

Buena Alliance, the vice president of the Market Street Association and numerous community and neighborhood groups.

Dr. Berg has served City College for over 30 years as a professor, dean and an elected member of the Board of Trustees. In 1997, 2001 and 2006 she was President of the board.

She started in 1967 as an instructor in English, ESL, History and Civics. In 1976 she became administrative assistant to the President of the Community College Division. The following year she was appointed administrative assistant to the Vice Chancellor of Personnel. In 1980, she was named Coordinator of Personnel Relations and in 1984 became Director of Employee Relations.

Dr. Berg was originally elected to the San Francisco Community College District Board of Trustees in 1996 and re-elected every four years since then. She chairs the board's Community Relations Committee and is a member of the Policy Implementation Committee. Before her service on the board, Dr. Berg was the Dean of the John Adams Campus and the School of Health and Physical Education.

It is evident from Dr. Berg's career and service that she loves San Francisco and is committed to the highest quality of public policy and urban planning. Her outstanding leadership has earned her the title of one of "The Most 100 influential Women in the San Francisco Bay Area" from The San Francisco Business Times four times. The same paper chose her to be on the "Forever Honor Roll" of the most influential women in the Bay Area.

Dr. Berg received her Ed.D. in Community College Administration/Curriculum from Nova University in Fort Lauderdale in Florida, her MA in Educational Administration/College Finance from San Francisco State University and her BA in Economics from UC Berkeley.

She lives in San Francisco with her husband Peter Finnegan. They have three children, eleven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to acknowledge the many contributions of Natalie Berg, a great community leader and my friend.

## SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2012, PART II

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4348) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs, and for other purposes:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my opposition to the bill passed by this chamber last night, H.R. 4348, the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2012, Part II.

Each day that Congress fails to act on a long-term reauthorization of our nation's surface transportation programs is another day that our roads and bridges deteriorate. It's another day that our states and counties will be

unable to plan and budget for projects to improve our communities and facilitate commerce. And it's another day that workers in the hard hit construction industry will have to wait for a chance to get back on the job.

It would have been a tremendous victory for the American people if the House had come together as the Senate did last month. They passed a two year transportation bill on a strong, bipartisan vote of 74–22. It isn't a perfect bill, but it is a step forward for strengthening our economy and getting people back to work.

However, the Majority in the House has blocked every attempt to have a clean, up or down vote on the Senate's bipartisan bill. Instead, they have chosen to pursue controversial, ideologically driven proposals. In fact, the bill this chamber passed yesterday has already drawn a veto threat from the White House for its inclusion of provisions to unnecessarily expedite the Keystone pipeline project. It would also undermine environmental protection procedures that allow our constituents the opportunity to weigh in on projects that impact their communities and quality of life.

These are not small policy changes. The Keystone XL pipeline is a huge project that could have significant consequences for years to come. It deserves rigorous and objective analysis to determine whether it is in fact in the best interest of our nation's future to approve and construct such a project.

Changing our environmental protection procedures for infrastructure projects requires the same sort of thoughtful debate and careful analysis. Infrastructure projects are long-term—they fundamentally change communities. We need to make sure that the impacts of these projects, and the views of local residents and businesses, are taken into account before taxpayer funds are committed.

I do support the provisions of H.R. 4348 that will allow for full utilization of funds in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and provide for additional resources to continue restoring the Gulf Coast. I believe that these are important issues for the House and Senate to consider during their Conference.

However, I am still disappointed that the House has failed to come together on legislation that has historically been truly bipartisan. I hope that Conferees will get to work expeditiously and come up with a product that can receive bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House.

We owe it to our states, communities, and the families that depend on paychecks in the construction industry to move this forward quickly.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH CURTIS ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 19, 2012*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that

Joseph Curtis of New London, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.

Joseph's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming midshipmen Class of 2016. Attending one of our Nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Joseph brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2016. While attending New London High School in New London, Ohio, Joseph was a member of the National Honor Society, Model United Nations, Academic Challenge, and a Buckeye Boys State delegate.

Throughout high school, Joseph was a member of his school's cross country and track teams and earned varsity letters in both sports. In addition, Joseph participated in various fundraisers for community-based organizations, including the Salvation Army and Red Cross. I am confident that Joseph will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Joseph Curtis on the acceptance of his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Joseph will excel during his career at the Naval Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

CONGRATULATING ALICE EASON BALLANCE ON THE OCCASION OF APRIL 20TH BEING DECLARED AS "ALICE EASON BALLANCE DAY" IN BERTIE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 19, 2012*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a constituent and friend, Mrs. Alice Eason Ballance, who has been the epitome of service to her community. For more than fifty years, Mrs. Ballance has advocated for better educational opportunities, voting rights, and racial equality for African American citizens. On April 20, 2012, the Bertie County, North Carolina Board of Commissioners will officially declare that day "Alice Eason Ballance Day" for the County. I can think of no finer individual to bestow such an honor than this great American.

Mrs. Ballance was born Alice Eason on July 8, 1919 in the small community of Cedar Landing in Bertie County, North Carolina. She was the youngest of three children following behind brother Willie and sister Mary, reared by parents George and Cynthia Eason. She grew up on a small farm where she learned very early the value and necessity of hard work; a trait she would go on to instill in everyone with whom she worked over the years.

After graduating from Bertie County's W.S. Etheridge High School, Ms. Alice married

Frank Winston Ballance, Sr. on August 14, 1938 and began to grow a family. Mr. and Mrs. Ballance reared five children: Frankie, George, Frank, Jr., James, and Vashti. She also pursued her passion of seeking to bring reforms to the system of public education that was clearly discriminating against African American children. She felt that it was unconscionable that African American children were required to attend inferior schools. She believed it was immoral and illegal that African American children were forced to walk to school while their white counterparts enjoyed bus transportation. And she found it unacceptable that the African American schools received their books, instructional materials, and other supplies as "hand-me-downs" from the white schools when they were no longer useful.

As former President of the local branch of the NAACP for nearly two decades, Mrs. Ballance used the political process to make the changes she sought. Over the better part of the 20th century, Mrs. Ballance registered thousands of voters across North Carolina and informed them on the importance of voting. Her efforts impacted local, state, and federal elections in North Carolina and she became a well-known political force throughout the State.

Mrs. Ballance's passion has always been ensuring that children—particularly those without privilege—are well cared for and receive a quality education. To that end, Mrs. Ballance in 1980 opened the non-profit Kiddie World Child Care Center, Inc. in Windsor, North Carolina. For more than 32 years, Mrs. Ballance has served as the Chief Executive Officer—a position this vibrant 93 year old still holds today. She tirelessly manages a staff of 20 that serve up to 50 children each day. She is extremely proud that Kiddie World has graduated more than 3,000 students since it opened more than three decades ago.

Mrs. Ballance is a deeply religious individual. She is a long standing member of Cedar Landing Missionary Baptist Church in Windsor, North Carolina. Over the years, she has held nearly every official Church position including Sunday School Teacher and Chair of the church's Kitchen Committee. The Church recently recognized Mrs. Ballance's dedication and longtime service to the Church and its members by honoring her with the title "Mother of the Church."

Mr. Speaker, Alice Eason Ballance has dedicated her life in service to friends, family, and all of humanity. I commend and congratulate Alice Eason Ballance on the great honor of having April 20th from this year forward known as "Alice Eason Ballance Day" in Bertie County, North Carolina.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE PENINSULA HILLS WOMENS' CLUB

#### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Peninsula Hills Women's Club of Redwood City, California on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Over the past 50 years the members of this group have touched the lives of people in their community, across the country and throughout the world.

In 1960, thirteen women founded the club in order to donate time and money to a variety of causes locally and worldwide. Today, the club has 36 members who continue that mission.

This Thanksgiving will be the 28th year that the members will serve dinner for lonely seniors. For 15 years, the club has provided fruit and cookies twice a month to low-income AIDS patients. For 13 years, children at migrant camps in Mexico have received hats, blankets, school supplies, sports equipment and toys. Club members sew post-op pillows for breast cancer patients, turtle pillows for seriously ill children, knit baby caps for African children and wool caps for our soldiers. They throw one birthday party a year for a low-income senior over 80 years of age. The club adopts a class and gives books to the students twice a year—on Dr. Seuss' Birthday and Christmas. It donates money to Pennies for Pines, a reforestation program, and to the Heifer Project which gives livestock to communities in developing countries in an effort to end hunger and poverty.

The Peninsula Hills Womens' Club has held numerous fundraisers for Haiti Relief, Shelter Network and the Redwood City Educational Foundation. At one of the most memorable fundraisers for the Police Youth Athletic League, sheriffs and police officers played baseball against each other—with a twist: all players were on donkeys!

As is obvious from this long and diverse list of activities, the women of the Peninsula Hills Women's Club are extraordinarily dedicated, passionate and creative. The club may be small, but it is mighty. It is currently under the leadership of its fourth president, Judy Yoakum; however, her three predecessors, Veva Wheaton, Judy Imperiale and Kit Fraglia, continue to serve on the state board.

Mr. Speaker, it is right to honor the Peninsula Hills Womens' Club on this day, October 20, 2011, for 50 years of outstanding community service and to wish the members the best for the next 50 years.

#### HONORING THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

#### HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to state for the record my gratitude to the members of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the State of Oklahoma and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States since their deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom in July 2011.

The Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the State of Oklahoma are composed of several units, including the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. The 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team is made up of six subordinate Battalions. Additionally, the 146th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS), and Oklahoma Air National Guard unit were attached to the 45th IBC for combat operations.

In July of 2011, the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team mobilized for Operation Endur-

ing Freedom to conduct full spectrum operations. Since July 2011, the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team deployed more than 3,000 soldiers to provide command and control and conduct security force and detainee operations and to provide training to Afghan Security Forces, representing the largest single deployment for the Oklahoma Army National Guard since the Korean War.

When the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team moved into theater, 1,200 soldiers from the 1-160th Field Artillery Battalion and the 1-180th Cavalry Squadron were detached from the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and redirected to Kuwait.

Upon arrival in Regional Command-East, the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, as Task Force Thunderbird, assumed responsibility for Panjshir and Laghman Provinces as well as the three western districts of Nuristan Province; Mandol, Do Ab and Nurguram. The combined operations area in Afghanistan consisted of over 10,000 square kilometers and an estimated population well over 600,000.

Through the exceptional performance of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team as Task Force Thunderbird, the Provinces where the 45th were operating are better prepared to run their government independently of Coalition Forces.

Sadly, these successes did not come without a price, as 14 soldiers from Task Force Thunderbird made the ultimate sacrifice, and many soldiers were wounded, to ensure the freedom and security of the United States and Afghan people.

I wish to publicly recognize the citizen-soldiers and airmen of the Oklahoma National Guard as invaluable to the national security of the United States, vital to defending against threats both foreign and domestic, and I welcome these brave men and women home to a grateful nation.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN KYLEANE HUNTER

#### HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize and pay tribute to Captain Kyleane Hunter, of the United States Marine Corps. I, and many other Members of this chamber, have had the great pleasure of working with Captain Hunter over the past year that she has served as part of Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs Liaison Office in the House of Representatives. She will soon be leaving the liaison office and looking toward new challenges ahead.

Captain Hunter diligently and professionally represented the Marine Corps on all matters in the House of Representatives from September 2009 to April 2012. Throughout this period, Captain Hunter advised and assisted in the execution of many of the Marine Corps' most difficult and challenging legislative initiatives and distinguished herself as a leader and standard bearer of Marine Corps values and skills. Through her direct and skillful interaction with numerous Members of Congress, she ensured that Marine Corps' concepts, programs, and requirements were widely understood; ensuring the greatest possible support