

known as the Tech-Know Commandos, winners of the 2013 VEX Robotics World Championship trophy.

All of this would not be possible without the talented faculty and staff of Worcester Technical High School, including Principal Sheila Harrity. Ms. Harrity has demonstrated a deep passion for and commitment to advancing educational outcomes for the students of Worcester Tech, and has transformed the school into an innovative learning center. Her incredible efforts have earned her the 2014 National High School Principal of the Year award by MetLife and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

I'm so proud to represent the faculty, students, and staff of Worcester Tech, a leader in career and technical education, and look forward to their future successes. I ask you to join me in congratulating Worcester Technical High School for being selected as a 2013 National Blue Ribbon School, and in honoring Principal Sheila Harrity for her lifelong commitment to education.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SYLVIA
FRASIER

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2013

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise today to pay tribute and to honor the life of Sylvia Frasier, who was one of 12 dedicated civilian employees and contractors that were senselessly murdered at the Navy Yard in Washington, DC, on September 16. Mass shootings are always difficult to bear. My heart breaks for their loved ones and for the tight-knit military, government, and contractor community found in the Washington metropolitan area.

As her funeral service is tomorrow at the Rhema Christian Center Church in Northeast Washington, DC, I want to remember the legacy Ms. Frasier leaves behind. She earned a bachelor of science in computer information systems and a master's in information systems. Ms. Frasier worked at Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) as an information assurance manager since 2000. Her duties at NAVSEA included providing policy and guidance on network security, and assuring that all computer systems operated by the headquarters met Department of Navy and Department of Defense requirements.

According to those that knew her best—her family and colleagues—Ms. Frasier was a friend to everyone she met and a stranger to no one. One friend stated that her personality was “bright, just like her blond hair, and lit up a room.” A colleague at work recalled what she would miss most about Sylvia are all the jokes they shared at the beginning of their phone calls before they got down to business. In a statement, her family said “if there are any words to describe her, it would be faithful, family oriented, and dedicated professional.”

Ms. Frasier's outgoing personality just wasn't suited to sitting still. She had choir rehearsal every Saturday morning, church on Sunday mornings, lots of travel for the Navy, friends and family to spend time with, and yet she still worked a second job in the evenings and on weekends because she was a people person.

Ms. Frasier was a deaconess, altar counselor, and member of the arts and music ministry at Rhema Christian Center Church. So, her faith was obviously very important to her.

Sylvia Frasier's record of service was characterized by sacrifice, by hard work and dedication to duty, and most of all by achievement. She leaves behind a legacy of service that others can aspire to.

Now that her time on earth has come to a needlessly premature end, it is my hope that Sylvia Frasier has found the peace she has earned. On behalf of this House, I extend the thanks of a grateful nation and our sincere condolences to James and Eloise Frasier, her parents; each of her siblings and their families; and to the many friends whose lives she touched. My thoughts, prayers, and deepest sympathy go out to all of the victims of this horrendous tragedy and their families. May God continue to comfort and sustain each of you.

HONORING GRANT MICHAEL
DOWNES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Grant Michael Downes. Grant is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Grant has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Grant has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Grant has become a member of the Order of the Arrow and led his troop as Patrol Leader. Grant has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Grant led an effort to assist inner city youth participating in soccer through the Police Athletic League.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Grant Michael Downes for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HELIUM STEWARDSHIP ACT OF
2013

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, today I am glad to lend my support to legislation that will provide for a one-year extension of the Secure Rural Schools program. The Secure Rural Schools program provides needed funding to counties nationwide, and these payments are critical to Oregon's rural timber counties. The funding supports vital public services, including emergency personnel, schools, and infrastructure, and it represents our commitment

that Federal forest policy shouldn't drive rural counties into bankruptcy.

But this is only a one-year extension, and Oregon's rural timber counties need long term certainty. Congress must help these counties develop a long term solution to their revenue problems, one that strikes a balance between increasing timber yields on Federal forest land and environmental conservation. This is a difficult process, and although we are making progress, counties need relief right away. For this reason, I strongly support this one-year extension of the Secure Rural Schools program, and will continue to work on a lasting solution with my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

I am also pleased to support the main purpose of this legislation, which is to allow for the continued functioning of the Federal Helium Reserve. This program supports important work across a broad spectrum of industries, from chemistry research in our public universities to semiconductor manufacturing done by high-tech firms in Oregon's First Congressional District. The House and Senate have reached a noble, bipartisan solution to guarantee the uninterrupted supply of this critical resource. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

ASSAULT AND MURDER AGAINST
THE MEK

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, not all is well in the world. In the 21st century, there is still a fight that must be fought against those bent on killing innocent people. These people's crime? Simply wanting to be left alone and live how they please. In the early morning hours of September 1, Iraqi gunmen raided Camp Ashraf. Camp Ashraf is a camp out in the hinterlands of Iraq where members of an Iranian opposition group used to live after Iran started executing their Members. But 2 years ago most residents were forced to move to a new camp closer to Baghdad and out of over 3,000 people originally at Camp Ashraf, only about 100 remained in the camp on the morning of the attack. By the time the sun came up, they had killed fifty-two unarmed residents and kidnapped seven more. I have seen footage of the attack. Unarmed civilians are running around trying not to get shot while the evildoers systematically gun them down. The evildoers were not trying to talk. They were trying to kill. And they succeeded. A United Nations delegation conducted a visit to the camp the next day and verified that the 52 deceased had “suffered gunshot wounds, the majority of them in the head and the upper body, and several with their hands tied.” These people were executed when they had not done anything wrong. They had no weapons. They did not pose a threat to anyone. They were murdered in cold blood. To make matters worse, this isn't even the first time that something like this has happened. Despite repeated assurances by the Iraqi government that they will be safe and protected, since 2012 alone, 113 members have been killed in five separate attacks. It should be clear to all by now that the Iraqi government cannot be

trusted to keep these refugees safe. I have traveled to Iraq several times. On my last trip, I asked Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki to let me visit Camp Ashraf. He refused. It seemed like he had something to hide. Mr. Speaker, there were 7 hostages taken on September 1. All we know is that they are somewhere in Iraq still. If we don't find these hostages soon, it is almost certain that they will be killed in Iraq or taken to Iran and executed. Our government must do everything in its power to secure their release. And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2013

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 25, 2013, I missed the following votes: H.R. 1961—To amend title 46, United States Code, to extend the exemption from the fire-retardant materials construction requirement for vessels operating within the Boundary Line. H. Res. 354—Providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 527, with an amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted: “no” on rollcall No. 484, “yes” on rollcall No. 485.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I regret I missed votes on September 27, 2013. Had I been present, my intention was to vote “yes” on Senate Amendment to H.R. 1412—Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act. Further, I would have also voted “yes” on H.R. 3096 to designate a Federal Bureau of Investigation building as the “Michael D. Resnick Terrorist Screening Center.”

A meeting in Detroit to address the economic situation of the City with senior White House officials, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, and Attorney General Eric Holder and others in the Michigan Congressional Delegation was the reason for my absence. Additionally, Governor Rick Snyder, Mayor Dave Bing, and Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr were in attendance. I felt my participation vital to the interests of my constituents.

HONORING TRISTAN MICHAEL OTT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tristan Michael Ott. Tristan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tristan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tristan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Tristan has earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and became a Brotherhood Member of the Order of the Arrow. Tristan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Tristan completed a much needed landscaping project at St. Therese School in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tristan Michael Ott for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SOUTHEAST ARIZONA LAND EXCHANGE AND CONSERVATION ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 687) to facilitate the efficient extraction of mineral resources in southeast Arizona by authorizing and directing an exchange of Federal and non-Federal land, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, today's legislation proposes to give two of the world's largest, foreign-owned mining companies—Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton—2,400 acres of the Tonto National Forest, which has been protected since 1955, in exchange for land the companies currently own. The companies believe the Federal land contains significant copper ore deposits.

I am not opposed to responsible domestic energy and mineral production as long as Americans get full value for the use of their resources and environmentally sensitive areas are protected. Today's legislation does not meet either test. The bill includes a convoluted appraisal process that fails to take into account the copper deposit on the land and requires no future royalty payments for that resource. It does not require mitigation or even analysis of damaging effects on the local ecosystem, waiving environmental review and Endangered Species Act protections. Finally, the bill does not guarantee preservation of traditional Native American sacred sites.

Ultimately, the bill gifts an environmentally sensitive and historically significant area to a foreign company without proper review or compensation for the American taxpayer. I urge a no vote.

HONORING CHARLES M. GOSSELIN III

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles M.

Gosselin III. Charles is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Charles has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Charles has earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and became a member of the Order of the Arrow. Charles has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Charles designed and constructed a changeable billboard sign, along with the accompanying landscaping, at Divine Mercy Park in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles M. Gosselin III, for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE JACK E. HIGHTOWER

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2013

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House that one of our former colleagues, the Honorable Jack E. Hightower, has passed away at the age of 86.

Jack Hightower was the very definition of a Texas gentleman and leader, leading a life of public service until his death. His life-long dedication to serving his country began with military service during World War II, before going on to become a lawyer, a member of the Texas House, District Attorney, member of the Texas Senate, U.S. Congressman, Assistant Attorney General of Texas, and later, Justice of the Texas Supreme Court.

He was born in Memphis, Texas, to Floy and Walter Hightower on September 6, 1926. After graduating from Memphis High School, he enrolled in summer classes at Baylor University. However, that fall he joined the Navy and served two years during World War II. After being discharged, he returned to Baylor where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree, followed by a law degree. It was during this time that he married his wife, Colleen Ward, of Tulia, Texas. He joined the Storey, Storey and Donaghey law firm in Vernon, Texas, and soon thereafter, served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1953–1955. He was appointed District Attorney for the 46th Judicial District, followed by a term in the Texas Senate for the 23rd District. In 1966, he was elected to the new 30th Senatorial District and eventually became President Pro-tempore of the Texas Senate. During his service as a Texas State Senator, he received a Doctor of Laws degree from Howard Payne University.

Mr. Hightower served the constituents of the 13th Congressional District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1974 to 1985. After Congress, he served as Assistant Attorney General of Texas. He was then elected to the Texas Supreme Court, where he stayed until 1996. In 1999, Mr. Hightower was