

was agreed to under the Budget Control Act for FY13.

This bill is another example of a partisan bill that has no chance of going anywhere but that sends a message to all Americans: You are on your own. From Medicare to child protective services, to respite care for disabled individuals, the Republican majority is cutting your services while handing a neatly wrapped gift to our Nation's millionaires.

I strongly urge a "no" vote.

HONORING MR. MA YING-JEOU ON TAIWAN'S PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION DAY

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, as Taiwan prepares for its Presidential Inauguration Day on May 20, I'd like to congratulate President Ma and our friends in Taiwan for a smooth completion of their presidential election on January 14. Mr. Ma Ying-jeou won a second term as President of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

President George W. Bush once famously described Taiwan as "a beacon of democracy to Asia and the world." His words were recognition of Taiwan's achievements in democratic development. We trust Mr. Ma and his people will continue to deepen and improve Taiwan's democracy and instill an even stronger commitment to democratic values among Taiwan's people.

The United States and Taiwan have enjoyed a strong security and economic partnership for over half a century. Our common interest in peace and security has guided U.S.-Taiwan relations and our commitment to Taiwan's security, as stated in the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act, has enabled Taiwan to build a strong democratic government and today serves as a beacon for others in the region and beyond. Similarly, Taiwan's economic partnership with us has benefited both sides, resulting in Taiwan being our tenth largest trading partner, with total bilateral trade amounting to over \$68 billion.

During Mr. Ma's second term, I hope our relationship with Taiwan will continue to flourish, especially in areas like military cooperation, Taiwan's inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program, as well as our trade relationship.

Congratulations to Mr. Ma and the people of Taiwan.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today is the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Department of Agriculture, which was established by President Lincoln on May 15, 1862.

I commend the hardworking individuals at the department who work with all elements of the food supply chain—including our farmers, growers, and ranchers, to support for packers

and shippers, marketers and processors, equipment suppliers, researchers, and retailers—to ensure that Americans have access to affordable, safe and abundant food.

The USDA also assists with important conservation efforts, and connects the most vulnerable in our society with critical food resources. As we mark this anniversary, I hope we all will take this opportunity to recognize the continued need that exists at our local food pantries. I meet with food banks and pantries on a regular basis, and demand is at an all-time high. Families who use to donate food regularly are now coming to receive food.

I appreciate the support of my colleagues for the inclusion of language in the FY12 agriculture spending bill that was signed into law to make it easier to donate excess food from the Federal school lunch program to local food banks by ensuring they are covered by the Good Samaritan Act.

The American agriculture community should be commended for their work to ensure that everyone has safe food on the table.

A TRIBUTE TO AGRICULTURE

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, with the 150th anniversary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture upon us, I feel it important to pay tribute to the American farmers, ranchers, and producers who remain a cornerstone in the foundation of our country. Since the settlement of American colonies, agriculture has played a paramount role in the lives of American citizens.

Growing up in South Georgia, I witnessed the impact agriculture plays in our Nation's economy and national security. In Georgia, agriculture is directly related to one out of every seven jobs. It contributes billions of dollars to the State's economy and provides a safe and reliable source of food for American citizens. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has played and continues to play an important role in each of these aspects.

With the long-standing relationship between Georgia and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the State of Georgia has become synonymous with agriculture. Georgia leads the Nation in broilers and value of egg production with \$4 billion dollars and \$570 million dollars, respectively. It produces the second highest amount of cotton in the United States, and it produces almost half of the peanuts grown in the U.S. with a farm gate value of over \$401 million dollars. Altogether, agriculture contributes about 12 percent annually to Georgia's \$787 billion dollar economic output.

With the success of our Nation's agriculture sector, it is vital that the U.S. government create an optimal environment where farmers and ranchers can continue to provide our country with a consistent and safe supply of agriculture products. We can achieve this through appropriate policies that provide support for our Nation's agricultural producers.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, during this time of honoring the 150th anniversary of the Department of Agriculture, it is with great esteem and pride that I honor our Nation's farmers, ranchers, and producers. I ask my fellow colleagues

to provide continued support for our country's agriculture industry. With continued support, we can carry on our America's role as a world leader in reliable material and safe foods.

RECOGNIZING MICHIGAN HELMET CHOICE LAW

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the recent passage and signing into law of a helmet choice law in my home State of Michigan.

Last month, Governor Rick Snyder signed into law Senate Bill 291, which modernizes Michigan's outdated mandatory helmet law and allows adult choice for motorcycle riders like myself. The new law allows riders to exercise their personal liberty in choosing whether to wear a helmet or not, while at the same time including smart safeguards to ensure riders are equipped with the proper skills and protections to safely travel on Michigan roads.

Michigan now joins the 30 other States with helmet choice laws, and this law will undoubtedly encourage cross-country riders to visit our beautiful State and support our strong tourism industry.

While riders are certainly free to choose whether they will ride with a helmet or not, driver awareness cannot be optional. Too many riders are injured or killed each year due to reckless driving and the only way to ensure the safety of motorcycle riders and car drivers is increased awareness on the roadways. Along with increased motorcycle rider education, it is my hope that the debate over this commonsense law will encourage all drivers to pay closer attention behind the wheel.

Again, I am grateful to Governor Snyder and the Michigan legislature on advancing personal liberty in Michigan through the passage of Senate Bill 291, and I look forward to taking my Harley out soon.

USDA—HAPPY 150TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Agriculture Committee, I am pleased to recognize the 150th birthday of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The good work of USDA and the important programs administered by USDA reach all of us every day, often more than most of us realize. In coordination with our farmers and ranchers, USDA ensures that we have a safe and abundant food supply. USDA protects the quality of our meat and poultry; feeds children and low income Americans through the nutrition programs; and supports rural Americans with an array of basic programs, including broadband, housing and economic development.

As Co-Chair of the House Hunger Caucus, along with my good friend Representative JO ANN EMERSON, I am committed to ending hunger in the United States and around the world. I want to praise USDA's robust domestic programs to help feed the most vulnerable among

us and improve nutrition. These safety net programs, including SNAP, the Child Nutrition Programs, and WIC are vitally important to helping those in need put food on the table during economic hard times and helping make sure no one especially seniors and children—goes to bed hungry in America. The Child Nutrition Programs including the National School Lunch Program are among the most important and successful anti-hunger and nutrition programs in the country. Thanks to diligent oversight by USDA, and significant reforms in the program, SNAP is one of the most effective and efficient federal programs. It is a testament to USDA's longstanding commitment to the highest standards and oversight of its programs.

Globally, the impact of USDA is just as great. I have long promoted an integrated government-wide approach to addressing global hunger and food insecurity. Beginning with the Bush Administration and expanding under the leadership of President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton, Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack and USAID Administrator Raj Shah, I am proud to say that global food security programs are stronger than ever. In particular, I am proud to support USDA's signature role in global agricultural development, emergency food aid, and international school feeding programs.

Agriculture is not just a nostalgic reflection of the past, it is a critical part of contemporary American life and the U.S. economy. I would like to take this opportunity to salute the thousands of Massachusetts small farmers who contribute so much not only to the economy, but to the nutrition and health of the people of Massachusetts, New England and the nation. It has been such a privilege for me to visit their farms, dairies and gardens and witness first-hand the great work they are doing.

I am pleased to extend my heartiest birthday wishes to USDA on this landmark anniversary, and I wish them the very best success in supporting agricultural development here at home and around the world in the next 150 years.

AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL
SCLEROSIS (ALS) ADVOCATES

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to recognize the hundreds of brave advocates who are visiting Capitol Hill from Maine and across the country to raise awareness about Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

They are here today to share their stories, to educate others about the challenges they face, and to make sure that we continue to invest in the critical research and data collection that is essential to finally making a breakthrough in the fight against ALS.

Some are here to advocate on behalf of themselves, and some are here to represent their loved ones, friends, and neighbors—far too many of whom have already been lost to ALS. They are all here to give voice to the many thousands of Americans who suffer from this disease but can't be here in person to speak for themselves.

Because of their efforts, no Member of Congress will be able to say they haven't been touched by this terrible disease. And because of their efforts, I truly believe that one day in the not so distant future we will finally have a cure.

I also want to honor one special individual in particular who had planned to be here today, before he lost his battle with ALS on April 27, 2012 at just 34 years old.

Joshua Kennedy led a life of exemplary service. He served his country bravely as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserves, including eighteen months in Iraq as a petroleum supply specialist. He served his family as a devoted husband to his wife Ernesta and a proud father to his sons Tyler, Charles, and Andrew. He served his community in Maine as a correctional officer at Androscoggin County Jail in Auburn. Then after his diagnosis in March 2010, he began to serve his country in a way he never imagined—as a passionate advocate for ALS awareness.

I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Josh in my Portland office not long after his diagnosis. I was struck by his compelling story, his warm smile, his love for his family, and his bravery in the face of unbeatable odds. He and Ernesta later traveled to Washington DC, where he brought his message to Congress and inspired action the same way he inspired the community who rallied around him and his family back home. Even as his voice eluded him and his body began to fail him, it was clear that his spirit remained strong.

I had looked forward to seeing him again this year, and his presence is dearly missed today, as it will be for years to come. There are not enough words to appropriately honor his legacy or to comfort his family on their tremendous loss. But I know his advocacy was not in vain. It is because of people like Josh that we are making progress, bit by bit, and I look forward to the day when we can celebrate his memory with a cure for ALS.

REMEMBERING ORLANDO ZAPATA
TAMAYO

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Orlando Zapata Tamayo who would have turned 45 years old today, had his life not been cut short by the murderous Castro dictatorship.

Orlando Zapata Tamayo was a member of the pro-democracy organizations Movimiento Alternativa Republicana and the Consejo Nacional de Resistencia Covica. He was arrested several times, including on March 20th, 2003 during Cuba's notorious "Black Spring." During his many years in prison, he suffered beatings, humiliation, and long periods of solitary confinement. Zapata Tamayo began a hunger strike on December 3rd, 2009 to protest inhumane prison conditions and arbitrary extensions of his sentences. His hunger strike lasted more than 80 days. During that time, he was deprived of water, suffered abhorrent prison conditions, and ultimately died at the hands of the Castro regime on February 23rd, 2010.

Sadly, the two years since his death have been years of increased repression and more

murders by the Castro regime. The number of political arrests doubled between 2010 and 2011, and the first three months of 2012 have proven even more brutal and repressive than the same period last year. While we continue to mourn the loss of Zapata Tamayo, his spirit and mission have nonetheless strengthened Cuba's courageous pro-democracy movement. Shortly after Zapata Tamayo's death, other pro-democracy activists continued his cause such as Jorge Luis Garcia Perez ("Antunez"), who founded the "Orlando Zapata Tamayo National Front for Civic Resistance and Civil Disobedience." In so many ways, he still lives. Among the pro-democracy activists that honor him and continue his mission, Mr. Zapata Tamayo is an enduring symbol of perseverance in the face of brutal repression.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Orlando Zapata Tamayo. Although his life was brutally cut short, he will forever be a blessing to Cuba's courageous pro-democracy movement and to the activists that will not allow his sacrifice to be in vain.

RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY
OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hamilton College on the occasion of its bicentennial.

Hamilton is one of this Nation's finest liberal arts colleges. It is known for its rigorous academic program to prepare students for lives of meaning and purpose. The College is renowned for teaching students to express their ideas with clarity and precision, to think creatively and analytically, and to act ethically and with conviction.

Hamilton College was originally founded in 1793 as the Hamilton-Oneida Academy by the Reverend Samuel Kirkland, missionary to the Oneida Indians. Rev. Kirkland's vision was to educate the children of the Oneidas alongside the children of the white settlers streaming into Central New York following the American Revolution. He presented his plan of education in 1793 to President George Washington who "expressed approbation" and to Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton who lent his name to the institution and consented to become a trustee. Oneida Chief Skenandoa and Baron von Steuben, inspector general of the Continental Army and "drillmaster" of Washington's troops during the War for Independence, were present when the cornerstone for the new Academy was laid on July 1, 1794.

The Hamilton-Oneida Academy lasted 19 years before it was rechartered by the Regents of the University of the State of New York as Hamilton College on May 26, 1812. The institution is believed to be the 31st oldest college in the United States.

Over the years, Hamilton has never wavered from its mission to teach the liberal arts and sciences. In 1968, all-male Hamilton College established the all-female Kirkland College, which lasted 10 years until the two colleges combined in 1978.

Today, Hamilton enrolls 1,812 students from 49 States and 37 countries. Its student-to-faculty ratio of 9-to-1 ensures significant individual attention for its students, many of whom