

and rightfully deserving of this honor. In the world of Gospel and Christian music, the Hoppers are at the forefront, not only for the quality of their music, but for their commitment to their faith. For more than half-a-century, this Rockingham County family has been spreading musical joy throughout the land.

What was started in humble beginnings in 1957 by Claude Hopper and his brothers, Will, Steve, Paul, and Monroe, came to be known as Hopper Brothers and Connie, when Claude, taking a break from his part-time job at the A&P food store in Madison, spotted Connie Shelton driving through the small town and asked her to join his Gospel group on the spot. Now celebrating 50 years of marriage and music together, they have mentored many musicians and singers over the years. Their sons, Dean and Michael, later joined the group as lead vocalist and drummer/vocalist.

Kim Greene of The Greenes married Dean Hopper, and in 1989 she also joined The Hoppers as soprano. Soon, The Hoppers scored a string of number one Gospel hits including *Here I Am*, *Milk and Honey*, *Mention My Name*, *Anchor to the Power of the Cross*, *Heavenly Sunrise*, *That's Him*, and *Yes I Am*. In 1996, Mike Hopper married Denise, who became the group's pianist. In 1998, their version of *Shoutin' Time* became their biggest hit.

Over the ensuing years, numerous awards and accolades came their way. They have been nominated and received just about every major award in the Gospel music industry. Known as America's Favorite Family of Gospel Music, The Hoppers are not just musicians, but business leaders in music publishing and concert promotions. Best of all, we can claim The Hoppers as North Carolina's own.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate The Hoppers on more than half-a-century of outstanding Gospel music. Best wishes to everyone gathered on Saturday, October 5, 2013, as a plaque is unveiled in Madison to honor The Hoppers, a true North Carolina musical treasure.

SUPPORT FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Since 1985, October has been designated as the month in which we campaign to raise awareness for breast cancer and celebrate the victories in research and innovation in treatment.

In 2013, an estimated 300,000 new cases of invasive and non-invasive breast cancer in women will arise and almost 40,000 women will die of breast cancer. In men, more than 2,000 cases of invasive breast cancer will be detected and about 400 men will die from breast cancer. Though the numbers are disheartening, breast cancer research has made significant strides.

Early detection of breast cancer through mammograms improves survival rates. Reg-

ular screenings remain the best way to detect breast cancer and women should be encouraged to get regular exams. While 70 percent of women receive regular mammograms, this number can still be higher to increase prevention.

Unfortunately, we all know someone—a sister, mother, daughter, aunt, or another loved one—who has been diagnosed and suffered through breast cancer. Each year, the month of October reminds us of those lost and the survivors whose stories can empower us to continue to raise awareness and strive to find a cure for breast cancer. Please join me in supporting Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

CELEBRATING PROFESSOR ALBERTO RIOS

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Professor Alberto Rios, Arizona's debut Poet Laureate. He will serve a two-year term in this venerable position. His duties include annual public readings and a major literary project aimed to educate the public about poetry.

The Arizona Commission of the Arts selected Professor Rios because of his remarkable credentials. For nearly 40 years, Mr. Rios has preserved the culture and history of our great state through writing and community outreach. He has achieved recognition on both a local and national level. In his three decades of teaching at Arizona State University, Mr. Rios attained the status of Regents Professor—the highest distinction for a faculty member. As my colleague, I applaud his work in helping to make ASU a preeminent institution for higher education. As a devotee of the arts, I thank him for everything he has done to promote and advance artistic expression. Through his life's work, Professor Rios has helped enrich communities throughout Arizona.

Professor Alberto Rios represents the best in arts, culture and service to the public. It is my privilege to represent him in Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Professor Alberto Rios on this exceptional honor and in wishing him the utmost success in his upcoming term as Poet Laureate of Arizona.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. JEAN FICKLIN

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I along with Representative SWALWELL, rise today to honor Ms. Jean Ficklin of Newark, California, a highly distinguished community member who, along with her husband Herman and four children, has been a resident of Newark for fifty years. Ms. Ficklin's excellence in education and promotion of African American culture and history is why she will be honored at the South County NAACP's 35th Annual Community Awards Gala in Hayward.

Ms. Ficklin set the stage for future instructors of color by being the first African American instructor in the school district. She spent thirty-three years educating and inspiring our youth as a teacher, ending her career in 1987 at Newark Unified School District.

Since her retirement, Ms. Ficklin has remained an active member in the community. She founded the Afro-American Cultural & Historical Society, Inc., an organization whose mission is to bring cross-cultural understanding of the African American community through the collection and preservation of art, artifacts, recorded media, and the sponsorship and coordination of awareness events. The organization's reach is vast and covers Newark and the Tri-City area, including Fremont, Union City, and Hayward. Ms. Ficklin also holds memberships in the NAACP and Alpha Delta Kappa International Sorority for Women Educators, among a variety of other groups.

The City of Newark, the California State Senate and Assembly, the County of Alameda, and so many more have previously recognized Ms. Ficklin for her excellence as an educator and cultural historian.

Please join us in honoring the extraordinary accomplishments of Ms. Jean Ficklin and her outstanding dedication to improving our society and fostering cultural understanding. May her love of education and her endless compassion continue to flow throughout our community.

VETERANS BENEFITS CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.J. Res. 72, the so-called "Honoring Our Promise to Veterans Act," which purports to fund those activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs that are required to cease due to the House Republicans' decision to shut down the government last night.

The bill before us is a cynical attempt by the Republican majority to extricate themselves from the mess they created when they voted to shut down the government.

Mr. Speaker, it would not be necessary to have to devote the considerable amount of time needed to debate and pass this legislation in the House and Senate and present it to the President if the House would simply pass the clean continuing resolution passed yesterday by the Senate.

The CR approved by the Senate funds the government and would bring an end to the unnecessary shutdown engineered by House Republicans that disrupts the lives of innocent and hard working federal employees and their families and the millions of Americans who depend upon the services they provide.

The clean CR passed by the Senate ensures that all the employees of the Federal Government are paid for the valuable and important service they provide to our Nation.

President Obama has reiterated that he will sign that CR—and only that CR—into law.

Mr. Speaker, instead of exempting certain groups and persons from the harm caused by

a government shutdown, we should instead be focused on ending the House Republicans' shutdown, which helps no one and hurts our economy.

Those of us who were serving in this body 17 years ago remember the harm caused when the Republicans shutdown the government on two different occasions, which directly cost taxpayers \$1.4 billion. That is \$2.1 billion in today's dollars.

The last time Republicans engineered a shutdown of the government:

368 national park sites were closed;

200,000 applications for passports went unprocessed; and

\$3.7 billion of \$18 billion in local contracts went unpaid.

My State of Texas will again be hit very hard and suffer unnecessarily by this Republican shutdown.

Within days Texas will begin experiencing the impact of cutbacks in the \$64.7 billion in federal spending that it receives annually, including the loss of: \$518 million in federal highway funds, \$411 million for interstate highway maintenance, \$130 million in home energy assistance for the poor, \$71 million in Homeland Security grants, \$55 million in coordinated border infrastructure, and \$97 million in federal adoption assistance.

As a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am particularly concerned over the impact of a government shutdown on operations and activities that protect and secure the homeland.

For example, a shutdown would adversely affect the following:

Law Enforcement and Other Training: Law enforcement training would cease, including that conducted through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and the Secret Service's J. Rowley Training Center. This would impact CBP, ICE, Secret Service, and the Federal Air Marshal Service, and would delay their ability to bring new hires into operational service. TSA would also not be able to conduct training for screeners, Behavior Detection Officers, or canine units.

Frontline Personnel Hardships: The majority of workforces in Custom and Border Protection's (CBP) Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) enforcement efforts, Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) aviation passenger screening, and the Coast Guard, who are heavily reliant upon receiving biweekly paychecks, would not be paid biweekly during a federal funding hiatus.

Grant Programs for State and Local Preparedness: All DHS and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) personnel working on grants programs would be furloughed, ceasing any further activity intended to help build State and local resiliency. Should a federal funding hiatus be prolonged, State and local communities may have to eliminate jobs that are dependent upon grants funding. Further activity under the Securing the Cities program would be suspended.

In addition, a government shutdown will hurt children, seniors, working families, and the economically vulnerable:

Military Readiness: In Texas, approximately 52,000 civilian Department of Defense employees would be furloughed, reducing gross pay by around \$274.8 million in total.

Law Enforcement and Public Safety Funds for Crime Prevention and Prosecution: Funding will be halted to Texas on an annualized

portion of the \$1,103,000 in Justice Assistance Grants that support law enforcement, prosecution and courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, and crime victim and witness initiatives.

Vaccines for Children: In Texas around 9,730 fewer children will not receive vaccines for diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, whooping cough, influenza, and hepatitis B due to reduced funding for personnel who administer programs that provide funding for vaccinations.

Nutrition Assistance for Seniors: Texas would lose approximately \$3,557,000 in funds that make it possible to provide meals for seniors.

For these reasons, instead of wasting time on piece-meal CRs like the one before us which have no chance of becoming law, we should be working to pass H.J. Res. 59 as amended by the Senate. That is the best way to keep faith with all persons who serve the American people as employees of the Federal Government, and those who depend upon the services they provide.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IMPACT ON TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING PROGRAMS

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, this reckless and irresponsible shutdown that has been masterminded by a small faction of the House is disruptive for our nation's transportation system and for the programs that support our most vulnerable citizens.

The majority has taken to moving bills that will provide piecemeal programs within the federal government. These bills leave out funding for critical transportation and housing programs that are vital to our economy.

For example, there are no funds for the Federal Transit Administration's capital investment grant program to build and expand mass transit systems across our nation. This is the program that helps create construction jobs and relieves congestion in our major cities. Operating and capital assistance for Amtrak is discontinued at a time when more than 30 million passengers rely on Amtrak to get to destinations all over the country. And finally, there is no funding to continue the important safety and capital investments for the Metro system that serves millions of Americans in our nation's capital.

With regard to safety, there is no funding to put more than 3,100 aviation safety inspectors back on the job. These men and women are sitting at home because they have been furloughed through this shutdown. Likewise, there is no funding for the important vehicle safety oversight functions of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

In addition, the Federal Aviation Administration's program to modernize our nation's aging air traffic control system has come to a grinding halt.

The Maritime Security Program gets no relief in this piecemeal approach. This program provides vital support by helping move the cargo that is necessary to support our national defense efforts overseas.

The piecemeal approach puts millions of dollars in construction projects at risk and undermines job creation in the construction sector by not including funding to process multi-family housing mortgages.

It puts our children at risk of lead poisoning by not funding Lead Abatement Grants.

It also weakens economic development in our communities by not including funding for Community Development Block Grants.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today and yesterday we saw many of the Members who are responsible for the current government shut down, stand in front of the World War II Memorial, posturing before the veterans in attendance and the Fox news cameras—having knowingly voted to close the government and thus closing that same World War II Memorial.

This is a sham. This is a disgrace. These antics need to stop.

Pass a clean CR.

HONORING ELTON GALLEGLY

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my predecessor, former-Congressman Elton Gallegly for his steadfast dedication to Ventura County and his service as an elected official for thirty-three years.

Starting his career as a member of the Simi Valley City Council and serving as Simi Valley's Mayor, Congressman Gallegly was a tireless advocate for Simi Valley, Ventura County, and the State of California. He is remembered fondly in Congress by the many Members who had the pleasure of serving with him on the House Judiciary Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The Elton and Janice Gallegly Center for Public Service and Civic Engagement at California Lutheran University is a fitting tribute to Congressman Gallegly's career and on-going service to our community. The Center will prepare our next generation of leaders for careers in public policy while also teaching them the core principles of integrity and veracity.

In partnership with the center, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library has generously offered to give students the prestigious opportunity to intern at the library. The Elton and Janice Gallegly Center for Public Service and Civic Engagement will be a great addition to Ventura County.

I want to personally thank Congressman Gallegly for all of his years of public service to our Nation. I wish him, and his wife, Janice, all the best in the next chapter their life together.