

Department science programs, advanced energy research, defense and non-defense environmental cleanup activities, nuclear non-proliferation programs, and most renewable energy programs (including solar, wind, water and geothermal programs).

But, to the point at hand—the Great Lakes and the terrifying prospect that we might continue standing still on this issue of invasive species prevention.

First and foremost, I must recognize the hard work and bipartisan effort from the Senators, including Senator DURBIN, and am hopeful that this provision is preserved throughout the appropriations process.

After all, this amendment does not tell anybody what to do.

It simply recognizes the urgency of the Asian carp threat to the Great Lakes and compels the Corps to quicken its study of solutions in the face of a potential catastrophe that no one wants.

The Great Lakes make up 20 percent of our fresh water and are home to a fishing and boating industry worth 7 billion dollars annually.

The Lakes are a priceless treasure for the millions of people who live in the region.

We must do all we can to encourage a speedy creation of an action plan to block Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes.

In 1998 the late Senator Paul Simon predicted wars would be fought over water.

Let us not pretend this is near as drastic as war.

But, at the same time, let us not neglect or fail to acknowledge that the importance of today's actions will weigh heavily on the successes of tomorrow. I urge the Committees to preserve and protect Senator BROWN's amendment and hope that the final Energy and Water package looks far better for our land, air and water than it does today.

DYLAN BEKEMEIER OF REPUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL WINNING THE MISSOURI CLASS 3 STATE INDIVIDUAL GOLD CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dylan Bekemeier from Republic High School for winning the Missouri Class 3 State Individual Golf Championship.

Dylan should be commended for all of his hard work throughout the regular season and bringing home the individual state title to his school, family and community. At the State Golf Championships in Springfield, Dylan won the individual state title with an impressive second round showing of 68, 4 under par. His total score was 140. Completing his sophomore year means Dylan will be a force to be reckoned with in Missouri high school golf in the coming years.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dylan Bekemeier, the Missouri Class 3 State Golf Champion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 5th, 2012, I was absent during roll-call vote No. 315 due to a family medical issue. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on the McClintock of California Amendment No. 3.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL BRIAN L. TARBET

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the service and dedication of Major General Brian L. Tarbet, the Adjutant General of the Utah National Guard. He has served his country as a member of the Utah National Guard for over 30 years. As the Adjutant General for the Utah National Guard, General Tarbet has been responsible for over 7,000 soldiers and airmen for the past 12 years.

General Tarbet began his military career as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve in 1973. After being a member of the ROTC program and earning his bachelor of arts degree in political science from Utah State University, General Tarbet served on active duty from 1973 to 1975. General Tarbet then joined the Utah Army National Guard as a First Lieutenant and received his juris doctorate from the University of Utah in 1978. During the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, General Tarbet commanded over 4,500 troops providing security in Salt Lake City, just months after the September 11 terrorist attacks heightened security concerns surrounding high profile events. He has led the Utah National Guard through many deployments of soldiers and airmen supporting operations around the globe.

I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of this incredible man who placed service to his country above that of his own ambitions. Major General Brian L. Tarbet is a great example of the men and women who have served or who are currently serving our country in the various branches of the Armed Forces. I am grateful to every member of the military for the great sacrifice that they make every day.

IN RECOGNITION OF H.E. MINISTER FADY ABOUD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize H.E. Minister Fady Abboud, Minister of Tourism for the Republic of Lebanon and to welcome him to the City of Cleveland.

Born on March 21, 1955, Minister Abboud graduated from the International School of Choueifat. In 1976, following a year of service

in the military, he began studying at the University of Westminster. Minister Abboud and his wife of 26 years, Sarah-Lianna, have two children, Faddy and Joanne.

Fady Abboud had a successful career in industry, working in the packaging, plastic engineering, general machines and metal processing, and food businesses. In 1982, he was named Chairman of General Packaging Industries. In 2002, he was elected as President of the Board of the Association of Lebanese Industrialists. Minister Abboud is also a member of the American Lebanese Chamber of Commerce and the International Chamber of Commerce.

Abboud was appointed as the Minister of Tourism in November 2009. Since his appointment, Minister Abboud has turned the office's focus to sustainable tourism in order to promote the different regions of Lebanon.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in welcoming H.E. Minister Fady Abboud to the City of Cleveland.

D-DAY REMEMBRANCE

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Second Annual Recognition and Remembrance ceremony being held in Delmar, NY by the D-Day Remembrance Association. It is truly a commendable event to honor those who sacrificed so much in order to return freedom and democracy to Europe in one of the most courageous and awe-inspiring military operations ever conceived.

The D-Day Remembrance Association hosts this event to remember and honor the events of those several days and particularly the servicemembers who stormed the beaches, airdropped behind enemy lines, and supported the invasion from sea. As a result of the efforts of this remarkable collection of volunteers, and many others like it across the nation, these annual gatherings create new treasured memories for all veterans, their children, grandchildren and others who recognize and appreciate the significant contributions and sacrifices that the "Greatest Generation" made in name of freedom.

The Battle of Normandy was fought during World War II in the summer of 1944, between the Allied nations and German forces occupying Western Europe. Almost 70 years later, the Normandy Invasion, or D-Day, remains the largest seaborne invasion in history, involving nearly three million troops crossing the English Channel from Great Britain to Normandy in occupied France.

On June 6, 1944, 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline to fight Nazi Germany. General Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which "we will accept nothing less than full victory." By the end of the first day, the Allies had gained a foothold in Normandy. The cost of D-Day was high—more than 2,500 were killed and 8,500 wounded—but more than 100,000 Soldiers began the march across Europe to defeat Hitler. I am in awe of what they accomplished during this period that can only be described as Hell on Earth.

Our men and women who served in combat and support roles did not ask for that war; yet, they answered the nation's call with honor and conviction. They put aside the instinct for self-preservation and risked their lives for all humanity in order to preserve freedom and defeat evil. They personified the words, "Greatest Generation." Those men had survived the Great Depression, fought and won World War II, returned to America and simply tried to put it all behind them—rebuilding lives, families, and our country.

We are strengthened by their courage and awestruck by their valor. God Bless our veterans and those who gave their lives so that we may live free. Let us continue to stand for the ideals for which they fought, live a life worthy of their sacrifice, and work tirelessly to preserve our cherished way of life.

RECOGNIZING JUNE AS LGBT PRIDE MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize June as National LGBT Pride Month. Our greatest strength is its promise of equality for every citizen, and we have made significant progress in ensuring that promise is kept regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

As a proud member of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, I am committed to extending full rights to all Americans, repealing discriminatory laws, and eliminating hateful violence.

This past year has brought many changes in law and policy, and there have been noticeable changes in public discourse as well. Last year, the military repealed its discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, and a federal circuit court ruled last week that the Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional. President Obama's historic endorsement of same-sex marriage has also moved this country into a new era of progressive thinking and equal rights for all.

The 37th District of California has seen incredible movement toward equality and acceptance. I am proud to represent the significant population of gay, lesbian and transgender constituents in my district. This is a community that has become integral to the Long Beach area and continues to give back to the city in many ways.

Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride, Inc. is one of the larger philanthropic organizations in the city, and they developed the Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade in 1984. They have also granted nearly one million dollars to local non-profit organizations, and organized a toy drive for disabled and disadvantaged children in conjunction with catholic charities.

The Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade continues to be the main project for the organization. When it first began its organizers faced death threats and fierce opposition. Today, the parade is the nation's third-largest pride parade and attracts over 75,000 participants annually. It is heralded as one of the district's most popular attractions, and its organizers have helped to foster greater understanding and respect in the community.

During my time in Congress I have supported many different areas of LGBT legislation. I am an original co-sponsor of multiple bills including: the Employment Non-Discrimination Act to prohibit discrimination in the work place; the Equal Access to COBRA Act which guarantees the continuation of health coverage to any qualified beneficiary under an employer's health insurance; and the Reuniting Families Act which supports the core value of keeping all families together regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity together.

I voted to repeal the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy, and signed the amicus brief declaring the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional, and I am proud the Obama Administration will no longer defend section 3 of DOMA. These actions make our country stronger not weaker; they bring our national policies closer to our national ideals; and they affirm that in America it is the content of our character that counts, not immutable characteristics of birth.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and American citizens to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of the LGBT community across the United States. However, there is still so much more work to be done. Every citizen of this country deserves the same opportunities regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Recent events have made momentous gains towards that goal, but let us not forget we still have a long fight ahead of us.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on May 31, 2012, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 297–305 due to a family obligation. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 297, 300, 302, 304, and 305. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes Nos. 298, 299, 301, and 303.

Mr. Speaker, on June 1, 2012, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 306–314 due to a family obligation. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 308, 312, 313, and 314. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes Nos. 306, 307, 309, 310, and 311.

OZARK CHRISTIAN COLLEGE'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Ozark Christian College's 70th Anniversary.

Ozark Bible College started out in Bentonville, Arkansas, on June 12, 1942 and two years later relocated to Joplin, Missouri. The name Ozark Christian College was adopted in 1985 when Ozark Bible College merged with Midwest Christian College of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Ozark Christian College offers degree programs that help lay the foundation for their graduates who are called to careers in voca-

tional ministry. Ozark Christian College graduates total more than 14,000 and are serving in 48 states and 40 counties.

Volunteerism is an important characteristic for the school. Ozark Christian College has been serving the Joplin area for 68 years and was heavily involved in helping after Joplin was struck by an EF-5 tornado on May 22, 2011. With open arms, the entire campus was used in a variety of ways from a Red Cross Command Center, to housing for 3,000 volunteers, and to a meeting place for three churches.

The school's motto of "Training Men and Women for Christian Service" has played an important role in the school's 70 year history and will continue to as students answer the call to vocational ministry.

I want to congratulate Ozark Christian College as they celebrate 70 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. SEAN NELSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the good work and achievements of Sean Nelson, who is leaving the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Cleveland. Sean is leaving the VA after nearly a decade of service to the Veterans of North-east Ohio.

Sean Nelson is a 2001 graduate of Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, with a degree in Biology and a 2003 graduate of the University of Memphis with a Master of Health Administration. Mr. Nelson began his career at the VA Boston Healthcare System in 2003 as an Administrative Fellow. He transferred to the Cleveland VAMC in 2004.

He held numerous line and staff positions of increasing responsibility in Cleveland, including Chief of Quality and Information Management starting in 2005 and Chief of External Affairs and Facility Planning beginning in 2007. He later served as Assistant Director and Acting Associate Medical Center Director before his appointment as the Deputy Medical Center Director of the Cleveland VAMC in January 2011.

Sean is a graduate of the 2011 Executive Career Field Program and graduate of the 2008 Cleveland Bridge Builders flagship program. He is an active member of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

During his tenure, Sean has been part of the leadership team at the Cleveland VAMC that has overseen tremendous expansion with the opening of the Parma outpatient facility and the growth of the Wade Park facility as it was consolidated with the now-defunct Brecksville hospital. My staff and I have come to depend on Sean's eagerness to serve our nation's veterans and his ability to solve problems.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in wishing Sean Nelson much success as he takes his tremendous skills and dedication to service to the next steps in his career.