

band went on to compete and place fourth at the National Championship in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

This victory demonstrates that with hard work, determination, and discipline, we can reach our goals. The band also received awards for best music, effect, visual, performance, and guard. Fifty-three musicians qualified for the performance, and they remained focused and determined to achieve their dream of victory at the statewide competition.

I want to applaud the band's staff—Todd Burroughs, Christina Burroughs, Bobby Jones, Mark Lortz, Megan Howell, Briscoe Thompson, and Kevin Burroughs for their dedication and commitment to training these superb musicians. I also send my hardest congratulations to the members of the marching band on their victory—Carrie Barrett, Alexis Badovski, Samantha Lockard, Breanna Thorne, Brendan Utt, Bailie Anthony, Elizabeth Barnes, William Husk, Kacey Roberts, Jennifer Russnogle, Paula Wills, Robert Konen, Chris Mitchell, Marlena Krauth, Jennifer Thalman, Sam Prettyman, Dakota Sparks, Josh Wetherald, Geoffrey Westbrook, Joey Coleman, Kelsie Gill, Philip Hayden, Garret Ordille, Matt Ordille, Megan Mosier, Nick Nelson, Ryan Nelson, Kelly Purdy, Jacob Thorne, Kayla Bean, Kolleen Dare, Jake Flowers, Jennafer Harris, Rachel Kaper, Kayla Morris, Taylor McQueeney, Nicole Sadecki, Hunter Sparks, Madison Bateman, Rachel Escolopio, Amber Griffith, Sabrina Hill, Danielle Hilton, Carly Keating, Hannah Kozlowski, Emily McKoy, Rachel Nussberger, Darby Powell, Layne Thompson, Melanie Thompson, Kristen Wetzell, Mackenzie Wood, Meredith Wood, and Gina Zanelotti.

I'm very proud of these young men and women, and I congratulate all those involved in bringing home the championship title. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this significant accomplishment.

#### RECOGNIZING THE GREATER PRINCE WILLIAM MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

##### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the volunteers of The Greater Prince William Medical Reserve Corps.

The Greater Prince William Medical Reserve Corps (GPWMRC) is a cadre of volunteer health care professionals and community members trained to respond to emergencies and assist with public health events in Prince William County and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. This unit is one of approximately 800 units that are part of the national Medical Reserve Corps program under the direction of the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General and 1 of 31 in the Commonwealth of Virginia. GPWMRC volunteers frequently provide important services at events such as health fairs, vaccination clinics and large public gatherings. Volunteers also spend a lot of their time attending trainings and exercises so that they are prepared to help the community during an emergency.

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of volunteers for The Greater Prince William Medical Reserve Corps:

Vickie Andrews, Evelyn Ansah-Agyei, Heather Baldwin, Valerie Bampoe, Hassan Bangura, Harry Beaver, Charlotte Bediako, Diondra Blyden, Sarah Boughman, Susan Brewer, Josh Brown, Eileen Brown, Pamela Brown, David Bruce, Alisa Bruce, Kathryn Cantoni, Janice Chambers, Gabriella Chimenz, Kathy Cobb, Nancy Collins, Debbie Constable, Judy Corcoran, Sonia Coughlin, Marguerite Crozier, Lisa Cullom, Valerie Cyrus, Theresa Dailey, Estelle Daniels, Tele Dasilveira, Brian Davis, Annette Davis, Molly Davis, Monique Davis, Faduma Deghill, Patricia Demain, Mary Dessimoz, Joseph Dibisceglie, Kalima Drga Abreu, Douglas Dulaney, Blossom Ellicott, Gloria Ephraim, Bernadette Espy, Adrienne Foose, Sandra Francis, Victoria Gammon, Bianca Garcia, Fil Beth Gatmaitan, Miguel Granillo, Masako Griffith, Brenda Grimes, Margaret Hayes, Shenna Hess, Jenny Ho, Joan Howard, Miwa Hwang, Annie Johnson, Kimberly Johnson, Lucinda Jones, Jennifer Jones, Fatmata Kamara, Jane Keady, Katherine Ketchum, Stephanie Keyes, Elizabeth Koren, Hawa Kun, Cecilia Kusi, Janiece Lacy, Grace Langebeck, Blake Leggett, Brunette Lewis, Joyce Lund, Nghi Lu-Tran, Linda Manley, Iris Matos, Jessica Maybar, Kamil McClain, Pamela McGrath, Megan McHugh, Cary McMahon, John Meehan, Judy Merring, Ryan Metz, Heather Miranda, Emerita Mogrovejo, Esther Moniba, Monica Moore, Virginia Morales, Troy Morton, Chrystal Morton, Margaret Nee, Ralph Neep, Nancy Neeper, Rachel Nissley, Lawrence Ofosuhen, Juanita Oliver, Jose Quinones, Renee Ray, Teresa Rice, Mark Rivera, Melissa Rivera, Donna Robinson, Julie Russell, JoAnn Saenz, Mary Simon, Shekhar Sharma, Anne Shaw, Carrie Slavens, Zondra Smith, Kathleen Smith Peters, Jane Stottlmyer, Kamar Sumrall, Raquel Upshur, Susana Vega, Karen Villar, Valecia Washington, Margaret Watkins, Shalanda Weems, Gail West, Mary Weybright, Collis Williams, Siewadaye Williams, Rhondra Willis, Kathryn Willis, Gladys Wise, Reeza Woode.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the volunteers of The Greater Prince William Medical Reserve Corps for their service and in thanking them for their dedication to our community.

#### SGT. WADE DANIEL WILSON, TEXAS WARRIOR

##### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Texas' native sons who served his country honorably in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. I was deeply saddened to learn that Sergeant Wade Daniel Wilson of Leona, Texas was killed by enemy action in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan on May 11, 2012.

Wade Wilson was one man whose life made a difference at a very young age. He personi-

fied the core values of the United States Marine Corps: honor, courage, and commitment.

Wade grew up in Leona, a small city near Centerville, Texas. He was a graduate of Centerville High School, and he was known to have a heart of a champion; whether on the football field or in the classroom.

With his faith in God and country, at age 17, Wade enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He served in the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California. On his second tour of duty, Wade understood that the nation was at war, yet he chose to charge headlong into battle for a second time. There are not many of us who would be willing to volunteer to leap into the lion's den of Afghanistan where the cowardly enemy hides in caves. It says something special about the quality of this American fighting man that he would boldly face those who kill in the name of religion.

On Friday, May 11, 2012, Sergeant Wade Wilson was killed while conducting a combat operation in Afghanistan. He was just 22 years of age. As a soldier in Afghanistan fighting the forces of the Taliban, Wade defended freedom. He defended it for his mother, Cindy Lee; his stepfather, Ward; his father, Rusty; his stepmother Tammy, his three brothers, his sister, his three step-sisters; and all of their families. He defended freedom for all of us. Sergeant Wade Wilson was a true soldier. We all owe a debt that can never be repaid to Sergeant Wilson's sacrifice, and today and tomorrow, we will mourn with his family and friends for the tragic loss of their son, brother, friend, citizen, soldier and hero.

My friend, Mayor Steve Stephens of Dayton, Texas, has a farmhouse in Leona, Texas. His long time neighbors are Ward and Cindy Lee Easterling, Sergeant Wade Wilson's stepfather and mother. As a teen, Wade worked for Mayor Stephens on his farm. Mayor Stephens said on May 18, 2012, hundreds of residents lined the streets of Leona and Centerville, paying tribute to the family of this patriot. Many of those on the streets carried flags and yellow ribbons. Others held banners saying, "Greater love hath no man than one who gives his life for a friend" John 15:13. Patriotism is alive and well in Texas. And, Sergeant Wilson's commitment to his country is one reason why.

Wade's funeral on Saturday, May 19, 2012, happened to fall on Armed Services Day. Held in Centerville High School's auditorium, hundreds of supporters from Leon County came out to mourn the loss of America's son, Wade Wilson, and all those who came before him. We know that freedom is not free, and we thank this fearless Marine for dedicating his life to America.

Our young people who go to the valley of the gun and the desert of the sun are relentless, remarkable characters. They go where others fear to tread and where the faint-hearted are not found. These warriors represent the best of our nation. They are the sons of liberty and the daughters of democracy. These few, these noble few, are American warriors who take care of the rest of us.

Sergeant Wade Wilson, your tour of duty has been honorably concluded.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PRAMILA JAYAPAL

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Pramila Jayapal, founder of the Hate Free Zone, now called OneAmerica. For more than a decade she has worked tirelessly to ensure that people from immigrant communities have a voice in America. Her efforts have made Washington State and our Nation a better place for all people who call it home.

In the days immediately following the attacks of September 11, 2001, Pramila began the Hate Free Zone Campaign of Washington as an entirely volunteer-run organization to combat discrimination against immigrants, especially from communities of color—primarily Muslim, Arab American, East African and South Asian—and to work against stereotypes in a post 9/11 world. At first, the mission was to advocate for the rights of those who were likely to be victims of hate crimes.

Soon after, Pramila began to shift the focus of the Hate Free Zone towards identifying and addressing violations of the rights and civil liberties of immigrants. Through these efforts, she began working with community leaders and elected officials to address these concerns on local, State, and Federal levels.

In 2008, the Hate Free Zone became OneAmerica: With Justice for All, reflecting the mission of advocating for the fundamental principles of democracy and justice by giving voices to all immigrant communities. Today, OneAmerica works with allies and community leaders to educate, engage and advocate, and has become an active and trusted immigrant advocacy organization in Washington State.

Pramila's dedication to the protection of civil rights and civil liberties is important to every single group of Americans, immigrants and non-immigrants alike. The promotion of civic education, voting rights and civil liberties benefits everyone who calls the United States home.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor Pramila Jayapal and all of her work at OneAmerica. Though she is moving on from OneAmerica, I have no doubt she will continue to advocate for those in need. Her dedication to improving the lives of all persons living in Washington State has been an inspiration to us all, and I look forward to her next endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 2012 GREEN COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winners of the 2012 Green Community Awards.

Every year the Green Guiding Committee of Prince William County awards people or orga-

nizations for their work towards bettering the community and sustaining the environment. Each of this year's winners has tackled an issue in their immediate area that presents a larger environmental problem. The Green Awards are the highest honor given for environmental service in Prince William County, and this year's winners exemplify the qualities and work ethic that are required to keep our community green.

I extend my personal congratulations to:

Stonewall Jackson High School Ecology Club—for raising awareness about environmental issues, inspiring fellow students to get involved, hosting events for younger students and taking the lead on conservation projects in the field.

Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition—for their ongoing efforts, projects and programs to create, restore, clean and preserve trails and access to natural areas for the entire community.

Friends of the Occoquan—for their ongoing fall and spring projects to clean up the Occoquan River in Prince William County for the past 13 years.

Vulcan Materials—Manassas Quarry—for their corporate practices to conserve resources and reduce waste, plus their efforts to support schools and organization in their efforts to protect the environment.

The Taylor Family of Windy Knoll Farm—for their generous offer to allow local conservation groups to host programs and demonstrations on the farm, as well as their use of sound and environmentally wise management practices.

Eric VanNortwick—for his ongoing efforts to clean up, maintain and enhance trails along Neabsco Creek in Prince William County.

Ed Dandar—for his dedication in coordinating and overseeing logistics for the 26 mile clean up along the Occoquan River.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the winners of the 2012 Green Community Awards and in thanking them for their dedication to our community.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 31, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I am concerned about the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for several reasons. One of these reasons is that while this bill increases funding for the Army Corps of Engineers over the President's request, it is not enough. The Army Corps completes critical flood control projects and also, through dredging at our port, fuels a major economic engine in Harris County, Texas and has been underfunded for years.

Additionally, by cutting New Starts completely, this bill prevents funding for a vital project in Houston that will explore widening and deepening the shipping channel to the Turning Basin. This funding is critical to preparing our Port for the years ahead.

The Port of Houston is the largest foreign tonnage port and the largest petrochemical port in the country. In fact, it moves the second largest amount of cargo in the country, as 8.5 percent of our nation's cargo moves through the Port of Houston. The commerce that occurs at our port is critical to our Nation's energy and chemical sectors and to our country's ability to trade and move goods throughout our country. It is a port of national significance, but has not received the attention that is necessary to answer the challenges we face in the near future. Despite the national importance of our port, it is facing a dredging crisis.

In 1998, the Federal Government and the Port of Houston invested \$700 million over the course of years, to deepen and widen the Ship Channel. An investment we have benefitted from tremendously.

As the years have passed silt has settled and reduced the draft in the channel significantly. Today, only .4 percent of the channel is dredged to its proper depth across the entire width of the channel. That is astounding. Our Nation's investment is rapidly deteriorating.

Currently, the Houston Ship Channel is dredged to a depth of 43 feet, but it should be 45 feet. The Panama Canal is expanding and when it is completed, the Port of Houston should be at a minimum of 45 feet and we could take advantage of additional depth.

In the most recent President's budget request, the Administration asked for \$700,000 in new dredging money and new start funding of \$100,000 toward study on the widening and deepening of the Houston Ship Channel to the Turning Basin. The new start funding is particularly important, once a project gets new start money it is more likely to be funded in the future. Unfortunately, in the bill we are considering today, the funding for the new start will be eliminated.

This increased funding level for dredging just over \$24 million, which is maintained in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill, is welcome and I am pleased that Congress and the Administration are committing more resources to our maintenance dredging needs, particularly in a budget environment when most programs are cut. However, it's about a third of the total needed to bring our channel back to its authorized depth. The reduced draft costs our region money.

As we confront the dual challenges of adopting policies that create jobs and reduce the debt, funding for dredging projects is an item that, while costly, will have more of a positive impact on our economy than a negative impact on our deficit. The Texas Transportation Institute performed a study and determined that a direct economic impact of the loss of 1 foot of draft is \$373 million. The majority of this impact is lost business opportunities due to light loading of non-containerized vessels. If the dredging crisis at the port continues to worsen, this cost will quickly increase.