

of Indiana University, Purdue University, Butler University, Indianapolis Central University (now University of Indianapolis), and Franklin College.

An avid writer and photography lover, Mr. Johnson regularly contributes a two-page column, "Four Seasons Musings" to his retirement community's monthly newspaper.

Throughout his 100 years, Mr. Merrill Johnson has been dedicated to his family and friends, and I am grateful for his contributions to our great state. I am honored to commemorate a life of integrity and service to his family and his community.

#### RECOGNIZING FOX CHAPEL AREA HIGH SCHOOL

#### HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the students, faculty, and administration of Fox Chapel Area High School in Pittsburgh, PA, for their participation in the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. On March 16, 2012, the students of Mrs. Jen Klein's Advanced Placement Government class hosted local veterans to be interviewed about their service in the military.

Nine veterans visited Fox Chapel Area High School where students collected first-hand accounts of their experiences serving in the military, including World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. These stories will become a part of the permanent collection at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Along with the veterans' biographical data, their personal stories will be preserved so that future generations can understand the sacrifice and commitment they made for our country.

The Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center was created by Congress and signed into law in 2000. To date, over 74,000 records have been collected from veterans across the country. As the largest oral history program in United States history, this program relies on volunteers throughout the nation to collect and preserve the first-hand interviews of America's wartime veterans. Because of their participation, the students of Fox Chapel Area High School's names and interviews will be a part of the permanent collection.

The Veterans History Project gives our servicemen and women the opportunity to share their stories of service to our country in a way that no one else can. As the future leaders of America, these students exemplify the best that our schools have to offer. For their outstanding work and dedication to this project, I would like to commend and thank the following students of Fox Chapel Area High School:

Alexander Carlier, Ishan Chatterjee, Zachary Ferguson, Ben Freeman, Alexander Fox, Alexander Goodwin, Sarah Henry, Steven Ho, Loteta Lee, Johnny Lou, Jack Millard, Minu Nagashunmugam, Cristian Nicolescu, Sarah Ogren, Erin Ross, Nicole Segall, Ryan Shymansky, Andrew Tabas, Carly Trakofler,

Connor Whelan, Samantha Wiley, Hannah Davis Leizerowski, Emily Owens, Tanner Patsko, Morgan Tucker, Emma Thompson, Josh Norkevicius, Erin Zoller, Ana Roc Martinez, Graydon Leonard, Gisselle Manson, Benjamin Klaas, Chloe Artice, Jacob Snyder.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

#### HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4310) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the Duncan Amendment to prevent appropriations from being used to implement the Convention on the Law of the Sea. As Ranking Member of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee and as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I know the importance of this treaty for both the Coast Guard and the Navy. Signing the Convention would allow both military services to prevent potential conflicts at sea with other nations. It would also lock in critical navigational rights that will ensure the timeliness and operational readiness of the services. This is a bipartisan issue, and I regret this amendment attempts to make it a partisan one.

Both the Navy and Coast Guard are enthusiastic and supportive of the potential that the Convention on the Law of the Sea holds. In fact, earlier this month Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Robert Papp gave a speech in which he said the Convention would "better enable the Coast Guard to protect Americans from the sea, protect Americans from threats delivered by sea, and protect the sea itself."

This amendment is the wrong policy given the many benefits that we stand to gain by joining the Convention. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment.

#### HONORING JOHN F. MURPHY HOMES

#### HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John F. Murphy Homes of Auburn, Maine, on the occasion of its 35th anniversary.

John F. Murphy was one of Maine's foremost advocates on behalf of the developmentally disabled. In 1954, Mr. Murphy used his standing on the Lewiston Board of Finance to open the Garcelon School as an educational facility for mentally retarded children. After his passing in February of 1976, members of the Lewiston Auburn Association for

the Mentally Retarded formed a foundation in Mr. Murphy's honor to continue his work.

On May 18, 1977, the John F. Murphy Foundation for the Mentally Retarded was officially established with the mission to provide housing for individuals with developmental disabilities. In March of 1978, they opened their first home at 23 Pleasant Street in Lewiston for six people. Today, the agency provides direct support to hundreds of Mainers and their families, employs more than 700 people in the greater Lewiston-Auburn area, and generates millions of dollars in local economic activity.

John F. Murphy Homes has helped to raise awareness about intellectual disabilities and the need for group care facilities. The organization's remarkable success is owed to the outstanding vision of its founders and the tireless work of its employees.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating John F. Murphy Homes on achieving 35 years of exemplary service to the Lewiston-Auburn community.

#### REMEMBERING THE THIRD ANNI- VERSARY OF THE END OF THE CIVIL WAR IN SRI LANKA

#### HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the third anniversary of the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka.

Although the war ended on May 19, 2009, 90,000 Tamil war widows in the north and east continue to struggle to resume their lives without their husbands.

Many have not been able to return to their original homes and must cope with disabilities, both their own and their children's, caused by shelling and the lack of medicine and intentional starvation at the end of the war.

They have returned to a devastated land in which there is little remaining infrastructure and few jobs and which is occupied by a military force whose soldiers do not speak their language.

Making a return to normal life even more difficult is the lack of accountability for their husbands' deaths and the horrors these women and their children underwent at the end of the war, including physical, sexual, and gender-based violence.

Sri Lanka's Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission did not adequately deal with accountability by its armed forces.

At its March, 2012 session, the U.N. Human Rights Council called on Sri Lanka to "take all necessary additional steps to fulfill its relevant legal obligations and commitment to initiate credible and independent actions to ensure justice, equity, accountability and reconciliation for all Sri Lankans."

If Sri Lanka does not take up this task immediately, there must be international action to provide accountability.

This is why, Mr. Speaker, I am a co-sponsor of H. Res. 177, which calls for an international investigation into what occurred in Sri Lanka at the end of its civil war.

I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2012*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to this bill. The Violence Against Women Act has never been a divisive piece of legislation until this Tea Party Majority came into power. Instead of bringing the bipartisan bill already passed by the Senate to this floor for a vote, House Republicans are attempting to pass a partisan and discriminatory bill that eliminates protections for violent crime victims.

The Republican bill on the floor this week eliminates long-standing critical protections for immigrant women who are the victims of crime and abuse. This bill rejects the new protections adopted by the Senate for gay and transgender individuals. The LGBT community experiences domestic violence at roughly the same rates as other populations, but these survivors often face discrimination when seeking the services they need to escape abuse. The bipartisan Senate bill included provisions to ensure LGBT victims can find refuge and access needed services.

This bill also eliminates the new provisions for Native American victims. One in three native women is raped in her lifetime, three in five suffer domestic assault, and a majority of the perpetrators are non-Indian. Considering these horrific statistics, I am dismayed that the bill the Republican majority brought before us today does not include adequate protections for Native women. The provision included at the last minute—section 1006—actually takes a step backward by placing the burden on the woman seeking protection, who would have to travel to a federal court and hire legal counsel. It forces tribal women to rely on federal law enforcement, who already decline to prosecute more than half of the violent crimes in Indian Country, and an even higher percentage of sexual assault cases.

According to the National Congress of American Indians, in one alarming case, a woman was assaulted by her non-Native boyfriend and had her nose broken. When she filed a police report, she heard that the injury was just broken cartilage, and that the case would not be prosecuted because U.S. attorneys will not take a domestic violence case unless the disfigurement is permanent. This is the status quo that the bill before us will maintain. It is unacceptable, especially with a better bipartisan alternative available.

The Violence Against Women Act reauthorization bill passed by the Senate, S. 1925, had provisions that provided for tribes to prosecute a non-Indian for domestic violence in a constitutional manner. Defendants would still have access to free counsel, to due process, and to a jury of their peers including non-Indians. These common-sense provisions were developed during years of consultation with tribes and were recommended by the U.S. Department of Justice after studying the crisis. Tribal communities need this authority at the local level to protect their mothers, sisters and daughters from abuse.

If the House passed the bipartisan Senate bill, it would send a clear message that this

country does not tolerate violence against women, regardless of their ethnicity or sexual orientation. Moreover, it would show Congress' commitment to reducing domestic violence, protecting women from sexual assault and securing justice for victims.

Over a decade ago, VAWA passed the House and Senate by votes of 371–1 and 95–0, respectively, and then this overwhelming support was repeated in 2005. Yet here we are today, with my colleagues across the aisle turning this into a divisive and partisan issue.

It is wrong, it is unfair to victims of domestic violence, and it is the latest example of this Tea Party Republican Majority's failure to find common ground even on issues that have been historically non-controversial. We must do better for all women who experience violence, which is why I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill. I remain hopeful that the House will have the opportunity to consider the Senate-passed bipartisan language instead.

The purpose of VAWA has always been to ensure that all victims of violence are protected and that their basic human rights are upheld, no matter one's sexual orientation, ethnicity, or legal status in this country, and this bill shirks that responsibility.

THE DEATH OF DC LEGEND CHUCK  
BROWN

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I say goodbye to a great artist, consummate professional and my friend, Chuck Brown. Chuck dedicated over 50 years to filling the hearts and spirits of both young and old with the infectious sound of his soulful music. No man, woman or child could remain seated when Chuck took the stage, as he played his signature brand of music that he coined "Go-Go." While my friendship with Chuck only begin 6 years ago, the "God-father" as he is affectionately known by DC natives, has been rockin' and rollin' since the early 60s.

He was deeply loved and he will be sorely missed. My heart goes out to his family, loved ones and Washington, DC. We truly lost a legend yesterday.

IN TRIBUTE TO DAVID HADLEY

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to David Hadley, who is the quintessence of a community volunteer—and a lifelong friend.

I have known Dave since we were boys. Dave, his brother, Peter, and I were in the Sea Explorers together. Their dad, "Skipper" Al Hadley, was our Explorer advisor. Skipper instilled in us, and our fellow Scouts, the values of patriotism and public service.

Dave took his father's teachings to heart.

In addition to making his mark in girls softball for the past 35 years—to the extent that

the Boys & Girls Club baseball field in Fallbrook, California, is named the Dave Hadley Field in recognition of his longtime dedication to youth sports—Dave has been active in his church and has been advisor to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

During his 35 years of coaching youth softball, Dave has also helped organize youth softball leagues with administrative positions, organized local and traveling teams, and coached "Smurf" softball programs for kindergarten girls. And, like his dad, Dave also taught his players the value of giving back. His former players have gone on to play and coach in the National Pro Fast Pitch League and at numerous high schools, community colleges and colleges.

Also in keeping with his dad's example, Dave's daughters, Heather and Holly, also were recipients of Dave's coaching and example. He also is providing guidance, direction and coaching to his seven grandchildren: Amber, Hunter, Kai, Shea, Mackynley, Ben and David.

Dave's dedication to youth expands beyond the softball field. He has been a Confraternity of Christine Doctrine (CCD) teacher at St. Peter's Catholic Church for 20 years and an executive board member and past president of the Boys & Girls Club of Fallbrook for 22 years.

In addition, Dave served for five years as an Advisory Board member from San Diego County Service Area 81, providing community input to county supervisors. Somehow he also found the time to be an entrepreneur, owning and operating S-K Specialties, a full-service machine shop, for 35 years.

Mr. Speaker, Dave is to be rightly honored for his service to his community. I know my colleagues join Fallbrook, California, and me in thanking Dave for his decades of dedication and in recognizing not only his accomplishments, but in recognizing the accomplishments of those he has mentored and has passed on the values of patriotism and public service.

Well done, my friend.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION  
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

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**HON. RICK LARSEN**

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Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of an amendment offered by Representative JOHNSON of Georgia that would include a finding that states the deployment of tactical weapons to South Korea would destabilize the Western Pacific region and would not be in the national security interests of the United States.

Due to increased provocative actions taken by North Korea, I feel there is a thought that the placement of tactical nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula would act as a deterrent