

Adopting this motion to instruct will allow the conferees to make technical corrections to improve the legislation enabling Congress to move quickly to finalize a robust bill, as the construction season is already underway.

Investing in our roads, bridges, waterways and rail systems creates good-paying jobs now while making our transportation system more efficient for decades into the future. Our backlog of maintenance needs alone is staggering, and we need to address it or continue to jeopardize our economic future.

I urge my colleagues to support the motion to instruct conferees.

#### THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATAAN DEATH MARCH

**HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Bataan Death March and to recognize one of my constituents, Dr. Lester Tenney, who took part in that long and inhumane march. He and some 76,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war made the 65 mile march from Mariveles and Bagac in the Philippines to Camp O'Donnell and were eventually transported by Hell Ships to Japan during April of 1942.

Dr. Tenney is a truly remarkable individual who has dedicated his life to serving his country and his community. When he was twenty years old, Lester joined the Illinois National Guard. His Battalion arrived in the Philippines on November 20, 1941. He was at Clark Field in the Philippines on December 8th when Japanese bombers and fighters attacked within hours of the Pearl Harbor assault.

He was engaged in the first U.S. tank battle in World War II when his Battalion, the 192d Tank Battalion of the Illinois National Guard, was sent to the Lingayen Gulf on the Northern Philippine Island of Luzon where the Japanese forces landed on December 22, 1941. Overwhelmed by the invading Japanese forces, his tank company and all other U.S. troops on Luzon Island retreated into the Bataan Peninsula.

Dr. Tenney became a POW of the Japanese when the U.S. forces on the Bataan Peninsula were surrendered on April 9, 1942. The already sick and starving troops were forced to walk 65 miles in sweltering heat with virtually no food and water in what later became known as the Bataan Death March (the March). He described his experience on the March: "Day after day, on that march, I watched in utter helplessness as hundreds of my friends—many who had become brothers—were shot, bayoneted, decapitated, and in some cases buried alive. I listened to their cries, their last requests, and the unspeakable sadness that comes to a man when he realizes he will never again see his family."

Dr. Tenney suffered severe abuse while held in POW camps and was tortured when he tried to escape. He was transported to Japan on a "Hell Ship" in September of 1942. Dr. Tenney worked as a slave in a Mitsui coal mine in Ohmuta, Japan until the end of the war in August 1945. He, along with his fellow POW's, were often beaten by employees of

Mitsui and received inadequate food and little medical care. Even as he was held in one of the worst POW camps in Japan where 138 POWs died, Dr. Tenney tried to lift the spirits of his fellow POWs by organizing and producing many variety shows as camp entertainment. Even the Japanese guards came to watch.

For these shows Dr. Tenney received a special commendation award for his contribution to improving morale among his fellow POWs in addition to the Bronze Star with two oak-leaf clusters, the Purple Heart with two oak-leaf clusters, and other medals.

It was not until 1995, when Dr. Tenney published his memoir *My Hitch in Hell: The Bataan Death March*, that he was finally able to revisit his POW experience. In this book, he vividly described his horrific experience during the March, in the POW camps in the Philippines, and in his three years of slave labor in the Mitsui coal mine. But he also wrote about a Japanese exchange student whom he and his wife hosted in the late 1960s, and whom he came to love like his own son. They were so close that when the matured student married, Dr. and Mrs. Tenney accompanied them on their honeymoon.

Since his time as a POW in Japan, Dr. Tenney has worked to advance the cause of American POW's from all conflicts. He has testified repeatedly before Congress on POW issues. The peace treaty between the U.S. and Japan took away the rights of the individual POWs to sue for their very real damages. Later the State of California enacted legislation allowing the POWs to sue the Japanese companies who enslaved them. Dr. Tenney was the lead plaintiff in the first such suit. Unfortunately the U.S. State Department took a contrary position and supported the defendant companies; and the suit failed at the Supreme Court.

Then Dr. Tenney turned to the Japanese government in the person of Ambassador Fujisaki. After several meetings with Dr. Tenney, the Ambassador received permission to attend the last reunion of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, the umbrella group of the Pacific POWs. Ambassador Fujisaki apologized to the group on behalf of the Japanese Government, the first time such a thing had happened. In 2008 Dr. Tenney was able to achieve one of his goals of an official apology from the Japanese Government for the horrors of Bataan and World War II. He has also made repeated appearances at Japanese schools and universities, appearances in the Japanese media, and met with Japanese government officials to promote awareness and improve relations between the United States and Japan.

In addition to his many years of efforts to preserve the history of American POWs of the Japanese during WWII and to reach out to the Japanese people to learn that history together, Dr. Tenney started a project which he named "Care Packages from Home" in 2007. He and friends in his retirement community in Carlsbad, California, have been sending gift packages to thousands of U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Having received no package from home while he was a POW, Dr. Tenney is determined to make sure that today's troops never feel like have been forgotten.

As of June of 2011, Dr. Tenney's Care Packages from Home has mailed 11,350 packages and are sending 200 more every

month. Maj. Gary Bourland, 39, a Marine who was on his fourth deployment said; "It is the best feeling in the world opening up one of these packages," Dr. Tenney believes that basic necessities such as nail clippers, foot powder, socks and wet wipes, can "make or break you out there." It also signals to our troops, many of whom are young and away from home for the first time that they are being remembered. Maj. Bourland also added, "If they know the American people are supportive, my troops will walk through fire for them."

Dr. Tenney is here in Washington, DC this week to tell his story and commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Bataan Death March. His service to the United States of America is a model to us all and I am proud to call him my constituent and my friend.

#### TRIBUTE TO NICK NICHOLSON

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has served as a true Kentucky leader, innovator, and businessman, Nick Nicholson. On April 18th, 2012, Nicholson announced his retirement as CEO of Keeneland. This remarkable Thoroughbred enthusiast has forever impacted the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the horse industry and most indelibly, Lexington's Keeneland Race Course. By implementing new technology, expanding racing enthusiasm, and bringing sound accounting and business management practices, Nicholson has contributed to making Keeneland the top-rated North American track for the last four years. Over the past 13 years, Nicholson and Keeneland have thrived during a time of industry contraction. I commend Mr. Nicholson on his dedicated service as the Keeneland Association's chief executive and as an astute leader in the Bluegrass.

In his youth, Nicholson developed his interest for horse racing when attending Keeneland races with his grandfather while growing up in Central Kentucky. Nicholson's early career began in Washington, DC, where he served as executive assistant to Kentucky Senator Wendell Ford. He next went on to serve as the executive vice president of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association where he was instrumental in the drafting and passage of legislation that permits interstate track wagering. In 1989, he became the executive vice president and director of the Jockey Club, an organization dedicated to the improvement of Thoroughbred breeding and racing. While employed by this organization, he most notably introduced the world's first interactive Thoroughbred registration system. In 2000, he joined the Keeneland family and became Keeneland's sixth president.

In his 13 years serving as Keeneland's president, Nicholson led the industry by introducing an all-weather surface that has made Keeneland the safest major racetrack in North America. Nicholson has also led Keeneland in setting numerous attendance and wagering records for its race meetings, including an all-time record of 250,163 attendees during its 75th Anniversary meet in October 2011, and

an all-time one-day record of 40,617 attendees for the 2012 Toyota Blue Grass Stakes. During his tenure, Keeneland's auction company's top sales figures included \$11.7 million for Meydan City at the 2006 September Yearling Sale and has amassed more than \$7 billion in total gross sales since 2000. He also led many efforts to update Keeneland with several construction projects, including the completion of a new outdoor walking ring; an enclosure of the first floor of the clubhouse; the renovation of the historic Keeneland Sales Pavilion, the construction of the Keeneland Library and the restoration of Keene Place. For his many contributions to the industry, Nicholson was honored with the Lifetime Service Award from the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, as well as The Jockey Club Gold Medal. In 2004, he was honored by election as a member into the Jockey Club.

Nicholson is a highly active member of his community and has served on the board of the Board of Trustees of UK Healthcare, Urban League, Commerce Lexington Inc., KET Commonwealth Fund, Transylvania University, Shakertown and Central Bank. Nicholson is a husband and father of two, as well as a graduate of Wake Forest University and the University of Kentucky College of Law.

Nicholson has served as a remarkable guide for Keeneland as the racetrack president. Through his leadership, wisdom, and outstanding vision, Nicholson has solidified Keeneland's status as an industry leader and treasured Kentucky tradition. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a true leader and visionary and wish him well in his new endeavors, Mr. Nick Nicholson.

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IN HONOR OF ISRAEL'S  
INDEPENDENCE

**HON. RUSS CARNAHAN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the state of Israel, one of our country's great allies, on the 64th anniversary of its independence.

On May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the sovereign and independent State of Israel.

Shortly after, President Harry Truman signed the order recognizing this new Jewish State of Israel.

Ever since, the United States and Israel have had an unshakeable relationship, bound together by common interests and shared values.

As the great symbol of democracy in the Middle East, the people of Israel continue to prosper despite the on-going challenges they face.

The Israeli people remain committed to achieving a lasting, long-term peace with their neighbors.

We must continue to support Israel, and to ensure that the peace process moves forward.

Today, I honor our ally and its commitment to democracy and freedom and offer congratulations to the State of Israel on the 64th anniversary of her independence.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST PRES-  
BYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUFFALO

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, known commonly as "First Church," a staple in my Western New York community, is celebrating its bicentennial this year.

First Church of Buffalo is the home of Buffalo's oldest congregation. Founded on February 2, 1812 by missionaries and veterans of the Revolutionary War, the church was the first religious body formed in what was the western frontier of New York State.

Often referred to as the "Mother of All Churches," First Presbyterian Church has served as a place of worship for the diverse communities of downtown Buffalo and Niagara County.

The current church located at One Symphony Circle since 1889, stands today as one of Buffalo's greatest architectural treasures. The building was designed by E.B. Green after land was donated by Mrs. Truman Avery in 1889. It is characterized by its varying historical influences with its overall Roman exterior, Byzantine interior design and Anglican chapel.

For more than two-hundred years, First Presbyterian Church has been a beacon on the West Side of Buffalo and has earned its rightful place in our city's storied history. President Theodore Roosevelt worshipped here when he visited Buffalo, the Visiting Nurses Association started as a mission project here, the Welcome Hall Mission was born at this church, and many outreach programs have found their footing through the churches indelible commitment to Buffalo's community.

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday May 20, Western New Yorkers will gather in Symphony Circle to commemorate First Church's bicentennial, joining together with prayer and with fellowship in celebration of this momentous achievement. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and all Western New Yorkers in wishing the leaders, congregants and friends of First Church the very best as they embark upon their second 200 years of service to the people of Buffalo and Western New York.

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IN HONOR OF DR. HANIMIREDDY  
LAKIREDDY

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Dr. Hanimireddy Lakireddy on the event of his 70th Birthday.

Dr. Lakireddy is a well known and respected doctor in Merced, California. He is the owner and cardiologist at Merced Heart Associates. He is also a physician and surgeon with University Surgery Center. He became the first cardiologist in Merced in 1984. Dr. Lakireddy earned his medical degree from Oasmania Ganshi Kakatiya Medical College.

Dr. Lakireddy is a major supporter of the tenth University of California campus in

Merced. Along with his wife, Vijaya, he generously gave a one million dollar gift to name the Classroom Auditorium and enabled the campus to enhance the main lecture hall to provide a performance-based venue for campus events. A leader in the medical and East Indian community, Dr. Lakireddy has helped cultivate numerous gifts to the campus. He not only helps the campus through monetary donations, but he lends his support as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Lakireddy has a philanthropic goal to promote the virtue of education in the community. He sponsors a scholarship at Merced High School in honor of his parents. He donated one million dollars to Merced College to establish the Dr. Lakireddy School of Health Sciences which offers vocational certificates, vocational nursing, nurse assistant, emergency medical technology, registered nursing and sports medicine. He was awarded Philanthropist of the Year by the Merced community in 2006.

Dr. Lakireddy not only lends his support to the Merced community but he also continues to help those in Southern India. He has funded several schools, hospitals and a sports complex in two poverty stricken cities, Velvadam and Mylavaram. In addition, Dr. Lakireddy runs a pension program in Velvadam where he promised that "as long as I live, not a single person will go hungry."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring my good friend, Dr. Hanimireddy Lakireddy for his civic engagement and support for the community.

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CARLOS LOPEZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Carlos Lopez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Carlos Lopez is a 9th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Carlos Lopez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Carlos Lopez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

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RECOGNIZING THE CENTENARY OF  
THE BAHÁ'Í HOUSE OF WORSHIP  
IN WILMETTE, ILLINOIS

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the Bahá'í House of Worship is a source of great