

To quote the words of the Coast Guard hymn,

Eternal Father, Lord of hosts,
Watch o'er the men who guard our coasts.
Protect them from the raging seas
And give them light and life and peace.
Grant them from Thy great throne above
The shield and shelter of Thy love.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and a grateful nation, I offer condolences to Lt. Cmdr. Taylor's, wife, Teresa, and their sons, Evan and Emmett, as well as other family and many friends. You are each in our thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO OAK KNOLL VILLA AND THE RETIREMENT HOUSING FOUNDATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Oak Knoll Villa Apartments in my district in San Antonio. Oak Knoll Villa is a member of the Retirement Housing Foundation, and they will join in celebrating the foundation's 50 years of service to the community on March 13, 2012.

The Retirement Housing Foundation is a non-profit organization of 159 communities in 24 states, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, providing housing and services to more than 17,000 older adults, low income families, and persons with disabilities.

Throughout the past 50 years the foundation has fostered an environment in which team members work to make life better for thousands of San Antonians. This pinnacle achievement speaks to both the past laurels and future service of Oak Knoll Villa. Oak Knoll Villa strives to provide all persons with quality, affordable housing so that San Antonio families do not have to sacrifice paying the rent for other basic necessities.

The noble mission of the Retirement Housing Foundation is as important today as it was 50 years ago. Its impact on our communities cannot be understated. I would again ask you to congratulate Oak Knoll Villa and the Retirement Housing Foundation on their 50 years of fostering and ensuring that low-income families and individuals.

HONORING REGIS HIGH SCHOOL REACH PROGRAM'S 10 YEAR AN- NIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 10 year anniversary of the Recruiting Excellence in Academics for Catholic High Schools, or the REACH program, an innovative program devised and operated by Regis High School in my district for low income middle school students to prepare them for acceptance into the elite private, Catholic and public high schools in New York City.

Regis High School was founded in 1914 as a 100 percent scholarship school and con-

tinues this fine tradition today. In that spirit Regis began the REACH program ten years ago to help low income middle school students to excel in their studies to allow them to not only attend the best high schools, but eventually the best colleges and universities in the country. Students from the REACH program have gone on to attend MIT, Boston College, Cornell, Williams and the University of Scranton.

The REACH program is a study in what can be achieved if students are given the proper tools to excel. Students attend a six week summer program, Saturday sessions in both the spring and fall and engage in an independent research program in the winter. During each of these phases students are not only tutored to excel academically but are also provided with leadership training, a student mentor from Regis and eventually placement services into the best high schools in New York City.

Ninety-six percent of students who participate in the REACH program have gone on to a four year institution of higher learning, many of whom are the first in their family to attend college. The REACH program can be used as an example for all of us that by giving students the appropriate tools they will excel.

I want to congratulate Regis on their wonderful success and wish them even greater success in the next ten years.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,499,023,629,682.44. We've added \$4,872,146,580,769.36 to our debt in 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PROTECTING ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN HIGHER EDUCATION ACT, H.R. 2117

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the amendment to H.R. 2117 proposed by the gentleman from Colorado. This amendment would require the Secretary of Education to present this body with a plan to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of Federal financial aid dollars.

I was regrettably detained and unavailable to vote on the following amendment to H.R. 2117.

Rep. Polis (CO) Amendment #5: Would require the Secretary to present a plan to prevent waste, fraud and abuse to ensure effective use of taxpayer dollars. Had I been present to vote I would have voted "yes" on Amendment #5.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION SMALL CONDUIT HYDROPOWER DEVELOP- MENT ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2842) to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydropower development under Federal reclamation law, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I strongly support the installation of small scale hydropower in water canals, pipelines and other Bureau of Reclamation facilities. A small investment could go a long way in helping farmers and rural communities produce homegrown energy to help power their farms and irrigation systems and even sell power to the grid. The Three Sisters Irrigation District in Oregon is pursuing such a project, which could eventually create over 3 kilowatts of clean renewable power for the local community.

These innovative projects should move along as quickly as possible. Because they would be installed in existing facilities, extensive environmental review is not needed. However, I cannot support this bill because it includes an unnecessary waiver of the National Environmental Policy Act. Environmental review for these projects can be expedited through the existing process, which allows categorical exemptions by the appropriate federal agency. A blanket exemption to NEPA would set a bad precedent, and history has shown that short-circuiting environmental and public reviews typically delays rather than assists project development.

I supported an amendment by Rep. NAPOLITANO that would have struck language in the bill that waives NEPA. Because this amendment did not pass, I must reluctantly vote no. However, I stand ready to work with my colleagues to promote development of small conduit hydropower without undermining environmental safeguards.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN DONALD PAYNE

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Congressman DONALD PAYNE.

Today, we lost a dear colleague and friend in the House of Representatives, and the American people lost a dedicated leader. I am honored to have served with Congressman PAYNE, and am deeply saddened by his passing.

DONALD spent his life fighting for those less fortunate, and was a committed advocate for education, civil rights, and social justice—both at home and abroad. He was a humanitarian in the truest sense of the word, and his passion was both inspiring and contagious. As the first, and only, African-American from New Jersey elected to Congress, DONALD was a

trailblazer. His achievements are a testament to the hard work, patience, and determination that became the hallmark of DONALD PAYNE'S career in public service.

As a senior member of the Education and Workforce Committee, DONALD was a steady and effective representative for working men and women across America. His efforts on their behalf led to tangible gains in the areas of worker health and safety. DONALD also lent his voice in support of early education, working tirelessly to ensure that every American child receives a first-class education, regardless of financial circumstance.

As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, DONALD won the admiration and respect of his colleagues for his extensive and unrivaled knowledge of international affairs, especially concerning Africa. His humanitarian efforts to secure international aid for populations ravaged by war and disease are a tribute to his compassion and unwavering resolve to improve the lives of the downtrodden. Madam Speaker, DONALD's legacy and long list of accomplishments will continue to provide a lasting example for my colleagues and I going forward. My sincere condolences go out to DONALD's family, friends, staff, and constituents. He will be missed in this House.

RECOGNIZING GREGORY P.
SCHAFER

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Gregory P. Schaffer for his distinguished service to the Government of the United States as the Assistant Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communications, National Protection and Programs Directorate, Department of Homeland Security, from May 2009 until March 2012.

Mr. Schaffer is a national leader in the area of cybersecurity and communications. His unique perspective, dedication, and focus on identifying solutions to complex problems enabled the Department of Homeland Security and the Nation to take critical strides during his tenure.

Mr. Schaffer brought to DHS a blend of technical knowledge, private sector understanding, and Federal prosecution experience that enriched its cybersecurity and communications efforts.

Mr. Schaffer's leadership was essential in leading DHS efforts related to proposals for a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network. With the passage of recent legislation, Mr. Schaffer's concepts and structures have the potential to result in a paradigm shift in public safety communications.

During his tenure, DHS developed the National Cyber Incident Response Plan, NCIRP, the framework for incident response capabilities and coordination among Federal agencies, state and local governments, the private sector and international partners during significant cyber incidents. With the development of this plan, our Nation is postured to more effectively and comprehensively respond to the full range of cyber incidents.

As Chair of the Unified Coordination Group established by the NCIRP, Mr. Schaffer led

the United States Government response to a number of critical cyber incidents impacting the public and private sectors as well as international partners.

Under Mr. Schaffer's leadership and direction, DHS also opened the new National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center—a 24-hour, DHS-led coordinated watch and warning and mitigation center that enhanced capabilities to address threats and incidents affecting the Nation's critical information technology and cyber infrastructure.

This Center leverages the Einstein program, a set of perimeter defenses around the ".gov" domain designed to detect, alert, and prevent intrusions into and data loss from Federal agency networks. Because of Mr. Schaffer's leadership, Einstein 2—which provides signature-based intrusion detection technology—is currently deployed and operational at 17 of 19 Federal agencies.

Mr. Schaffer also oversaw effective and diverse incident response activities across his cybersecurity and communications portfolio. In FY 2011 alone, the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team responded to more than 100,000 incident reports and released more than 5,000 actionable cybersecurity alerts and information products. The National Coordinating Center for Telecommunications and the National Communications System also led, in accordance with the National Response Framework's Emergency Support Function #2, communications response activities for the New England floods, Hurricane Irene, the 2011 Japanese Tsunami, the 2010 Haiti Earthquake, and other significant national and international disasters.

Furthermore, Mr. Schaffer led activities to expand information sharing with the private sector through the Cybersecurity Information Sharing and Collaboration Program. He also supported development of tools to help private sector companies assess and improve their own network security, such as the Cyber Security Evaluation Program, CSEP, and the Cyber Security Evaluation Tool, CSET.

We are grateful for his service during a consequential period at the Department, and I look forward to his continuing contributions to the security of our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO LTJG THOMAS JOHN
CAMERON, USCG

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to U.S. Coast Guard LTJG Thomas John Cameron, age 24, of Portland, Oregon and to honor his service to our country.

LTJG Cameron was one of four U.S. Coast Guard crewmen aboard an MH-65C Dolphin helicopter when it crashed into Mobile Bay on February 28, 2012, during an evening training mission. The accident claimed the lives of each of the crew.

A 2009 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, LTJG Cameron was stationed at the Coast Guard's Aviation Training Center in Mobile, Alabama at the time of the accident.

According to the Mobile Press-Register, LTJG Cameron was only two days from completing flight certification at the time of the ac-

cident. After leaving Mobile, he was to have been assigned to USGC Station Borinquen at San Juan, Puerto Rico.

LTJG Cameron was known to his family, classmates and friends as a passionate athlete. He was an accomplished soccer player, serving as captain of his high school and college teams. Off the field, his passion also extended to helping others. His father, John Cameron, told the newspaper that his son's goal since 10th grade was to be involved in "lifesaving work."

It is not surprising to learn that LTJG Cameron and his fellow crewmen of CG-6535 each shared a love of service and a dedication to saving lives. The Coast Guard is a vital protector for our nation's coastal communities. We can never thank them enough for their commitment to our country.

Mobile is a Coast Guard city and we suffer the loss of LTJG Cameron as one of our own. We grieve with his family and we stand with them and the entire United States Coast Guard family.

To quote the words of the Coast Guard hymn,

Eternal Father, Lord of hosts,
Watch o'er the men who guard our coasts.
Protect them from the raging seas
And give them light and life and peace.
Grant them from Thy great throne above
The shield and shelter of Thy love.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and a grateful nation, I offer condolences to LTJG Cameron's parents, John and Bette Cameron, as well as to his extended family and many friends. You are each in our thoughts and prayers.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS OF LOIS WAGONER

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge Lois Wagoner, a loving mother, dedicated civil servant, and a truly great Hoosier. This week, Lois is being honored for her 50 years of service to the Military and Veterans Regional Office in Indianapolis. Lois began her career as a clerk in 1961 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and worked at various military installations prior to coming to the VA in 1971 as a program support clerk in the Finance Division of the Indianapolis Regional Office. In 1974, she was promoted to be a Veterans Benefits Counselor and supervised the regional office telephone unit. By 1990, she had become the Congressional Liaison and has worked tirelessly with every Congressional office in Indiana to ensure the welfare of our returning heroes.

During her 50 years of service, Lois has earned the reputation of being one of the most loyal, kind, and honest advocates of our Veterans living in Indiana. She also has the great distinction of being the mother of a Lieutenant Colonel with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan, so while she has been serving at the VA, she did so with the rare empathy of someone keenly aware of not only the sacrifices of our brave service members defending freedom abroad, but the daily concerns of their family members here at home.