

Needs Trust to ensure their surviving dependent child's future care.

This bill will provide veterans with the ability to direct their Survivor Benefit Plan annuity payments to a Special Needs Trust. The creation of an SNT will ensure that a dependent, disabled child will continue to qualify for means-tested benefits, such as Social Security Disability Insurance and Medicaid. Assets placed into a Special Needs Trust are not generally counted as income or assets, allowing dependent children to remain eligible for these benefits throughout their lifetime.

This bill would impact approximately 1,065 military dependents who are incapacitated beneficiaries under Survivor Benefit Plan and with individual care costs for a disabled child exceeding \$100,000 a year, this additional benefit will increase their quality of life significantly.

For those who believe this bill may contribute to abuse, it must be noted that a Special Needs Trust is administered under both federal and state law. Appointed fiduciaries are subject to auditing and are responsible for managing a benefit for a specific group. Annuities are also placed in Special Needs Trusts that are subject to income tax. Therefore, beneficiaries are shielded from abuse considering each trust has significant oversight.

Finally, I am proud that this bill has 4 esteemed public servants as original co-sponsors: Congressmen CAPPS, POLIS, RANGEL, and ROTHMAN. This bill is also supported by the Military Officers Association of America.

TRIBUTE TO VERNON VALENZUELA

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and service of longtime Kern County veterans' advocate and Vietnam veteran, Vernon Valenzuela, who recently passed away due to cancer at the age of 63.

Vernon began his career in service to our country during the Vietnam war where he was wounded in 1968. Upon returning home, he attended Bakersfield College and became president of the Associated Veterans Student Club, where he developed his passion for helping his fellow veterans and their families in Bakersfield and around Kern County.

Vernon cared deeply about the well being of veterans, and he eventually became a Marriage and Family Therapist specializing in helping veterans with Post Traumatic Stress transition into civilian life after experiencing combat. In 2008, after advocating for a Vet Center to be built in Kern County, Vernon was hired as the Team Leader for the Bakersfield Vet Center where he was further able to help veterans transition and re-enter civilian life.

His most recent legacy is the establishment of the Veterans Justice Program in Kern County, which helps provide veterans—some of whom may have mental or other combat-related illnesses—who get in trouble with the law a second chance by ensuring they receive access to mental health and substance abuse programs provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. While many doubted such a jus-

tice program could be formed and much less work, Vernon made it happen by bringing everyone together on behalf of all the local veterans returning from war and in need of help.

Vernon's work has touched the lives and benefited thousands of local veterans and their families. The loss of Vernon will surely be felt in our communities, and we express our deepest condolences to his wife Lise, his son Robert, and his daughters Alison and Katherine. His selflessness, perseverance, and service-minded dedication will continue to serve as an inspiration in our community and remain a constant reminder we must all continue to have of our commitment to the men and women in the Armed Forces who bravely serve our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REV. BONIFACE HARDIN

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to honor the life of Reverend Boniface Hardin, a luminary of the civil rights movement and a pioneer in higher education from Indiana's Seventh Congressional District who passed away this past Saturday.

Reverend Hardin became a Benedictine monk in 1953 at the young age of twenty, was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1959, and received a master of divinity degree in 1960. While serving as an associate pastor at the Holy Angels Catholic Church in Indianapolis, he became a vocal advocate for racial and socio-economic equality during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

His spiritual commitment and dedication to self-improvement led him to found the Martin Center in 1969 and later the Indianapolis Sickle Cell Center in 1977. Under his leadership, the Martin Center College became Martin University, a fully accredited institution offering undergraduate and graduate degrees to low-income and minority adult learners.

Recognizing his limitless compassion and unceasing commitment to education, Reverend Hardin was named a "Living Legend" in 2002 by the Indiana Historical Society for the indelible mark he made on the City of Indianapolis and the State of Indiana.

It is with a heavy heart and profound sense of sadness that I express my condolences to the family and friends of Reverend Hardin. But it is with gratitude and admiration that I remember his life and contributions to our community. We were all truly lucky to have had such a caring, giving servant in our midst.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 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 \$15,580,211,803,539.46. We've added \$4,953,334,754,626.38 to our debt in 3

years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF LISA REED

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the work of Lisa Reed for her accomplished career in public service to the State of New Jersey. Lisa began her career in law enforcement with the Plainfield Police Department. She later joined the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office where she specialized in sexual assault and child abuse investigations.

Her distinguished work prompted her promotion to Detective Sergeant and supervisor of the Sex Crimes and Child Abuse Unit. She was a tremendous asset and valued member of the Prosecutor's Office and her portfolio expanded to homicides and narcotics. Lisa was later assigned to the Somerset County Police Academy as the Continuing Education Coordinator. There she shared her expertise with young officers until her retirement in 2005.

Lisa developed a small business with her talents, Lisa S. Reed Investigations of Flemington, New Jersey. Lisa's most noted accomplishment is her vital role in the arrest of Roger Day, a fugitive who led an international conspiracy to defraud the military. This criminal was named a member of "America's Most Wanted" and Lisa's work was part of a three-year effort that brought Roger Day to justice.

Lisa Reed is an outstanding public servant who has continually demonstrated bravery in the critical area of public safety. I congratulate her on this long and distinguished career.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL (RADM) HEWITT FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE U.S. COAST GUARD

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a fellow Oregonian and leader for his extraordinary service in United States Coast Guard. Rear Admiral (RADM) Ronald T. Hewitt served his country for 34 years in the Coast Guard and on April 6th, RADM Hewitt will retire as the Assistant Commandant for Human Resources at Coast Guard Headquarters, a position he has held since May 2009. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his commitment to service and to our country.

His efforts were pivotal to improving the Service's readiness while providing advancement, professional development and quality of life enhancements for all Coast Guard personnel. He established a comprehensive strategy to enhance diversity within the Coast Guard, developing and leveraging important partnerships with Congress, the Administration, academic institutions, and key outreach and affinity organizations, setting new heights

for the number of women and minorities accessed into and retained in the Coast Guard.

Demonstrating exemplary stewardship, RADM Hewitt implemented rigorous internal controls over financial reporting, enabling the Service to accurately value and track over \$7 billion in pay and medical accounts. In response to the 2010 Haiti Earthquake and Deepwater Horizon Oil spill disasters, he guided the strategic resourcing of Coast Guard personnel, including Reserve forces, for these herculean first responder events, expertly balancing immediate needs with long-term work-force sustainment. His unwavering advocacy and commitment to Coast Guard personnel and their families was evidenced through expanded child care services and subsidies, initiatives improving government owned housing, and enhancements to work-life programs. These accomplishments are remarkably significant and representative of RADM Hewitt's distinguished 34-year career in the service of his country.

A native of Sandy, Oregon, in my Congressional district, RADM Hewitt is a 1978 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering. In 1982, he earned a Master of Science degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University. In 2000, he received a Master's Certificate in Information Technology Project Management from George Washington University and is a certified Project Management Professional.

RADM Hewitt and his wife Ann married in 1979, and they currently reside in Arlington, Virginia with their son Michael, a high school sophomore who was born during their assignment in Boston. Their daughter Laura, a recent college graduate, was born while they were stationed in Virginia during an earlier tour of duty. RADM Hewitt's parents are Wallace and Irene Hewitt of Sandy, Oregon.

RADM Hewitt's other Flag Officer assignments include Commander, Coast Guard Maintenance and Logistics Command Atlantic in Portsmouth, Virginia, and Assistant Commandant for Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Information Technology in Washington, DC, where he was detailed to the Department of Homeland Security as their acting Chief Information Officer. Earlier assignments included serving as Project Manager for the "Rescue 21" and the Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement systems; serving as Commanding Officer, Electronics Support Unit Boston; serving as Executive Officer, Communications Area Master Station Pacific; serving as Project Engineer at the Omega Navigation Systems Center and at the Electronics Engineering Center in Wildwood, New Jersey, and in his first assignment out of the Coast Guard Academy, serving as Operations Officer on the USCGC *Bittersweet*.

Rear Admiral Hewitt's personal military decorations include multiple awards of the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and the Commandant's Letter of Commendation.

HONORING ANTHONY SILVEIRA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mann County dairy rancher Anthony (Tony) Silveira who passed away March 9, 2012, at the age of 90. Mr. Silveira spent most of his life working on the family ranches and was known for his proud defense of the family's property rights as the County became increasingly urbanized.

Mr. Silveira's father, like many of Mann County's early dairy ranchers, emigrated from the Azores. He founded the ranching business in 1900, and in 1920 helped found Mann-Dell Dairy (sold in 1954).

Born in 1921 on the Miller Ranch (now Marinwood), Tony Silveira was committed to the family business; after his father died when he was only 15, he and his siblings helped his mother Mary run two ranches. With Marinwood ranch and the Burdell Ranch north of Novato along Highway 101, drivers could enjoy the sight of some of the family's 1500 cows grazing on prime Mann County grasslands.

After graduating from local schools, Mr. Silveira attended UC Davis before returning to Mann ranching. The "Home" ranch in Marinwood, where his father had acquired land around St. Vincent's School for Boys, is centrally located and soon became the focus for possible housing growth. Others argued that the land should be preserved as buffer zone, with minimum development. Mr. Silveira fought passionately for the right not to have the property down-zoned, speaking out often at meetings and in press.

Mr. Silveira was involved in agricultural organizations such as the Mann County Farm Bureau and the Western United Dairymen as well as the University of California Alumni Association, Native Sons of the Golden West, and the IDESST Portuguese Hall in Sausalito.

He is survived by Lorraine, his wife of 65 years; daughter, Renee; siblings George and Jean; and three grandchildren. His son, Ronald Anthony Silveira, predeceased him in 2000.

Mr. Speaker, Anthony Silveira's proud ranching background is an important part of the fabric of Mann County history and his battles for property rights reflect the pressures and conflicts that are an ongoing dialogue of life in the County. I am honored to salute his long life and career.

TO HONOR THE LEADERSHIP OF
JOEL JACOB AS CHAIRMAN OF
THE BOARD OF MAZON: A JEW-
ISH RESPONSE TO HUNGER

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Mr. Joel E. Jacob, as he steps down as Chairman of the Board of MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and for his lifetime of advocacy in the realm of hunger and food insecurity.

For years, Joel has been a champion for those facing the challenges of food insecurity. His advocacy to eradicate hunger has earned him international accolades and allowed him to develop close relationships with leaders across the globe. As the Chairman and Founder of The Bottle Crew, a business based in West Bloomfield, Michigan, Joel has instilled the importance of community service at his office because it is a value central to his life.

As a teenager bussing tables at weddings and Bar Mitzvahs, Joel grew frustrated as he saw the amount of food going to waste after the meals were served. These images of lost food helped motivate Joel to be an activist for the hungry. Now, as the official shofar blower for Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield, Michigan, Joel blasts the clarion call for justice. Joel has made the fight against hunger central to his pursuit of justice in the world.

Joel was first elected to the MAZON Board of Directors in 2003 and was elected Chair of the Board of Directors in 2009. He has served on MAZON's Finance Committee, Strategic Planning Committee and Executive Committee and also served as Co-Chair of the Development and Communications Committee. During his time on the Board, Joel has traveled to several continents to help the malnourished and raise awareness for food insecurity. For nearly three decades, MAZON has been a leading national nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing and alleviating hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds. MAZON, which means "food" or "sustenance" in Hebrew, was the first national organization to rally the American Jewish community around the issue of hunger. MAZON provides for people who are hungry and advocates for ways to alleviate hunger. Thanks to the efforts of Joel, the concept in the Passover Hag-gadah of "Letting All Who Are Hungry, Come and Eat" is now a core theme at synagogues and Jewish organizations across the nation. Joel has successfully brought this message far beyond the Jewish community and has developed relationships worldwide to pool resources to feed those most in need including shaping legislation in the Israeli Knesset and the United States Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Joel's years of service on behalf of countless people around the world facing challenges such as food insecurity and hunger. His leadership as Chairman of the Board at MAZON has profoundly improved the lives of countless people in need around the world and was deeply felt by those who have benefitted from his commitment, passion and advocacy. As a personal friend of Joel, I know that this will in no way affect his dedication to the issue of hunger and that he will continue to be a champion for fighting hunger and repairing the world.

CONGRATULATING THE LEADER
ON 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Leader newspaper on its twenty-five years of excellence.