

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING MARK WASSERMAN AND THE HOUSES FOR CHANGE PROGRAM

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Houses for Change is an innovative new campaign garnering support for the fight against homelessness. This new program is quickly becoming a popular way to help communities across the country support the less fortunate. The program's founder, Mark Wasserman, recently visited Capitol Hill to share his ideas with Members of Congress and their staff. I would like to recognize Mr. Wasserman's dedication and thank him for working to improve his community.

Looking for a way to help the homeless, Mark came up with the Houses for Change program. This innovative program allows children to use their imagination and creativity to support homeless people. The children decorate pre-ordered boxes so that they look like small homes, and then they take their homes around the community to collect loose change. On a selected date, the children and parents bring the boxes back to Houses for Change, and all of the proceeds go directly to a charity selected by the participants. Similar to the Jewish tradition of the tzedakah box, this unique method allows all of the money raised to go directly towards helping the homeless.

Mark's original idea was extremely successful in Palm Beach County, Florida. As a result, the program is now being launched nationwide. With the help of Family Promise, Houses for Change is quickly being adopted by schools, church congregations, and homeless organizations across the country. Additionally, organizations such as the YMCA and United Way are going to begin using this program to help youth get involved in this meaningful community service project. Due to his hard work and dedication, Mark's original idea is now a national effort to help the less fortunate members of our society.

Mr. Speaker, people like Mark Wasserman are a shining example of those selfless individuals who have committed their life to helping their communities become a better place. I am so proud that the Houses for Change program started in South Florida, and I hope that the program continues to thrive across the nation.

### BUFFALO SOLDIERS IN THE NATIONAL PARKS STUDY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1022, "Buffalo

Soldiers in the National Parks Study Act." This bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to study alternatives for the commemoration and interpretation of the role of the Buffalo Soldiers in the early years of the national parks.

America's national parks are a treasure of nature's magnificent wonders—84 million acres of the most stunning landscapes anyone has ever seen. The story of the national parks is the story of people from every conceivable background who were willing to devote themselves to saving a portion of the land they loved. Among them were Buffalo Soldiers.

Our country began the arduous task of rebuilding itself after a brutal civil war. In this war former slaves fought in Union regiments to pursue the ultimate goal to end slavery. These Black soldiers were later used in 1866, when Congress created six segregated regiments that ultimately became four black regiments that later became known as the original Buffalo Soldiers. Because of prevailing attitudes following the Civil War, these soldiers could only serve west of the Mississippi River. Their main charge was to protect settlers as they moved west and to support building the infrastructure needed for new settlements to flourish.

Buffalo Soldiers conducted campaigns against American Indian tribes on a western frontier that extended from Montana in the northwest to Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona in the southwest. They engaged in several clashes against such great Indian Chiefs as Victorio, Geronimo, and Nana.

"Buffalo Soldiers" was the name given the black cavalrymen by the Plains Indians. Reason for the name is uncertain. One view is that the Indians saw a resemblance between the black man's hair and the mane of a buffalo. Another view is that when a buffalo was wounded or cornered, it fought ferociously, displaying unusual stamina and courage. This was the same fighting spirit Indians saw in combat with black cavalrymen. Since Indians held the buffalo in such high regard, it was felt that the name was not given in contempt.

Those Buffalo Soldiers not only fought in conflicts along the western frontier, but they were indispensable in the treacherous and desolate trails of the Wild West. They helped protect and build up our new country as it expanded west. They built roads. They protected new territories where they escorted settlers, cattle herds, and railroad crews, while battling Mexican revolutionaries, outlaws, rustlers and hostile Native American tribes. The Buffalo Soldiers were the protectors of the western frontier.

Buffalo Soldiers played a central role in protecting national parks—Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. They were, in fact, our national parks' first "guardians." These Soldiers kept the park free from poachers and from the ranchers whose grazing sheep destroyed the parks' natural habitats. They built roads, including the first wagon road into the Giant Forest of Sequoia.

At a time when most of the country would not recognize their humanity, these brave pa-

triot stood up to fight and protect a country that was just as much theirs as any other American. And I think it is fitting and symbolic that at a time when our Nation was rebuilding itself after being torn apart, it was former slaves and children of former slaves—Buffalo Soldiers—that rebuilt and protected our new and expanding country.

As our country progresses, there will continue to be sites of historic and cultural significance that need to be added to the national park system. Commemorating and interpreting the role of the Buffalo Soldiers in the early years of the national parks will ensure the historical contributions of the Buffalo Soldiers will always be remembered. Celebrating the role of Buffalo Soldiers serves to interpret, articulate, collect, display and preserve historical artifacts, documents, and other historical memorabilia relating to these brave men.

It is America's mandate to acknowledge and reflect America's diverse stories. The story of Buffalo Soldiers is an underrepresented cultural theme in our national parks. Commemorating Buffalo Soldiers in the history of the nation's national parks is a step in the right direction. It reflects our cultural heritage and ensures their stories are told for our children and grandchildren to enjoy throughout posterity.

At this time I would also like to take a moment to thank a special Legislative Fellow in my office, Byron McKie. He has been working diligently to enhance the opportunities of children through STEM education.

### IN MEMORY OF JAMES I. THACKER

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James I. Thacker, a dedicated public servant and brave member of the Pike County Sheriff's Department in Pikeville, Kentucky. His passing is a great loss and he will be deeply missed in Pike County.

For law enforcement officers and other first responders, a routine assignment can become dangerous at any moment. On Monday, January 23rd, James was serving papers at the end of his shift, when a vehicle crossed the center line on U.S. 460 and hit him head on. His comrades rushed to his aid, just the same as he had done so many times before for them.

James will always be remembered for his service to Pike County, both for his time as a Deputy Sheriff and his faithful years as a Constable. He served with compassion, loyalty and the utmost integrity. James' comrades highly respected him, and described him as someone who treated others as he wanted to be treated. He was an excellent officer and was always prepared to answer the call of duty.

James was a loving husband, a father of four, a grandfather and a former road foreman. His loss will be felt across the county

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and his legacy will carry on in the hearts and lives of those who love him.

Let us remember that everyday our law enforcement officers are putting their lives on the line and that a routine day is never routine. On behalf of my wife Cynthia and myself, I want to extend our deepest heartfelt sympathies to the Thacker family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a brave, public servant for the people of Pike County, Kentucky, the late James Thacker.

IN HONOR OF JOANNE B. "JOEY"  
LASNIK

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joanne B. "Joey" Lasnik, who passed away January 4, 2012. Lasnik was a longtime community activist, volunteer, leader, daughter, grandmother, and friend.

Lasnik was an active member of the Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women, the Monterey County Overall Economic Development Commission, the Monterey County Democratic Women's Club, a leader on the National and local level of the Girl Scouts, the Salinas branch of NAACP, and the American Association of University Women, she served on the committee for the Fort Ord Task Force, and the advisory Board of KHDC. In 1981 Joanne was the first woman ever to be named foreman of the Monterey County Grand Jury. Joey proudly served four terms on the Hartnell College Board of Trustees.

Joey always strived to enhance the status of women and seniors throughout her professional life as the Executive Director of the Volunteer Center for Salinas, Executive Director of the Alliance on Aging, a Board member of the Salinas Senior Center, and Executive Director of Meals on Wheels of Salinas Valley. She was instrumental in developing the vision to build a one-stop state of the art Senior Center in Salinas. Joey had a talent for grant writing, passion for education, and beliefs in fairness and equality. She helped to train others to continue and expand on her work. She is considered an important mentor to many women.

Joanne had many tremendous accomplishments from her Bachelors in Education for the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Masters in Science from Purdue University, to all of her volunteer work, helping to organize women's shelters and partaking in numerous community groups. In addition, she was an accomplished needle-pointer, seamstress, and creative cook, but most of all she was a proud parent to Leslie, Jay, Mark, her daughter in law and beloved grandchildren as well as her "adopted" sons from Japan she hosted for over 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in mourning the passing of this dedi-

cated and loving woman. Her life was a gift to her community, a shining example to be emulated by those who she inspired to continue her work.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on January 23, I missed rollcall votes Number 5 and 6. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 5, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3115), the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2011, and "yea" on rollcall vote 6, providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1141), the Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act.

A TRIBUTE TO ONOREVOLE  
ALESSANDRO PAGANO

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alessandro Pagano. Mr. Pagano, a member of the Italian National Parliament, has worked extensively to strengthen Italian American relations.

As a member of the Italian Parliament, Mr. Pagano works tirelessly to improve the fields of health, education, and budget. He has served as Regional Minister of Health, Regional Minister for Budget and Finance, Regional Councilor for Cultural Heritage, and Regional Minister for Education.

As the Regional Minister of Health, Mr. Pagano has served under various committees in an effort to improve both Italian healthcare systems and improve quality of life for the Italian people.

With his extensive educational background in both economics and banking, Mr. Pagano has impressively increased revenues without raising taxes and recovered financial resources of over one billion Euros per year, earning a positive rating with the international rating agency Fitch.

Mr. Pagano also has as history of teaching. He holds two degrees earned with honors in both banking and economics from the University of Messina, and has dedicated well over a decade of his life to teaching in higher education. He continues to serve as a member of the Scientific Committee of the weekly tax legislation, titled "The Taxes."

Under his position of Regional Minister for Education, Mr. Pagano has begun multi-million Euro programs to help keep Sicilian schools safe.

In his continued efforts to preserve cultural heritage, Mr. Pagano was appointed as Regional Minister for Cultural Heritage, and has begun projects to renovate and restore price-less buildings and cultural artifacts.

Mr. Pagano's long and impressive career showcases his commitment to a better society, his profession, and his community. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you, and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking Alessandro Pagano for his work and his continued service to both Italy and the United States of America.

#### REVENUE ESTIMATE

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2012*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on January 30, 2012, the Joint Committee on Taxation produced a revenue estimate for a bill that I introduced today. The Joint Committee estimates that my bill, which amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to disallow a deduction for amounts paid or incurred by a responsible party relating to a discharge of oil, would save hardworking American taxpayers an average of \$1.3 billion per year.

I revise and extend my remarks today to include that revenue estimate for the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION,

*Washington, DC, Jan 30, 2012.*

Hon. ALCEE L. HASTINGS,

*House of Representatives,*

*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. HASTINGS: This letter is in response to your request, dated January 26, 2012, for a revenue estimate of a proposal that would disallow the deductibility of amounts paid or incurred by a responsible party relating to the discharge of oil.

Your proposal would amend Internal Revenue Code (the "Code") section 162 by disallowing the ability to deduct expenses incurred as a consequence of the discharge of oil into navigable waters, other than an incident caused by an act of God or an act of war. For definitional purposes, any term used in the proposal that is also used in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 is to have the same meaning as in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. Based on our discussion with Ian Wolf McCormick of your staff, we have assumed that the tax base includes direct and indirect clean up costs, compensatory and punitive damages, associated legal fees, and other amounts associated with the discharge and paid by responsible parties. In addition, any casualty losses associated with the responsible party's own property incurred as a result of the oil spill are not included in the tax base nor are any of the responsible party's voluntary mitigation payments.

Your proposal would be effective for returns of tax the extended due date of which is after the date of enactment (regardless of whether any extension had been requested). For purposes of the revenue estimate, we have assumed a date of enactment of April 1, 2012.

As incidents resulting in the discharge of oil of sizeable proportions do not occur with a frequency that creates a pattern that can be modeled, this estimate is primarily based on known discharges of oil that have occurred as of this date.

Fiscal years, millions of dollars—

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012-16	2012-22
2,224	1,385	1,679	1,139	303	6,729	6,792

Note: Details do not add to totals due to rounding.