

Additionally, on final passage of H.R. 2087, legislation to remove restrictions from a parcel of land situated in the Atlantic District, Accomack County, Virginia, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING WALTER ALCORN, 2011  
FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZEN OF  
THE YEAR

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 21, 2012*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Walter Alcorn, an exceptional constituent, on his receipt of the 2011 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year. Walter will receive this distinguished honor at the organization's 62nd Annual Awards Banquet on March 25, 2012. Walter has exhibited outstanding civic service and selfless volunteerism, and this honor is rightfully awarded.

Walter's recognition by the Fairfax County Citizens Association offers only a glimpse into his committed service to the residents of Northern Virginia. Most recently, Walter's involvement in Tyson's Corner helped a great deal in solving many of the complex planning issues.

As the Chair of the Planning Commission's Tysons Corner Committee, Walter led work to translate the vision and recommendations of the Tysons Corner Task Force into language appropriate for the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan. For more than two years, Walter led the Committee and worked with all concerned stakeholders to develop consensus recommendations that were ultimately adopted by the Board of Supervisors in June 2010. In March of last year, the Board of Supervisors requested that the Planning Commission develop an all-encompassing method to address infrastructure financing, along with other Tysons-related implementation issues. Walter has diplomatically made sure that this has remained transparent throughout the entire process.

Walter's service goes back decades. He has served on the Fairfax County Planning Commission since 1997. He has chaired the Planning Commission's Tysons Corner Committee since 2008 and has served as its Vice Chairman since 1997. He was first by Board Chairman Kate Hanley, and reappointed 3 times on motions of Board Chairmen Gerry Connolly and Sharon Bulova. He also chaired the Planning Commission's Environment Committee from 1997 to 2006. Walter has been a Virginia Certified Planning Commissioner since December 1997.

Along with his service to the Fairfax County Planning Commission, he is an enthusiastic coach for Reston Little League, manager of the Reston Warriors 12U baseball team and serves on the steering committee of his Sunday School class at the United Christian Parish in Reston. When not volunteering, he is employed as the Vice President for Environmental Affairs and Industry Sustainability at the Consumer Electronics Association in Crystal City, where he commutes daily via the Fairfax Connector and Metro. Previously, he worked as an environmental consultant specializing in the development of a national system for recycling electronic equipment, co-

founded the 501(c)3 National Center for Electronics Recycling in 2005, and was a Deputy Division Manager in the Technology Research Group for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). Prior to his private sector employment, Walter was a Policy Aide in the Providence District Supervisor's office.

Walter is a model of the best kind of civil servant. I'm proud to congratulate him on his well-deserved award, and give my sincere thanks for his unwavering service to Northern Virginia.

CONGRATULATING MILES  
SAFFRAN, RECIPIENT OF THE  
2012 PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF  
COMMUNITY AWARD

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 21, 2012*

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Miles Saffran for exemplary volunteer service in his community. Miles, age 15, of Winter Park, has been named one of the top honorees in Florida by The 2012 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Miles is a sophomore at Trinity Preparatory School and has helped raise more than \$60,000 to fund three medical trips to Mexico where he has served as the surgical youth coordinator for cleft lip and palate repair for Florida Hospital's mission trips. While in Mexico, Miles was responsible for assisting surgeons, organizing medicine, cleaning masks, and comforting patients and their families.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Award was created in 1995 by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals to encourage youth volunteers in their contributions to society, to emphasize the value of volunteerism, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 17 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has involved more than 100,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

It is my pleasure to commend Miles for his energy and initiative in seeking to make his community and world a better place to live. His commitment and accomplishment is extraordinary in today's world and deserves recognition. His actions remind us that young Americans can play an important role in our communities.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I am pleased to recognize Miles Saffran's selflessness and enthusiasm for serving others and for making a difference. The kind of altruism evident in Miles's efforts represents our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow. May his efforts inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

"STARS AND STRIPES: NO PROBLEMS WITH 'DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL' REPEAL"

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 21, 2012*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, whenever a legislative body deals with measures to prohibit or lessen discrimination against any group, opponents who do not wish to affirm that they are prejudiced against that group often assert that there will be negative consequences if the antidiscrimination measure is adopted. Most recently, we heard dire predictions from many supporters of the policy of discriminating against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender members of the military that allowing these patriotic Americans to serve their country openly would be terribly disruptive. Apparently, there were many who believed that young Americans who serve in the military shared their prejudice.

Despite their arguments, the repeal was voted by the Congress in 2010 and very efficiently put into place by Defense Secretary Panetta after full consultation with the Military Chiefs of Staff. It has now been about six months since the ban on honesty among gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender military personnel was dropped. And, as in many other cases—for example our laws protecting people with disabilities, or our laws banning discrimination against women—the predictions of social chaos from opponents of fairness have proven to be baseless.

Stars and Stripes, the widely regarded newspaper that serves our military, and has a long record of independence and integrity, summed it up in an article on March 19th as follows: "Six months after the military ended the controversial 'don't ask, don't tell' law barring gays from serving openly, Pentagon officials and gay rights advocates say the policy change has largely been a non-issue, with few complaints and no major headaches resulting from the new rules."

It is true that there are some of those who were opposed to this end to a discriminatory policy who continue to argue that there would have been problems if the Pentagon had not somehow mysteriously suppressed it. The notion that there is any significant degree of dissatisfaction but there is no way that anyone has been able to voice it—even anonymously—is of course highly suspect. The fact is that it turns out that the young people in the military do not share the prejudices of some of their would-be defenders, and the notion that military effectiveness has in any way been damaged, or that we would see people leaving the military, have been shown to have no basis.

Mr. Speaker, because it is important to have this further example of the inaccuracy of the predictions that are made when we seek to ban discrimination against particular groups, and because this was such an important issue debated in this Congress, I ask that the article from Stars and Stripes be printed here.

[From the Stars and Stripes, Mar. 19, 2012]

(By Leo Shane III)

SIX MONTHS AFTER REPEAL, MILITARY SAYS  
DADT DIED QUIETLY

WASHINGTON.—Sgt. Pepe Johnson was surprised by the reaction he received when his fellow soldiers learned that he is gay.

"They've pretty much shrugged it off," said Johnson, who rejoined the Army last fall after nearly a decade away. "Most of them were wondering why I had a nine-year gap in service. When I told them it was because of 'don't ask, don't tell,' they shrugged it off."

"That was a pleasant surprise."

Six months after the military dropped the controversial "don't ask, don't tell" law barring gays from serving openly, Pentagon officials and gay rights advocates say the policy change has largely been a non-issue, with few complaints and no major headaches resulting from the new rules.

Pentagon spokeswoman Eileen Lainez said the repeal is "proceeding smoothly across the Department of Defense," which officials there credit to the "enforcement of standards by our military leaders" and "servicemembers' adherence to core values that include discipline and respect."

Officials at the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a pro-repeal group which offers free legal assistance to troops on discrimination issues, said they've heard only a few minor complaints from military members about the implementation of the repeal.

"We had thought this would be largely a non-event, and that has been the case," said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of the group. "I think the new regulations permitting gays and lesbians to serve are unambiguous, and the commands have all made it abundantly clear that this is the direction the force is going."

Military leaders have seen pushback from conservative groups on some high-profile post-repeal stories—such as a picture of a gay Marine kissing his boyfriend which circulated earlier this month—but haven't faced any lawsuits or mass resignations predicted by some opponents.

Last month's White House dinner honoring Iraq War veterans included several same-sex couples among the invitees, but in their remarks military leaders didn't even note that such a public display would have resulted in those troops' dismissal just a few months earlier.

Johnson was booted out of the Army in 2003 under "don't ask, don't tell." After he shared his secret with some friends, others in his unit started grilling them about his sexual orientation. Feeling pressure from both his friends and others, Johnson eventually came clean to his superiors.

As the political winds changed last year, Johnson said he was speaking with recruiters about returning even before the repeal went into effect last September.

"Their biggest issue was asking when I could start, not worrying about my personal life," he said. "There has been no backlash, nothing to worry about."

Repeal opponents remain skeptical. Elaine Donnelly, president of the conservative Center for Military Readiness, said plenty of troops remain opposed to serving with openly gay colleagues, but fear they'll lose their job if they object to the military's new pro-gay agenda.

"The entire administration . . . has imposed 'zero tolerance' policies against persons who are not enthusiastic supporters of LGBT law," she said. "This is what we predicted, but the effects will not be seen quickly, especially in an election year."

Much of the repeal fight has already shifted to the next rights battlefield, whether same-sex couples should receive the same housing and medical benefits as their straight peers.

Sarvis said the current benefits rules create two different classes of servicemembers. Opponents argue that the rights groups are trying to use the military to force radical social changes.

Meanwhile, Donnelly said that she has heard from a number of troops unhappy with the changes, who are simply waiting for their contracts to expire before leaving the service. That could cause major problems in coming months and years, she said.

Petty Officer 1st Class Jeremy Johnson, a member of active-duty gay-rights group OutServe, said he anticipates more problems in the future, although nothing to the extent of Donnelly's predictions. Many of the gay troops he knows have not yet talked about their personal lives with their work colleagues, somewhat delaying the cultural impact of the repeal.

"This was never about having people come flying out of the closet," he said. "It was about knowing you can't be fired for being found out. There's going to be a natural transition as more people become comfortable with the idea."

Johnson, who was forced from the military in 2007, became the first openly gay person to reenlist after the repeal was finalized. He said his commanders have warned him that he could be singled out for his public role, but so far it hasn't caused any real conflicts.

"I anticipate that this isn't over, but I don't anticipate major problems, either," he said.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF STATE SENATOR GARY W. KUBLY

#### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Senator Gary W. Kubly, public servant and Lutheran Pastor. Senator Kubly passed away earlier this month at the age of 68, after a hard-fought battle with Lou Gehrig's Disease. As our community mourns the loss of this beloved civic leader, we must pause to celebrate Gary's legacy and reflect upon his years of service.

Gary's lifelong career of service began when he joined the United States Air Force during the late 1960s. After leaving the military, Gary became a public school teacher prior to moving to Minnesota in 1970 to attend Luther Theological Seminary in Saint Paul. After graduating from Luther Seminary in 1974, Gary began his career as a Lutheran Pastor, serving two churches near Granite Falls, Minnesota prior to his election to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1996.

Throughout his 15 years in the Minnesota Legislature, Gary touched many lives, and his absence will be felt by all who had the privilege of knowing him. I was honored to serve with him for four years in the Minnesota House of Representatives prior to his election to the Minnesota Senate. He was a constant voice for the residents of the counties he served in southwestern Minnesota, making sure rural communities had an advocate at the Capitol.

Whether serving our country, his Church or his constituents, Gary's dedication to serving others was remarkable. His sense of duty and honor are irreplaceable, and his voice will be missed at the Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in this tribute to Senator Gary W. Kubly.

#### CAPTAIN THOMAS "BILL" DILLION AND THE FIREFIGHTER'S PRAYER

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Monday morning I attended the funeral of Captain Thomas "Bill" Dillion of the Houston Fire Department. Captain Dillion was rushing into a house fire on March 14 when he apparently died of a heart attack. Captain Dillion has three children, was 49 years of age, and had spent 23 years with the Houston Fire Department. Bill's crew at Station 69 spoke about his courage and how his contagious happy mood was so infectious. He was a firemen's firefighter.

Mr. Speaker, the firefighters have a prayer to the Great Almighty about their public service, saving lives and saving property. Here is how the prayer reads:

When I am called to duty, God  
Wherever flames may rage  
Give me strength to save a life  
Whatever be its age.

Let me embrace a little child  
Before it is too late  
Or save an older person from  
The horror of that fate.

Enable me to be alert  
And hear the weakest shout,  
And quickly and efficiently  
To put the fire out.

I want to fill my calling  
To give the best in me,  
To guard my friend and neighbor  
And protect their property.

And, if, according to Your will,  
I must answer death's call,  
Please bless, with Your protecting hand,  
My family one and all.

And that's just the way it is.

#### HONORING MILAN DOSHI

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Milan Doshi is a junior at Elkins High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. His essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Abraham Lincoln once said that this is a "government of the people, by the people, for the people." Government is an entity that plays just as much a role in our lives as we allow it to play. As the current election is just around the corner, many of the issues that have prevailed in the presidential debates include what role the government