

the City of Oxnard and the California State Assembly and State Senate. Additionally, Manuel has been recognized as the Journalist of the Year by the National Association of Hispanic Publications.

Today, almost thirty years since VIDA Newspaper's founding, I am pleased to join the Institute of Mexicans Abroad in honoring Manuel Muñoz with the Ohtli Award. The Ohtli Award is presented to an outstanding civilian who has dedicated most of his or her life to the well-being of Mexicans residing abroad, thus paving the way to create for them new professional opportunities. The Ohtli Award, which includes a medallion, a silver rosette, and an official diploma, is the highest honor that the Mexican government can present to a Mexican or a Hispanic of Mexican descent residing outside Mexico.

I am pleased to join the Consulate of Mexico in Oxnard in honoring Manuel Muñoz as an exemplary trailblazer who has without a doubt paved the way for many in Ventura County.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2013*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall votes 460–462. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on all three.

#### AUTHORITY TO EXTEND THE UNITED STATES-REPUBLIC OF KOREA NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT

SPEECH OF

### HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2013*

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2449, a bipartisan bill to extend the current U.S.-Korea civil nuclear agreement for two years.

This year we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the U.S.-South Korea alliance. Over the decades, South Korea has become a key U.S. ally in Asia and we stand shoulder to shoulder in political, strategic, military, cultural, and other issues.

One of these crucial issues is energy. This extension will allow the U.S. and Korea to enter into a new era of energy partnership.

The current nuclear cooperation agreement is due to expire in March 2014 and its prompt extension is vital to avoid trade disruptions.

It is critical that we uphold the reputation of the U.S. as a stable and reliable trading partner, in light of the energy industry's long-lead items and use of long-term contracts for nuclear components, fuel and services.

Ultimately this is about jobs: red, white, and blue American jobs. Billions of dollars in U.S. exports and thousands of U.S. jobs are at stake if we fail.

This is about jobs for U.S. companies such as Westinghouse, which is headquartered in Cranberry, PA, in my own district. Westing-

house, which employs about 9000 employees in the U.S., has been a leader in energy co-operation with Korea for nearly four decades.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this important legislation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2013*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week of September 9, 2013. If I were present, I would have voted on the following.

Monday, September 9, 2013: Rollcall No. 448: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2052, “yea”; rollcall No. 449: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2844, “yea.”

Tuesday, September 10, 2013: Rollcall No. 450: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1155, “yea”; rollcall No. 451: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2747, “yea”; rollcall No. 452: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 130, “yea”; rollcall No. 453: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 304, “yea”; rollcall No. 454: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 256, “yea”; rollcall No. 455: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 459, “yea.”

Wednesday, September 11, 2013: Rollcall No. 456: Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 2775, “nay”; rollcall No. 457: On Agreeing to the Resolution providing the Rule on H.R. 2775, “nay”.

Thursday, September 12, 2013: Rollcall No. 458: On Passage of H.R. 2775, “nay”; rollcall No. 459: On passage of the Journal, “aye” 621.

#### RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY

### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2013*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work and community impact of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Founded in 1920 on the campus of Howard University, Zeta Phi Beta has been at the forefront of social change since its founding. As advocates of the people, members of Zeta from across the world are dedicated to serving their communities.

Specifically, Zetas are committed to:

Elder Care—Zeta manages a comprehensive program that focuses on elder abuse awareness, financial peace, supporting the caregiver and volunteering at senior care facilities.

Stork's Nest—A 40-year-old partnership between Zeta Phi Beta and March of Dimes, Stork's Nest is a community-based, prenatal, health promotion program for low-income pregnant women.

Prematurity Awareness Sundays occur every year in the month of November. More than 300 churches across the country are sites for distributing information on prematurity

awareness, causes of prematurity and the importance of seeking prenatal care in an effort to decrease infant mortality and decrease the number of low birth weight babies.

Adopt-A-School allows members of Zeta Phi Beta to identify low performing schools and provide assistance in a number of ways to enhance the educational experience, increase test scores and grades.

Triple Negative Breast Cancer—Breast cancers found in African American women are more likely to be triple negative. Zeta chapters have begun adding information about triple negative breast cancer to existing projects and programs on breast cancer to build awareness and support efforts of health care professionals and organizations recommending earlier breast health testing.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to recognize Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. as it marks 93 years of dedicated service by coming to Capitol Hill, and continuing to advocate for communities across the world.

#### HONORING JOE WICKS

### HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2013*

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a true friend, patriot and public servant, Joe Wicks, who will soon be departing the Hill and returning to Michigan after years of outstanding work as my Chief of Staff.

With an unassuming nature and an always positive demeanor, one might not guess at first glance that Joe possesses a keen political intellect and wisdom far beyond his years. Joe first came to work for me when he offered to serve as campaign manager during my first run for Congress in 2004, and has been at my side every day I've served in Washington.

A proud native of Saugatuck, Michigan and a 2002 graduate of Hillsdale College, Joe brought his strong Midwestern values and his belief in the primacy of the free enterprise system to Washington to serve on my staff. Often soft-spoken, I've come to learn over the years that when Joe speaks you should listen. His commitment to American exceptionalism, liberty and the enduring belief that government is at its best when it champions competitive freedom has been a great asset to my office and I believe has been of service to Michigan and our country.

While everyone in the Walberg office is sorry to see Joe go, we will always appreciate his good-natured disposition and his love of NASCAR. Joe is to be commended for his outstanding and faithful service to the state of Michigan. On behalf of myself, Sue and all of Team Walberg, thank you Joe for your loyalty and faithfulness, and God bless you in your next and future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING RYAN DOWD

### HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2013*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Ryan

Dowd, a native of Oswego, Illinois who has devoted more than half of his life to serving Aurora's homeless.

After 14 years of service, Friday, September 20th will be Ryan's last day serving as the executive director of Hesed House, the second largest shelter in the State of Illinois, and the largest shelter outside of the city of Chicago. Under his leadership, Hesed House ministries have tripled in effectiveness, housing more than 1,000 individuals annually.

Ryan began volunteering at Hesed House when he was just 13 years old and started working at the shelter during college. Upon graduating from Northern Illinois University's College of Law in 2003 with a dual JD and MPA degree, Ryan accepted a position as the associate director of Hesed House and would eventually become executive director in 2004.

I am humbled by Ryan's commitment to serve our community. While Ryan's work in Aurora is sadly coming to an end, I know he will continue to serve his fellow man and make the world a better place as he begins a career in international human rights.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ryan Dowd and his service to the community. His tireless commitment and dedication will be missed, and I wish him and his family the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SAN LUIS CANAL COMPANY

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2013*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the San Luis Canal Company (SLCC) during their centennial celebration. SLCC serves hundreds of landowners throughout Merced County, and we thank them for all of their hard work.

In 1913, SLCC was established as a private mutual water company. SLCC is comprised of 45,000 acres between Los Banos and Dos Palos. They strive every day to protect the land by managing water resources efficiently and effectively. Currently, SLCC is working diligently to resolve the land subsidence issues throughout the Central Valley.

SLCC has a long standing history of working with the neighboring water districts as well as communicating with the landowners in the area. Keeping the farmers involved and informed is extremely important to SLCC, so that all stakeholders can work to come up with solutions to the significant water issues.

SLCC's focus on sustainable irrigation practices is both impressive and commendable. The conservation techniques undoubtedly contribute to maintaining the Central Valley's status as an agricultural leader. Farmers in the Valley feed our great nation, and SLCC is a vital component to ensuring the success of farmers throughout Merced County.

In addition, SLCC manages some of the most substantial water projects in the State of California including the San Luis Canal. It is the largest earth-moving project in the Bureau of Reclamation's history. The Canal ranges from 8,350 to 13,100 cubic feet per second and extends 102.5 miles.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the San Luis Canal Company

as they celebrate this momentous occasion. Their outstanding service and dedication to the farmers and residents in our Central Valley must be honored.

#### HONORING ALEXANDRA BOSTIC

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2013*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alexandra Bostic of Aurora, Indiana, and her parents, Noel and Jennifer Bostic, on Alexandra being selected as one of two national scholarship winners by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (the NIAAA). The NIAAA is an organization founded in 1977 to promote the educational value of interscholastic athletics through the professional development of its member athletic administrators. Alexandra was awarded the scholarship, from among entries from all 50 states, based on her academic achievement, athletic accomplishments, and her essay on how participation in high school athletics impacted her life. In Alexandra's essay, she talked about leadership, teamwork, and time management. She also discussed the value of work ethic, not only on the playing field, but also in the classroom.

These are all important skills that will give Alexandra an opportunity to become a very successful person, but Alexandra's thoughts about the word "sportsmanship" were most touching to me. A rival high school lost one of its players in an ATV accident, and Alexandra's team faced their rival the next game after the accident. However, that day, it was about more than sports. It was about coming together to honor the life of their fellow player, not as opponents, but as friends. As Alexandra said, "this to me is the perfect example of sportsmanship."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Alexandra's achievement and the accomplishments of all her fellow student athletes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE "NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION RE- ORGANIZATION CODIFICATION AND COMPLEMENTS ACT"

**HON. LEE TERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2013*

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, one of our most important responsibilities here in Congress is oversight of executive branch agencies. Such oversight illuminates flaws either in the structure or the conduct of these agencies that sometimes requires legislative action. Today, I am speaking for just such a reason.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission had operated with acceptable performance for quite some time until a few years ago when a new chairman took over the leadership of the agency in 2009. Unlike his predecessors, this chairman did not seek to work collegially with his fellow Commission members, but sought to consolidate and expand his authority as chairman. This abuse of power led to multiple in-

vestigations by Congressional committees and the NRC's Inspector General.

In 1980, during Congress' consideration of President Carter's proposal to reorganize the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Members raised concerns about the potential for just such an abuse by a rogue chairman: namely that the President's plan concentrated too much authority in the chairmanship of the agency.

I believe it is incumbent upon us, as Members of Congress, to exercise our legislative responsibility and address this situation.

For that purpose, my colleagues Mr. Barton, Mr. Burgess and Mr. Kenzinger, and I are introducing the "Nuclear Regulatory Commission Reorganization Plan Codification and Complements Act."

Following the Three Mile Island accident in 1979, the President and the Congress saw the need to improve the NRC's ability to respond to an accident. President Carter responded by proposing the "Reorganization Plan of 1980" to strengthen the power of the chairmanship by consolidating administrative and emergency authorities. A little known artifact of this history is that the 1980 Plan was subsequently approved by Congress as a resolution, not enacted as a law. Our bill would correct that artifact by seeking to codify a modern version of the 1980 Plan while limiting the potential for a chairman to abuse his authority as I described a moment ago.

While the Fukushima accident happened on foreign soil, the then-NRC chairman exercised emergency authority—authority reserved for emergencies within the NRC's jurisdiction—without making a declaration and without adequate reporting of his actions. Clearly, there must be clear operating authority and accountability in an emergency, including a declaration and termination of any special authority. This bill clarifies those requirements.

If the NRC chairman is the subject of an investigation by the Inspector General as a result of allegations of wrongdoing, the Inspector General should not remain under the chairman's supervision. This bill would require delegation of that supervisory responsibility to another member of the Commission.

These are just a few examples of the provisions in this bill. This is about good government. While the current NRC chairman worked to reestablish collegiality at the Commission, I believe we must act to preclude future leadership breakdowns akin to her predecessor. These are common sense changes to ensure the proper conduct of the people's business at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I look forward to working with my colleagues in a bipartisan fashion toward passage of this bill into law.

#### HONORING THE FRIENDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER 20TH ANNI- VERSARY

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2013*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the vital work of the Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) on the 20th anniversary of its founding. Since its inception in