaquin River, and for other purposes:

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak against this hazardous piece of legislation.

H.R. 1837 is an assault on the environment and on the state of California. It would lead to gridlock in the Delta with potentially disastrous consequences for ecosystems and communities throughout our state.

This bill would undermine years of bipartisan compromise, and would prohibit California from following established precedent in managing its own water resources.

The policies in place today have been carefully crafted by broad consensus and represent the needs of a variety of stakeholders.

The success of these policies prove that cooperative and fair governance are the best way to protect natural resources, promote conservation and boost California's economy.

For example, the Delta Protection Commission has determined that the Delta region provides nearly \$800 million in annual agricultural revenues and \$250 million in revenue related to recreation. This is due to sound management of the commons by an extensive network of public-private partnerships in my State.

But H.R. 1837 would reduce water quality and reliability for Delta communities and farmers—diverting water supply from North of the Delta to agribusiness in the South, and seriously damaging Delta agriculture, a \$4.2 billion dollar industry.

Nearly every environmental group in the country opposes this bill because of the devastating effects it would have on the San Joaquin River Valley.

And, hundreds of fishing groups oppose this bill because it would divert water from the Delta, leaving 40 miles of the San Joaquin River completely dry in most years.

This would devastate the restoration of the river, and the salmon and steelhead that depend on it, hurting our state's fishermen, including many that call the Central Coast home.

This bill also disregards the best available science, repeals environmental protections, and damages local tourism.

That's why our state's two Senators, the California Department of Natural Resources, and the California Attorney General oppose this bill.

Mr. Chair, water management is a growing challenge across the nation, particularly in the West.

Developing balanced water solutions is essential to California's long-term economic and environmental health.

California deserves sound water policy that benefits all Californians, not just the needs of a few.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

IN HONOR OF DENNIS “DENNY” GILLETTE

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dennis “Denny” Gillette, who retires today after nearly 14 years on the Thousand Oaks City Council, making him the second-longest serving councilmember in the city's history.

My wife, Janice, and I have had the honor of knowing Denny and his wife, Terry, for more than 30 years. Denny spent his entire adult life in the service of his country and his community, as a Marine, as a sheriff's deputy who rose to the rank of assistant sheriff, as vice president of California Lutheran University (CLU), and as an elected official.

Denny stepped down from the council for health reasons. I mention that only to share a story that illustrates his dedication as a public servant. Last month, Denny was hospitalized for surgery. At the time, the council was interviewing candidates for city attorney. Although Denny was advised by his doctors to rest, Denny insisted that the finalists come to the hospital, where he interviewed them from his hospital bed.

I was not surprised to hear that story.

When Denny was with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department—a career that spanned 25 years—I worked with him often on criminal justice issues. During his 12-year stint as vice president of CLU, we worked together on educational and community issues. As a councilmember—and three-time mayor—we worked together on a host of issues, including the widening of the 123 Freeway and 101/23 freeway interchange.

Denny's sure hand and calm but determined demeanor ensured that projects moved forward and were completed. Denny was also served 10 years on the Conejo Recreation and Park District Board before deciding to run for the City Council, and he completed many of the park projects he started on the park board from the council dais.

His many other accomplishments are too lengthy to list here, but they include: construction of the Community Transportation Center; forging a strong working relationship among the city, Park District, and Conejo Valley Unified School District; forging a highly successful “Town-Gown” relationship between the city and CLU when he was at CLU, resulting in the successful completion of the North Campus Specific Plan and construction of the popular Community Pool located on the CLU campus; and construction of state-of-the-art athletic fields at Newbury Park High School, Thousand Oaks High School, and Westlake High School.

Current Mayor Jacqui Irwin told a local newspaper that when she learned of Denny's decision to retire, her heart dropped because she could not imagine the City Council without him.

The rest of the community feels the same way, Denny.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in thanking Denny for his lifetime of public service and in wishing him good health and many years of continued happiness with Terry, his wife of 42 years, and their daughters, Kristine and Lisa.

HONORING LUKAS MILEWSKI AND CORMAC MOLLOY ON THE OCCASION OF THE 51ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS.

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 51st anniversary of the Peace Corps. The Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of American ideals and has served as a tremendous example of how we can win friends around the world by providing trained workers and improving understanding between countries.

In October of 1960, then Senator John F. Kennedy challenged college students to commit themselves to serve overseas. Since 1961 more than 200,000 volunteers have answered that call to serve. Peace Corps volunteers have worked in 139 countries, helping people around the world in areas as diverse as education, AIDS prevention and treatment, agriculture, economic development and more. Five of my colleagues in Congress are former Peace Corps volunteers and can attest to the program's importance. As President Clinton stated, "When President Kennedy founded the Peace Corps in 1961, he saw it as a bold experiment in public service that would unite our nation's highest ideals with a pragmatic approach to bettering the lives of ordinary people around the world. He also saw it as an investment in our own future, in an increasingly interdependent world. In the years since, it's paid off many times over."

Two young people from my district can also attest to the important work the Peace Corps continues to perform. On behalf of the 5th District of Illinois, I would like to thank Lukas Milewski and Cormac Molloy, serving in Indonesia and Uganda respectively, for the service they are providing to our country and others.

PROTECTING ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2117) to prohibit the Department of Education from overreaching into academic affairs and program eligibility under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965:

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Chair, I rise today to highlight the passage of H.R. 2117, the Protecting Academic Freedom in Higher Education Act (H.R. 2117). The House of Representatives approved this legislation on February 28, 2012.

I am a proud cosponsor and a Member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, which debated and reported this bill out of Committee with a bipartisan vote last summer.

If enacted, this legislation would remove costly and burdensome regulations from colleges and universities across the country. In a time of federal government expansion, H.R.

2117 would help curtail the Department of Education's overreach into the rules and regulations governing institutions of higher learning. The bill contains two provisions that would repeal recent Department of Education mandates. These provisions relate to the federal definition of a credit hour and to the way states authorize and license institutions of higher education.

Historically, each institution of higher learning maintained the ability to determine what constitutes a credit hour subject to the oversight of accrediting agencies that would determine the specific number of credit hours to assign each course. Over time the federal government became more involved in the process. I strongly believe that the federal government should not impose a one-size-fits-all approach to determine standard credit hours for all colleges and universities. This decision should be made at the state and institutional levels.

Burdensome federal regulation of institutions of higher learning slow innovative learning and increase costs for students. Federal government regulations should not control a states' decision whether to grant a college or university permission to operate within that state.

Madam Chair, I have heard from numerous institutions across Alabama regarding these challenges. Please allow me to submit a letter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD from the president of Spring Hill College, which is located in my home state of Alabama, for support of H.R. 2117. This letter explains how the Department's intrusive regulations are hampering growth of Spring Hill College. The letter also notes that the high cost associated with federal regulations stifle educational opportunities when those costs must be transferred to students. The federal government must not impede the work of our colleges and universities. When this happens, students are the ones most negatively affected.

Removing federal standards and granting states and institutions more flexibility is the key for expanding learning for all students. By allowing institutions to determine the educational needs of its students and by releasing states from these new mandates, we can move our system forward. I look forward to continued bipartisan support of the Protecting Academic Freedom in Higher Education Act, and I encourage our friends in the Senate to give H.R. 2117 serious consideration in the coming months.

Hon. MARTHA ROBY,
House of Representatives, U.S. Congress, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN ROBY: As I know you are aware, the House of Representatives has now scheduled H.R. 2117 to be discussed on the house floor this week. As president of one of the 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States, I urge you to lend your support to this important legislation.

H.R. 2117 addresses regulatory overreach by rescinding regulations on credit hour and state authorization, imposed by the Department of Education that became effective July 1, 2011. I, along with my fellow Jesuit college presidents, believe these regulations are intrusive and inappropriate.

Determining credit hour requirements has been and should be determined by the institution of higher education that awards credit for fulfilling academic work. National higher education accrediting agencies through long established peer review proc-

esses oversee how colleges and universities award college credit, and that is the way it should be. Spring Hill College, for example, is an accredited member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS.)

The current federal regulatory definition interferes with the integrity of awarding college credits with a one size fits all approach. This approach hinders course creativity and academic autonomy.

This regulation also impacts institutions that provide distance education courses by mandating unnecessary filings in states that result in more costs of time and money for many institutions. As I'm sure you recall, testimony given by several college presidents to the House Subcommittee on Postsecondary and Workforce Training pointed out that "unnecessary federal regulations will impose additional regulatory burdens on colleges and universities, which could lead to higher costs being passed down to low-income and disadvantaged students. H.R. 2117, the Protecting Academic Freedom in Higher Education Act, ensures that colleges and universities are able to focus their energy and resources on educating students. Congress and the Administration should focus on increasing educational opportunities for students and streamlining federal regulations that inhibit innovation in higher education," according to the subcommittee's summary. Therefore, I ask for your support of H.R. 2117.

I can also assure you that Spring Hill College continues to implement and seek further ways to hold down college costs while staying true to our mission to form leaders engaged in learning, faith, justice and service for life.

Thank you for all you do for our Alabama and for your support of Spring Hill College and our important mission. We look forward to welcoming you to our campus when your schedule permits.

May God Bless you.

Sincerely,

RICHARD P. SALMI, S.J.,
President, Spring Hill College.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to Kidney Action Day today March 1st and World Kidney Day on March 8, 2012. I would also like to recognize the month of March as National Kidney Month.

As one out of nine Americans suffers from kidney related disease, it is more prudent than ever to devote time, resources and compassion to this community. We must raise awareness and encourage screening in order to catch the disease early. There are 31 million Americans affected by kidney disease, and we should do everything in our power to make sure this number does not rise.

As a physician, I have seen the devastating effects of Chronic Kidney Disease, especially in the end stages. The two leading causes of this disease are high blood pressure and diabetes, both ailments which would spare the kidneys if patients were screened early and managed properly thereafter. As there is no cure for Chronic Kidney Disease, it is in our nation's best interest to help everyone gain