

# NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM EXTENSION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 30, 2012*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act.

I support this bill because any extension is better than no extension. We really owe our constituents more than a 60 day extension and we must pass a long-term reauthorization the NFIP. Last year, the House completed their work on a reauthorization. I supported that bill and wish it was the one we could consider today.

In our district, in Houston and East Harris County, Texas, the flood insurance program is critically important. Many of our constituents are required to carry flood insurance. The flood plain in our district covers thousands of houses and because of the topography of the land, the flood insurance program is the only way building and living here is practical. Without it, no policies could be written and no one would want to buy or live with such financial risk hanging over their heads.

I also hope that when we revisit flood insurance that we include provisions that provide a five year phase-in of flood insurance premiums for low-income homeowners or renters whose primary residence is placed within a flood plain through an updating of flood insurance program maps. This language, which was in the bill we passed last July, homes can be valued at no more than 75% of the median home value for the state in which the property is located. The Harris County Flood Control District implements new flood control measures by maintaining bayous, building retention basins, and implementing drainage features, but even the best flood control can be overrun by a particularly bad storm. This language should be included in the final bill that is sent to the President.

I look forward to working with my colleagues so that the next time we consider flood insurance we are reauthorizing and not extending it.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 31, 2012*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on May 30, I attended a family event and missed rollcall votes Nos. 294, 295, and 296. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of these votes. Specifically, I believe that rollcall vote 294, the Prescription Drug User Fee Amendments of 2012 is critical to the health and safety of all Americans. It ensures that people have access to crucial medicines and medical devices, improves access to new and innovative medicines and devices, helps prevent and mitigate drug shortages, and reduces drug costs for consumers by speeding the approval of lower-cost generic drugs. Very importantly, the bill includes important provisions to help prevent and mitigate drug shortages

which have become too frequent and with dire consequences. These provisions include:

Require manufacturers of critical or life-saving drugs to notify the agency within six months, or as soon as possible, of an interruption or permanent stop in manufacturing;

Require FDA to expedite the review and approval of manufacturing changes that could help mitigate or prevent a shortage;

Require FDA to maintain a public updated list of drugs experiencing shortages.

## RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF DUBLIN'S DESIGNATION AS AN "ALL-AMERICA CITY"

**HON. JERRY McNERNEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 31, 2012*

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the city of Dublin for its designation as a 2011 "All-America City" by the National Civic League (NCL).

The NCL established the All-America City Award in 1949. Each year, the NCL presents this award to 10 cities that effectively work to find solutions to local challenges. Dublin was the only city from California to receive this prestigious award in 2011.

Dublin was recognized for its tireless work to address the challenges its residents face. The city improved its educational system by supporting the School of Imagination, which is a non-profit preschool that serves children with special needs. Dublin also focused on establishing new sustainability programs and implementing effective affordable housing policies. I commend Dublin's resourcefulness in finding ways to solve problems in the community.

Dublin serves as an excellent example to the rest of the Nation of what can be accomplished when communities come together to address common issues. It is my privilege to serve the residents of this great city. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dublin for receiving the All-America City Award.

## CONGRATULATIONS F.A. "ANDY" LOWREY

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 31, 2012*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on June 6, 2012, F.A. "Andy" Lowrey will retire from his position as chief executive officer of AgFirst Farm Credit Bank in Columbia, South Carolina, a wholesale bank and operations center serving nineteen retail lenders in the AgFirst territory. AgFirst Bank holds assets of \$29.5 billion dollars, making it the most well-capitalized bank headquartered in the Columbia area. Due to his outstanding leadership, I would like to recognize Andy for his hard work and dedication over the past fourteen years.

In addition to serving on the Board of Directors of the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation, Andy remains very active within the Columbia and Midlands communities. He serves on the Board of Trustees for the Business Partnership Foundation and resides as

Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Education Foundation at the University of South Carolina. Additionally, he is a member of the Board of Directors for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Columbia. Andy is also a recipient of the Honorary American FFA Degree and serves as chairman of the Finance Committee for the National 4-H Council.

Andy Lowrey graduated in 1974 from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Business in Accounting and received a Master of Business Administration from the Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina in 1990. He and his wife Jan Cromer have three daughters. I wish Andy and the rest of his family best wishes in the future.

## PREPARING FOR WEATHER EMERGENCIES

**HON. SPENCER BACHUS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 31, 2012*

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, the devastating tornadoes that struck my home state of Alabama on April 27, 2011 taught all of us important lessons about emergency preparedness. Countless lives were saved because of the early warnings provided to citizens and the availability of community storm shelters. Our broadcasters performed a great public service by providing early and accurate forecasts about the coming storms. We have been working together to further expand this warning system through the greater use of weather radios and the development of technology to deliver mobile alerts by cell phone. In addition, we are working cooperatively to try to ensure that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) can deploy the next generation of enhanced weather satellite technology in a timely manner. In Alabama, as in many other states, there will be tornadoes and severe storms. But with good preparation and emergency planning, lives can be saved and damage minimized when a natural disaster strikes. We cannot afford to be complacent and should never be afraid to ask the question, "What can we do better?"

## HONORING THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE GREAT SWAMP WILDLIFE REFUGE FOR 150,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 31, 2012*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hundreds of volunteers at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, who are celebrating the milestone of logging 150,000 volunteer service hours in aiding the Refuge since 1982.

The volunteers of the Great Swamp, through their dedicated hard work, have made the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, a vibrant source of pride and activity for the local community. Although the volunteer program was formally founded in 1982, volunteers have been helping preserve the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge since it was

formed by an Act of Congress in 1960. Over the years, volunteers have provided a variety of guest services and assistance with maintaining the 7,768 acres of the Great Swamp.

Upon arriving at the Great Swamp NWR, guests are welcomed by the lush gardens near the visitor center maintained by volunteers. From spring through fall, the volunteers staff the Wildlife Observation Center, where visitors are introduced to the Great Swamp and all of its trails, paths and "must see" locations. Volunteers also provide tours for schools and community organizations, which educate students and the surrounding residents about the Great Swamp and all of the wildlife and plants that make it so unique. As another part of their very important work in preserving the natural beauty of the Refuge, they join the effort in controlling invasive plants, which threaten to disrupt the Great Swamp's fragile ecosystem.

Outreach to local communities has always been a hallmark of the volunteers of the Great Swamp. They help build and display exhibits at libraries and off-refuge events. Through these displays they are able to educate the community about the Great Swamp and the value the Great Swamp represents to the environment of Morris County and New Jersey. They also spread the news about the Great Swamp by giving presentations to various community organizations. Volunteers assist in raising funds through planning of special events and ceremonies.

The hard work and dedication of the volunteers has provided \$3.2 million in value to the Great Swamp and to the American people. Their work on behalf of the Great Swamp has allowed the Refuge to grow into the one-of-a-kind educational center that it is today. Even though the volunteers come from all walks of life and represent all ages, their love of the Great Swamp and nature has built a close bond between them. Many of the volunteers have even taken another step in their commitment and have joined the independent nonprofit group dedicated to preserving the Great Swamp called the Friends of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The volunteers of the Great Swamp are truly the backbone of this New Jersey institution.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating all of the volunteers of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge for 150,000 hours of service to the great State of New Jersey and the United States.

#### TO RECOGNIZE THE FIRST ANNUAL MILITARY TENNIS CAMP

**HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 31, 2012*

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United States Tennis Association, San Diego District Tennis Association, Naval Medical Center San Diego, and Balboa Tennis Club for working together to create the First Annual Military Tennis Camp for Ill, Injured and Wounded Service Members and Veterans. This remarkable event took place at Balboa Tennis Club in San Diego, May 16, 2012 through May 19, 2012, and brought over forty military heroes together to play tennis

while working to improve their physical well-being and overall quality of life.

Serving our ill and wounded military service members, veterans, and their families through a variety of tennis programs is a major focus for these outstanding organizations. Tennis therapy clinics are providing exciting benefits to participants, including improved endurance, balance, hand-eye coordination and weight transfer abilities. Additionally, by enabling them to learn a new sport, these organizations are truly improving the lives of wounded service members and veterans. Tennis is an activity that service members can continue to play when they return to their hometowns and will help them reduce stress and anxiety while also improving their physical activity.

Lastly, I would like to thank the U.S. Olympic Committee, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and private donors for providing all airfare, meals, local transportation and hotel costs for each participant. Taken together, these groups raised over \$40,000 to fund this great cause, and this event could not have taken place if it were not for the work and generosity of these great organizations.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing and congratulating the United States Tennis Association, the San Diego District Tennis Association, Naval Medical Center San Diego, the U.S. Olympic Committee and Balboa Tennis Club for the outstanding work they have done, and are continuing to do, for our nation's heroes and their families.

#### FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION REFORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 30, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to echo the comments of my colleagues, Representative BILBRAY and Representative SPEIER, and share my concerns about the Food and Drug Administration's draft guidance on Research Use Only and Investigational Use Only products.

This guidance provides no flexibility for tests used infrequently, for example, to identify rare disorders. Rare diseases, such as Gaucher Disease and Fragile X, can be hard to diagnose, but genetic tests developed and validated by laboratories have made them much easier to identify. In some instances, these tests can point the way to successful treatment of the underlying condition.

Emerging public health threats are another key area that could be impacted by this guidance. Three years ago, this country dealt with the H1N1 flu virus, an emerging infectious disease. If another such public health threat became a serious concern, this draft guidance could block the development and deployment of new diagnostics urgently needed during a national crisis.

It is critical that the FDA consider these serious and valid concerns before issuing a final guidance on Research Use Only or Investigational Use Only products.

#### THE NEED FOR URGENT ACTION TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 31, 2012*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, last month we celebrated Earth Day with the slogan: One Billion People—192 Countries. During the celebration, people of different religious faiths in the United States and abroad participated, issuing proclamations on the moral imperative to be good stewards of the Earth and for action on climate change.

Since Senator Gaylord Nelson first introduced the idea of Earth Day in 1969 here in Congress and founded the first Earth Day in 1970, we have come a long way. An estimated 20 million Americans participated in the first Earth Day. Each year since, Earth Day has been observed around the world.

It is fitting that we remember that Senator Nelson's underlying premise behind creating "a nationwide demonstration of concern for the environment" was to heed the call to action. Just like 1970, Earth Day 2012 comes at a time of great challenge for our nation and everyone on this planet.

The climate is changing and will endanger the very future of our children and grandchildren. The buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere as a result of human activities will lead to extraordinary heat waves, storms and floods will kill many people and harm many others. This increasing toll of death and destruction will not be limited to developing countries. Tropical diseases will increase their range of infection and exact their toll in human lives. Prolonged droughts will threaten the productivity of even our nation's agricultural lands. Ocean acidification will destroy coral reefs and the chain of sea life they support, endangering a leading food source for up to one-third of humanity.

If coastal ice shelves in the Antarctic continue to disintegrate, sea levels will rise several meters this century. At such a rate, many of the world's great cities will face chronic floods and many coastal settlements will disappear. Large-scale human migrations in response to rising sea levels, food and water insecurity and other climate-induced stresses will impoverish many people and threaten our national security. An increasingly harsh climate will greatly endanger future generations' life expectancy and diminish everyone's quality of life. Mass extinction of species is a distinct possibility, leaving a far more desolate planet for our descendants than the world that we inherited.

This is not just an environmental or ecological issue. It is a national security, food, water, and quality of life issue. Knowing these potentially disastrous outcomes and knowing we can avert many of them makes this a moral and ethical issue. And it is why I am pleased that religious leaders from many faiths are willing to back the resolution I am introducing today that calls on Congress to take immediate action on climate change. This resolution calls for action on the part of the House to ensure that the energy, environmental, agricultural, national security, and foreign policies of the United States reflect appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to climate change, as documented by