

study, on one January night in 2009 an estimated 75,609 veterans experienced homelessness and veterans are vastly over-represented in the homeless population in America. The Department of Veterans Affairs has developed a number of programs to assist homeless veterans and, while more can be done, it's important to make sure that all homeless veterans can access the programs designed to help them.

In order to qualify for benefits available to homeless veterans through the VA, an individual must meet the definition of "homeless" codified as part of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. In 2009, the HEARTH Act expanded the definition of homeless to reflect our present reality and include individuals in transitional housing, persons living in motels and persons who would imminently lose their housing. A change was also made to the McKinney-Vento Act to expand the definition of homeless to include individuals fleeing a situation of domestic violence or some other life-threatening condition. This change, however, is not currently reflected in the definition of "homeless veteran."

That is why I am introducing this legislation, which will correct and expand the definition of "homeless veteran" to include veterans who are fleeing situations of domestic violence. This small change will allow those veterans who find the courage and the means to leave their abusers the chance to access the benefits that should be available to all homeless veterans.

By passing this bill, we will ensure that this especially vulnerable population of veterans has the chance to access benefits the Department of Veterans Affairs already provides. This bill is one small step to ensuring every homeless veteran can access the benefits they deserve.

HONORING MS. MARIA TRAVIERSO

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month I rise today to honor Ms. Maria Traverso, a professional bilingual journalist serving the South Florida community.

Ms. Traverso graduated from the University of Costa Rica with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Public Relations. She furthered her education by learning English at Florida National College and Miami-Dade Community College. Ms. Traverso began her journalism career as a reporter for La Republica newspaper in Costa Rica in 1980. However, her talents were truly recognized when she became Editor-in-Chief of El Diario, a community newspaper based in Miami. Her passion and commitment to journalism is clearly evident, and admirable.

Ms. Traverso most recently served as Senior Editor and Copy Editor of the Sun-Sentinel, a position she held for many years. Her thorough reports on various topics ranging from immigration policy to Hispanic culture have informed countless English and Spanish speaking individuals in South Florida. During her tenure, she received various awards and recognitions including first place in Community

Story Writing for the Spanish Language Division in the Florida Society of News Editors 2010 Competition.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Maria Traverso for her continued service to the South Florida community and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOHN V. SULLIVAN, HOUSE PARLIAMENTARIAN, UPON HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 27, 2012*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate House Parliamentarian John V. Sullivan on his retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives. John, who was appointed House Parliamentarian by former Speaker Dennis Hastert on May 31, 2004, will retire at the end of this month after serving 25 years in the parliamentarian's office. John became only the fourth parliamentarian to serve in the House since the office was established in 1928.

John Sullivan is one of the most exceptional parliamentarians I have had the pleasure to serve with during my 35 years in Congress. John has always handled himself with the utmost professionalism and has always held himself to the highest standard. There is no sharper mind or greater expert on parliamentary procedure than John Sullivan. Members on both sides of the aisle have relied on his expertise and extensive knowledge of the legislative process. I echo the Speaker and Minority Leader's comments that his retirement is "a loss for the people's House."

Over the years, I have seen a steady and disturbing decline in the civility and comity in the House of Representatives. There have been more heated exchanges and political bickering on the House floor in recent years than I care to remember. However, through it all, John has been able to navigate the House through some difficult times and has reminded all of us that we should respect our colleagues and the rules of this great institution. His steady leadership, intellect and nonpartisan decision making has made it possible for this body to continue to function despite the political rancor.

Throughout my life, I've tried to emulate those for whom I have great respect. John Sullivan is one of those people that I will always admire and respect. Not only am I a better legislator, but I am also a better person for having known John Sullivan. I wish John the best in his retirement and thank him for his years of service to this great body and to our Nation.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 2779 AND H.R. 2682

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to discuss two bills that this Chamber passed earlier

this week, H.R. 2779, a bill to exempt inter-affiliate swaps from certain regulatory requirements put in place by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, and H.R. 2682, the Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabilization Act.

The stated intent of these bills seems simple enough—to make supposedly necessary exemptions and clarifications to the Dodd-Frank Act. However, Americans for Financial Reform, a coalition of over 250 unions, consumer groups, think-tanks, and others have raised some serious concerns about the negative consequences these changes could have on the implementation of the law, and also question whether these changes are even necessary.

Certainly it is appropriate for Congress to revisit laws that have been passed, and to conduct oversight of the work of regulators. However, Congress has asked the Commodities Futures Trading Commission and Securities and Exchange Commission to do a complicated job monitoring a big and complex market.

How big and how complex? According to The Economist, the world's gross domestic product totals approximately \$65 trillion. The total value of the global trade in derivatives is estimated to be 10 times larger than that—over \$600 billion. Warren Buffett has even stated that derivatives are "financial weapons of mass destruction, carrying dangers that, while now latent, are potentially lethal." Unfortunately, as the spectacular collapse of AIG made clear, we know that he was right.

The Dodd-Frank Act was passed to reign in the abuses that caused the financial crisis, and to establish clear rules of the road to help prevent another crisis from ever happening. I believe, as Americans for Financial Reform point out, that the law provides regulators with the flexibility to address the issues that H.R. 2779 and H.R. 2682 seek to address without changing the statute. We need to let them get on with the job they've been asked to do.

Therefore, I opposed passage of these measures.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LEADERSHIP OF LEWISVILLE FIRE CAPTAIN TERRY WILCOX

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a brave and dedicated leader, Lewisville Fire Department Captain Terry Wilcox. Captain Wilcox has spent his entire career of almost 38 years serving in the Lewisville Fire Department, protecting and promoting the safety of the citizens of the City of Lewisville.

Captain Wilcox is a highly respected member of both the community and the Fire Department. A lifelong resident of Lewisville, he graduated high school in May 1974 and joined the Fire Department in September of the same year to give back to the community that raised him. As a testament to his hard work and leadership, on May 1, 1985 he was promoted to Captain, a rank he has held for almost 27 years.

Captain Wilcox is married to Charlotte Wilcox, who also gives back to the community

by serving on the Highland Village, Texas City Council. Together they have two children, Tiffany and Travis, as well as two grandchildren. In what little spare time is available, Captain Wilcox is an avid fisherman and hunter, hobbies he enjoys together with his son.

On March 31, 2012, Captain Wilcox will retire from the Lewisville Fire Department as the most senior officer ever in the history of the department. After almost four decades of public service, his leadership, professionalism and dedication will not be forgotten by the City of Lewisville. His devotion to his career, his fellow firefighters and the citizens of Lewisville are absolute and will be deeply missed by all those that he has had the opportunity to assist and influence.

It is my great privilege to recognize Lewisville Fire Department Captain Terry Wilcox for his service, and I am privileged to represent the City of Lewisville in the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### TRIBUTE TO RIVERSIDE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR GORDON BOURNS

#### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Gordon Bourns is one of these individuals. On March 28, 2012, Gordon will receive a prestigious honor when the Riverside Chamber of Commerce names him the 2011 Citizen of the Year at the organization's annual awards and installation dinner.

Gordon Bourns joined Bourns, Inc. in 1973 and has managed various business units and operations within the company since that time. He was elected Chairman of the Board in December 1988 by the company's Board of Directors, and was also elected President in 1990.

Mr. Bourns now serves as the company's Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Bourns heads a worldwide electronics corporation, which manufactures more than 3,000 different products at 12 domestic and international facilities, with over 4,000 employees worldwide. Mr. Bourns is the son of the cofounders of Bourns, Inc., Marian and Rosemary Bourns.

Mr. Bourns represented Bourns, Inc. in 1994 when the Corporation received the prestigious Entrepreneur of the Year Award from Inc® Magazine. Mr. Bourns currently focuses much of his attention on strategic planning to accomplish the company's strategic plans, which will double the sales and profits of Bourns

over a five-year period. Mr. Bourns has led the Bourns commitment through the Six Sigma and Bourns Production System quality process to assure the company meets or exceeds customer requirements and specifications, while anticipating future needs through the continuous improvement of people, processes, products and services.

Mr. Bourns has been an active participant in community affairs. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the UCR Foundation and is the past chairman of that board. He serves as Chairman of the Board of Advisors for the Marian and Rosemary Bourns College of Engineering at UC Riverside and as Chairman of the Board of Visitors at California Baptist University. He is also Chief Financial Officer of the School Board for the Woodcrest Christian School System. Mr. Bourns, an Eagle Scout, is a past recipient of the Inland Empire Boy Scouts Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award.

In light of all Gordon Bourns has done for the community of Riverside, the Riverside Chamber of Commerce named Gordon their Citizen of the Year. Gordon's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. He has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives this prestigious award.

#### HONORING THIS YEAR'S CREDIT UNION CHERRY BLOSSOM TEN MILE RUN AND 5K WALK

#### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be one of the many Members of Congress who serve as Honorary Race Chair for this year's Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run and 5K Walk.

I'm even prouder that my daughter, Patricia Lehtinen, will be taking part in the ten mile race, which will be held this Sunday, April 1 at 7:30 a.m.

Beginning and ending at the grounds of the Washington Monument, this race raises awareness for the Children's Miracle Network and has helped millions of children in hospitals who might not otherwise be able to afford treatment.

Children's Miracle Network is a network of 170 affiliate hospitals across the United States, including Miami Children's Hospital in my South Florida community.

Miami Children's is a world leader in pediatric healthcare and South Florida's only free-standing hospital dedicated exclusively to children.

I thank the nearly 200 of my congressional colleagues who are also Honorary Race Chairs for this year's event.

Our congressional community can get involved and make a difference together, without fanfare, or votes, or debate and just do the right thing and help.

I encourage everyone do their part and help in this worthy cause.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 29, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 18

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine financial management and business transformation at the Department of Defense.

SD-G50

APRIL 25

2 p.m.

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To resume hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-106

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine current readiness of U.S. forces in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A